

THE

JUNE 27/28, 2026

# PEW BUDDY

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"Whoever receives you  
receives Me, and whoever  
receives Me receives the  
one who sent Me."*

~Matthew 10:40

### St. Margaret Church & Parish Office

30300 Catholic Hall Road | Hammond | LA 70403

P.O. Box 100 | Albany | LA 70711

### St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel

31718 Main Street | Springfield | LA 70462

#### OFFICE HOURS

We are open Tuesday-Thursday,  
8:00AM-3:00PM, and  
Friday from 8:00AM-12:00PM!  
We are closed for lunch from  
12:00PM-1:00PM.

**We are closed on Monday!**



#### CONTACT US

**By Phone:**

225.567.3573

**By Email:**

stmargaret@diobr.org

**Website:**

stmargaretstthomas.com

# HE SAID *WHAT?*

By John Foley, SJ

Have you ever noticed the number of flat-out contradictions in scripture? For example,

- the last shall be first;
- lose your life to find it;
- take the lowest seat if you want to have the highest;
- the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served;
- a virgin will conceive;
- an old woman with an old husband will give birth to a child; and so on.

We might have said that if we want to be first, we will have to get to the front of the line, not the end. And, if we want to be alive, we must make some moves not to lose our lives, and so on. These are common sense, aren't they?

Instead, this Sunday's readings are introducing us, gently and partially, to ways in which such commonsense opinions do not go deep enough. Try this on:

*We must be like lifeless, empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us.*

In the First Reading a distinguished lady in the little village of Shunem shows great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, even to the point of building and furnishing a little room on the second floor of her house, with a bed, table, chair, and lamp for him for whenever he visits. Another contradiction: she is childless, yet Elisha promises that in one year she will be fondling her own baby son. She is shocked. But the promise comes true. Then, when the boy becomes a young man, he suddenly dies (2 Kings 4:18-37). Elisha comes from twenty miles away and brings him back to life. Life is given twice where there was no hope of life: death triumphing but life restored. It is contradictory, but is this the way of the Lord?

Then in the Second Reading, St. Paul writes to the Church in Rome that they are baptized into Christ's death and are buried with him! A grim statement. But then Paul says, if we die with Christ, we shall also live with him, shall live a life in God (Second Reading).

*Die to live?*

In the Gospel Jesus makes a most enigmatic, not to say contradictory, statement: **"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."** No matter how we try to explain away that statement and neuter its content, it still means what it says. Losing your life is the only way to possess it. Letting go is the only way to hold on. How can such contrary claims simultaneously be true?

I want to suggest a metaphor. A glass must start out empty to succeed as a glass. If it is sealed up, or if it is solid, or if it is already full, nothing can be poured in. Does this sound like one more contradiction? No. A container must be empty if it is to be filled.

The same goes for us. We must be like empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us. This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday. *We must empty out if we are to be filled up with God's gifts.*

# EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL REGISTRATION

Please let your friends and neighbors, who get food through the Food Distribution Program, know that registration is this **Monday, June 29, 2026**, from **8:30AM to 11:30AM**. Everyone must register even if they registered previously. There is a cap on the number of people who can register, so it is a first come/first served registration. *We do not pass out food that day.* People will enter as usual from West Bates Road by St. Margaret Cemetery.

## LOOKING TO SUPPORT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?

Help make this year's VBS a fun and faith-filled experience for all of our children! We've created an Amazon Wish List with supplies and items needed for crafts, games, snacks, and activities throughout the week (use the QR code below). Donations of any size are greatly appreciated and help make VBS possible for our parish families. Thank you for your generosity and support of our youth ministry!



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

Due to Vacation Bible School, Eucharistic Adoration will not begin until **1:00PM** on **Wednesday, July 8, 2026**. Benediction will still be at **8:00PM**. Come spend an hour or so with Jesus in the prayerful silence of Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. If you can commit to an hour weekly or would like additional information, please contact Gretchen Johnson at [gretjohnson5@yahoo.com](mailto:gretjohnson5@yahoo.com) or 225.921.4071.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Curious about what the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary do here at St. Margaret Church and St. Thomas Chapel? Stop by the table outside of all Masses the weekend of **July 11/12, 2026**, and ask a Knight. Our KC Membership Drive is that weekend. If you are interested in joining one of these service organizations, speak to one of the members and they will be glad to help you with membership.

# THE LORD IS OUR SHIELD

## WHY BECOME CATHOLIC? INQUIRE HERE!

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic but have questions? Do you know of someone in your family who is interested in learning more about the faith? Join us for our final OCIA Inquiry Session on **Wednesday, July 22, 2026**, at **6:30PM** in the Hall of Saints. This session's topic will be "Why Become Catholic?" presented by Fr. Paul Gros. Fr. Paul will discuss all reasons why one should or would want to become Catholic. We are here for you!

**CIAO!!!  
FROM ITALY**

*When:* SUMMER  
2021

*Where:* ROME, ASSISI, & FLORENCE

*Learn More:*  
JULY 29, 2026, 6:00 PM  
ST. MARGARET HALL OF SAINTS

*Dear  
St. Margaret Youth &  
St. Thomas Aquinas Students*

Join us on July 29, 2026, at St. Margaret for  
an interest meeting on our first-ever  
**YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY!**

St. Margaret & St. Thomas Aquinas will be  
traveling to ITALY next summer! Please  
attend this meeting with your parent(s) if  
you are interested!

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:  
Baleigh Henderson  
bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com  
Michelle Bates  
michelle.bates@stafalcons.org

## MARITAL HARMONY TALKS

On **Saturday July 18, 2026, 9:30AM** until noon, Evan Lemoine, a Louisiana-born, internationally renowned expert on St. John Paul II's teachings on the Theology of the Body, will give two talks to married couples at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Baton Rouge on the topic "Growing in the Five Dimensions of Marital Harmony." The cost is \$25 per person and registration in online at: <https://stagnesbr.flocknote.com/signup/259615>

Evan and his wife founded the Amar al Maximo Institute in 2013 in Guadalajara, Mexico, and have dedicated their lives to spreading the beauty of God's design for human love and sexuality. They are parents of three children. For over 14 years, Evan has inspired youth and adults through thousands of talks and conferences. A link to a 4-minute video of Evan explaining his life mission: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ajZM3cva4M>

# WALK IN THE LORD'S LIGHT

*Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

---

## PRAY FOR THE HEALING GOODNESS OF OUR LORD

Please join our Prayer Line Ministers as we pray for these family members and friends:

Tina Allen, Louis Bartus, Nancy Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Carol Bates, Joyce Butler, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Kathleen Coleman, Shirley Darouse, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, Jimmy Giannobile, Wendy Gill, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Ann Hassenboughler, Tristian Harrison, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Randy Heitman, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Suzanne Howze, Melanie Johnston, Frank Kovach, David Landeche, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Gregg Mader, Mike Matherne, Patricia Matthews, Dwaine McDaniel, Maggie Millet, Joseph Mocsary, Erica Montz, Evelyn Moreland, Fay Murray, Amelie Oriol, Meghan Page, Gasper Guy Palermo, Terry Parrino, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Kim Prokop, Brooklyn Sansone, Valerii Sekisov & Family, Ricky Simoneaux, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Sharon Stolf, Elaine Taylor, Carolyn Toole, Trysten Tucker, Barney Wall, Lucy Whiddon, Dominick David Wright, Judy Wright, those in the Armed Services and law enforcement, and all who need our prayers.

*Want to add someone to this prayer list? Call the parish office.*

*Want our prayer warriors to pray for your intentions?*

*Contact Rose Mary at 985.507.7487.*

## STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,  
the **Regular Collection** for the  
weekend of **June 20/21, 2026**, totaled:

**\$12,557.50.**

The **Second Collection**  
next weekend will be for  
the **Building & Maintenance Fund!**

Thank you for your kindness  
and generosity to our ministries!

TO  
GIVE...



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed on **Friday, July 3, 2026**, in observance of Independence Day! If you have any business in the office, please take care of it before this time. Thank you for your cooperation!

## TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Some of you may have noticed that the live stream of our Masses has not been occurring and the recent YouTube videos have not been available. We are currently in the process of troubleshooting the system to see what the issues may be and correcting them. Hopefully, the live stream and YouTube videos will be back online soon. Thank you for your continued patience!

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given in memory of  
**Lynette Pfiffner** by Pete Pfiffner.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is given in memory of  
**Pauline Frisbie** by Mary & Stephanie.

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Saturday, June 27, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Mark Bidski, Sean Boaterie, Susan Hammett Brantley, Karen Chemay, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Pauline Frisbie, Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover, Ronnie Johnson, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Philip Leon, Sr., Ray & Connie Louviere, Wendy Loveless, Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Richelle Stephens, Kate Sziber and Vito Tallia, Sr.

### Sunday, June 28, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Al & Jackie Cox, Lloyd Dominguez, Pauline Frisbie, John LaGrange, David Landeche, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin, E.D. Purvis, Sherry Rider Smith, Gerard Lou Staub and Dorothy Stier

### Sunday, June 28, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

*The Missa Pro Populo* (The Mass for all the Parishioners)

### Sunday, June 28, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

### Monday, June 29, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Feast of Saints Peter and Paul)

Priests & Deacons

### Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jason Summers

### Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jeff Day

### Thursday, July 2, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

### Friday, July 3, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Feast of Saint Thomas, the Apostle)

Richard Yager

# PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

---

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament is offered weekly at 4:00PM on Thursday and on Saturday at 3:00PM at St. Margaret Church or by acceptable scheduled appointment with a priest.

### MARRIAGE

Interested parties should contact the parish office at least six (6) months prior to their desired date and must complete an acceptable Marriage Preparation Program.

### BAPTISM

Contact the parish office for preliminary information and to schedule a home visit from the Baptism Prep Team.

### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Visits to the hospitalized and infirm are made regularly. Contact the office for a priest or deacon for home or hospital visits.

### FUNERALS

Call the parish office during normal hours for scheduling. After hours, please leave a message on the emergency line at extension 106.

## OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil-4:00PM - St. Margaret Church  
Sunday-8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel  
10:00AM & 5:30PM - St. Margaret Church

### Daily Masses

Monday-5:30PM (after Mondays with Mary)  
Tuesday through Friday-7:00AM  
St. Margaret Church

### Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday - 7:30AM-8:00PM  
Concluding with Benediction  
St. Margaret Church

## CLERGY & STAFF

### PRIESTS

Father Paul August Gros (*Pastor*)  
Father Kumar Kolakani (*Assistant Pastor*)

### DEACONS

Deacon William "Byrd" Corbett  
Deacon Tim Messenger

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary E. Herbert  
(*Pastor's Administrative Assistant*)  
Tammy Resetar (*Receptionist  
& Cemetery Sales*)  
Peggy Desselle (*Contributions Manager  
& Wedding Coordinator*)

### PASTORAL STAFF

Baleigh Olah Henderson  
(*Religious Education, Youth Minister,  
& Communications Coordinator*)  
Debbie Corbett (*Safe Environment &  
Baptismal Coordinator*)

## THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

*Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
**Gather Hymnal Number 1128**

### **2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a**

Elisha rewards the woman  
who responds to him.

### **Romans 6:3-4, 8-11**

The baptized have died with Christ  
and will also live with Christ.

### **Matthew 10:37-42**

The requirements and rewards of discipleship.

### **Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures**

*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*July 4/5, 2026*

### **Zechariah 9:9-10**

### **Romans 8:9, 11-13**

### **Matthew 11:25-30**

# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, June 28, 2026**

**Peter's Pence (Holy Father) Special Collection!**  
**Steubenville South (Alexandria, LA)!**

**Monday, June 29, 2026**

8:30AM—**Food Distribution Registration**, Hall of Saints  
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

**Tuesday, June 30, 2026**

8:00AM—**Child Food Summer Program**, Church Grounds  
8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room  
5:30PM—**GriefShare**, St. Ignatius Room

**Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church  
5:00PM—**VBS Decorating**, Hall of Saints

**Thursday, July 2, 2026**

4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

**Friday, July 3, 2026**

**Parish Office Closed Today!**

**Saturday, July 4, 2026**

**Happy Independence Day!**  
**Pray for Our Country!**

**Building & Maintenance Fund**  
**Second Collection!**

3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church



Congratulations, Jeremy & Aeli,  
new Transitional Deacons!



Seminarian, Landry, hard at work.

## A Prayer for Our Country



O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life.

Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. **Amen.**

*Patron Saint of Our Country*

*The Immaculate Conception*