

THE

AUGUST 1/2, 2026

PEW BUDDY

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"Five loaves and
two fish are all we
have here."
~Matthew 14:17*

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!

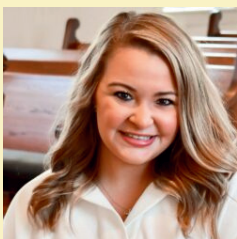


CONTACT US

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stmargaret@diobr.org

Website:
stmargaretstthomas.com



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

By Baleigh Olah Henderson

The St. Margaret Youth Group has had an incredible summer filled with opportunities for faith, service, and community.

We began with three students attending the first Diocese of Baton Rouge Discipleship Retreat in Panama City Beach. After being selected through an application process, they spent a beautiful weekend growing in prayer, discipleship, and fellowship.

In June, eleven students attended the Steubenville South Conference in Alexandria. Watching our youth wholeheartedly participate in praise and worship, engage with the speakers, and encounter Christ through Eucharistic Adoration and Mass with 3,000 peers was truly inspiring. It was an experience that left a lasting impact on everyone who attended.

July brought Vacation Bible School, where many of our middle and high school students served as volunteers. VBS is not only meaningful for the younger children but also provides our older youth with opportunities to build relationships, develop leadership skills, and grow in their own faith while serving others. I've even heard several times that this year was "the best one yet!"

Our summer pilgrimage series concluded with our annual Mission Krewe to Burnet, Texas, with seven students where we partnered with Catholic Mission Trips for the first time. Along with completing service projects, students participated in daily Mass, Adoration, praise and worship, and nightly reflections and team building. Throughout the week, they learned that while serving others is important, our greatest mission is to share Christ's love, help lead others closer to Him, and to make heaven crowded.

None of these experiences would have been possible without the incredible support of our St. Margaret parish family. Whether through prayers, financial generosity, or volunteering your time, you continue to invest in the faith of our young people. Thank you for making these opportunities possible and for believing in our youth.

As we begin a new year, we're making a few adjustments to our youth ministry schedule. Junior Youth Group (now grades 6–8) will meet every other Wednesday, schedule permitting, from 5:00–6:00 p.m., with snacks provided. High School Youth Group will continue meeting weekly from 6:30–8:00 p.m. If you would like to help provide dinners for our high school students, please consider signing up or reaching out. Our first youth night of the fall semester is August 12. Please contact me if you'd like to be added to any of our GroupMe communication groups!

There is so much to look forward to this year, including HOPE Fest, March for Life, Abbey Youth Fest, the ARISE Middle School Retreat, our Live Nativity, Passion Play, and so much more! I encourage parents and grandparents to continue supporting and inspiring our young people to stay active in the Church.

Many have also asked about opportunities for students who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Beginning September 20, we will launch a High School Group Study for confirmed students in grades 8–12. Centered on the theme "Cultivated," this study will help students grow deeper in Scripture and remain firmly rooted in Christ and His Church.

I'm excited for all that is to come this year, including PSR, and I look forward to watching our youth continue to grow in faith and discipleship.

In Christ,

Baleigh

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

OCIA TO BEGIN THIS WEEK!

Ever thought about becoming a Catholic? Know of someone in your family who is interested in learning more about the faith? Invite them to participate in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). There is also an equivalent ritual for children (OCIC). The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a transformative process that invites non-baptized adults and baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church to explore, learn, and grow in their faith. The St. Margaret OCIA program will begin **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**, at **6:30PM** in the Hall of Saints. For more information, please contact Darlene at darlenemkg@icloud.com or Kristie at Salon51tan@gmail.com or call the parish office.

REGISTER FOR PSR 2026-2027

Since we are near the end of summer, it's time to get ready for Parish School of Religion (PSR) for the 2026-2027 school year! Please register using the QR code here to access the PSR online registration. The deadline for registration is **Wednesday, August 7, 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact Baleigh Henderson at the parish office or by email at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com.



FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

It's time to start planning our annual St. Margaret Fall Festival, which will take place on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**. All are welcome to attend our first planning meeting on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in the Seton Room of the Hall of Saints. We are hoping to include more family games this year, which will require volunteers to help run them. If you would like to volunteer, contribute new items, or share your talents, please attend the meeting or contact Gina Little at glittle1985@gmail.com or 504.237.7105.

BIBLE STUDY - A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. In his video-based study A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Join us for A Biblical Walk Through the Mass at St. Margaret beginning **Thursday, August 27, 2026**, from **6:00PM-8:00PM** in the St. Margaret Room of the Hall of Saints every Thursday for 5 weeks. For more information or to register for the study, call Jennifer Batson at 817.269.7482 or via email: jen.batson64@gmail.com. Registration forms are available at the entrance of the church.

THE LORD IS KIND & MERCIFUL

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE

May mothers and their children have access to quality, life-affirming medical care.



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In *Evangelium vitae*, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that, “A mother welcomes and carries in herself another human being, enabling it to grow inside her, giving it room, respecting it in its otherness” (EV 99). Often the first and most basic way that a mother welcomes and cares for her child is by attending to her own health. In doing so, she ultimately contributes to the wellbeing of her child, as the health of mother and child are inextricably connected. After her child is born, a mother’s devoted care continues as she nurtures this new life and attends to her child’s every need.

As healthcare costs continue to rise, obtaining access to adequate medical care can be challenging, particularly for single women in poverty. According to 2014 statistics, 75 percent of women who chose abortion were low income. The financial strain of medical care can often place significant burdens on both pregnant and parenting mothers. Data from 2016 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that 15 percent of women in the United States

received inadequate prenatal care. As we walk with mothers in need, we pray that our efforts will help mothers and their children gain access to quality, life-affirming medical care and address this fundamental need.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Seek the Blessed Mother’s intercession for mothers and children by offering a Rosary (bit.ly/how-to-pray-rosary) for the featured intention.
- Give up sleeping on your pillow one night. Offer this small sacrifice for mothers and children who have difficulty accessing adequate medical care.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

St. Monica (bit.ly/about-st-monica), mother of St. Augustine, spent much of her life as a single, widowed mother, dedicated to caring for her children. May we seek her intercession for all mothers facing difficulties.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

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HOW GOOD IS THE LORD

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

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, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, Jimmy Giannobile, Wendy Gill, Lisa Goings, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Ann Hassenbouhler, Tristian Harrison, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Randy Heitman, Brian Helmstetter, Lani Herbert, Mary E. Herbert, Marsha Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Suzanne Howze, Melanie Johnston, Trevor Kinchen, 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
July 26/27, 2026, totaled:

\$11,257.00.

The **Second Collection** for **St. Margaret
Service Ministries** totaled:

\$2,373.00.

There will be no **Second or Special
Collection** next weekend!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity
to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



SVDP UNIFORMS FOR KIDS

Thanks to our wonderful St. Margaret Vincentians that worked hard to provide new school uniforms and accessories to the schools in Albany, Springfield, Holden, and Town of Livingston for children in need, and thanks to those who donate to our local St. Vincent de Paul Society. We pray these uniforms and all of our prayers for the students and teachers help make the 2026/2027 school year a success!!

NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBER

Congratulations to the family and friends of the newest Catholic welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of July, **Harrison Hendry**. May this child grow in the grace and love of Our Lord forever! Contact Debbie Corbett in the parish office if you are interested in having your child baptized!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given
in memory of **Josh Tye** by Kim Navarre.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is burning for
the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Bob Bouterie, Polly Chatelain, Karen Chemay,
Elizabeth Cornwall, Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz,
Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Irene Leon,
Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere,
Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Madison Ourso, Lynette Pfiffner,
Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman,
William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Barbara Stallcup and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, August 2, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Savanna Balado, Al & Jackie Cox, Melissa Degenhardt,
Lloyd Dominguez, Donovan Jones, John LaGrange, David Landeche & Family,
Margie & Joe Liuzza, Audrey Maduell, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin, E.D. Purvis
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, August 2, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, August 2, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, August 3, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Jean Vianney)

Fr. Paul Gros

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Benjamin Delaune

Thursday, August 6, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Feast of the Transfiguration)

George & Eric Navarre

Friday, August 7, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1143

Isaiah 55:1-3

All who are thirsty, come to the water.

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Nothing can separate us
from the love of God

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus feeds the five thousand
and there are baskets left over.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 8/9, 2026

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Ladies Auxiliary Seminarian School Supply Collection!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

Monday, August 3, 2026

10:00AM—**St. Thomas Altar Society**, St. Thomas Chapel

5:00PM—**SVDP Special Meeting**, Parish Hall

5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—**Catholic Schoolhouse Parent Meeting**, St. Margaret Room

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room

5:30PM—**GriefShare**, St. Ignatius Room

6:30PM—**KC & Ladies Faith Formation**, St. Margaret Room

7:00PM—**Knights of Columbus Meeting**, St. Margaret Room

7:00PM—**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church

1:00PM—**Staff Faith Formation**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:30PM—**OCIA**, St. Jean Vianney Room

Thursday, August 6, 2026

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

Friday, August 7, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled for Today!

Saturday, August 8, 2026

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



Special blessings on our SVDP members.



Blessed Sorters.



More Blessed Sorters.

VASCULAR AND ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND SCREENINGS

On **Saturday, August 15, 2026**, Rightway Imaging will bring its mobile unit to the Hampton Inn Meeting Room to perform 10 non-invasive, painless ultrasound screenings. These important tests are generally not performed during routine physicals, and insurance companies typically do not cover them unless you are symptomatic. In a hospital, these tests could cost thousands collectively, but Rightway Imaging is offering them for \$45 each or all 10 screenings for \$189 (about \$19 per test). What is being screened:

- **Carotid Arteries:** Checks both sides of the neck for fatty plaque buildup and blockage (the #1 cause of stroke!).
- **Thyroid:** Checks for cysts, masses, and unusual growths (very common among women).
- **Lower Abdominal Aorta:** Checks for aneurysms, which can go unnoticed until the point of rupture.
- **Abdominal Organs:** Checks the liver, spleen, gallbladder, and both kidneys for cysts, masses, kidney stones, and gallstones.
- **Heart & Vital Signs:** Includes an electrocardiogram (EKG) to monitor heart activity for atrial fibrillation (A-fib), plus a blood oxygen level screening.

Who should consider these tests? Please take advantage of this opportunity if you are over the age of 35, smoke, or are physically inactive, or if you have a personal or family history of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, heart disease, or cancer. To register or learn more, please call 281.616.9192.