

THE

JULY 11/12, 2026

PEW BUDDY

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see..."
~Matthew 13:16

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



PONDERINGS OF THE PEDAL-N-PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ this 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time! It is good to be home from my pilgrimage to India. For those who do not know, I have spent the past two weeks visiting the home diocese of Frs. Laz and Kumar. I also had the blessed opportunity to visit the tombs of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

WOW! I have so much to share with you about a culture so different from our own, yet a Church and faith that are so similar. To sum up my experience, here is a quick snapshot:

The Catholic Church: Catholics are a very faithful minority (less than 2% of the population). Despite government persecution, the Church runs many of the best hospitals, schools, and universities in the country. Religious vocations to priesthood and religious life are booming! You learn quickly to leave your sandals at the doors of the Church and walk inside barefoot. Do not expect air conditioning, and since most churches do not have pews, you will likely be sitting on the floor. Their devotion to "Mama Mary" is beautiful to see.

City Life and Traffic: It is absolute chaos, insanity, and craziness, yet it somehow works! You use your horn CONSTANTLY—no one is offended; it simply let others know you are coming. Do not mind the cows resting in the middle of the road; you just drive around them. It is truly the land of 100 million motorcycles! Do not be surprised to see a family of four and their groceries on a single bike, or 6–8 people crammed into an autorickshaw (what they call a "Tuk-tuk"). You must be vigilant to avoid the pedestrians and the many stray dogs who also seem to have somewhere important to be. It is noise, noise, noise—all day and all night!

Hindu Temples and Catholic Grottos: You will see many small Hindu temples and shrines on the side of the road. However, there are also many small Catholic grottos where people stop to pray during their travels.

Food: Rice is featured in almost every dish! Goat, chicken, and pork are the main proteins, and the mangoes are unbelievably good. Breakfast is very different from an American breakfast; you can expect a savory, fried donut-shaped snack called a "Vada." My favorite dishes were butter chicken, chili chicken, and fresh mangoes.

Weather: The climate is much like ours – hot and humid with afternoon rain showers. However, do not expect air conditioning in most buildings. If you are lucky, you might have an AC unit in your bedroom.

Talitha Cumi Unnati (TCU) Girls: These are the girls we have been sponsoring to ensure they can attend school and avoid the threat of human trafficking. What a beautiful sight! They welcomed us with open arms, danced for us, and threw flower petals at us. It was humbling, to say the least. The girls were so grateful for our support; several shared their stories, including some who had lost one or both parents and would likely have been trafficked if not for TCU.

Overall, it was an awesome experience, but it is good to be home! I plan to put a PowerPoint presentation together by the end of the month to share my photos and videos with you all.

Next weekend, we will be taking up a Second Collection for the girls of TCU. Please be generous to this wonderful cause! I hope you were able to see some of the pictures posted on our Facebook page. It was such a gift for me to meet the girls in person!

Have a wonderful week!

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be **closed** on **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for the funeral of Shirley Darouse, a long-time St. Margaret parishioner and past staff member. Due to Mission Krewe this week, the parish office will be **open** **Wednesday through Friday, July 15-17, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **12:00PM** only and closed in the afternoon.

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.

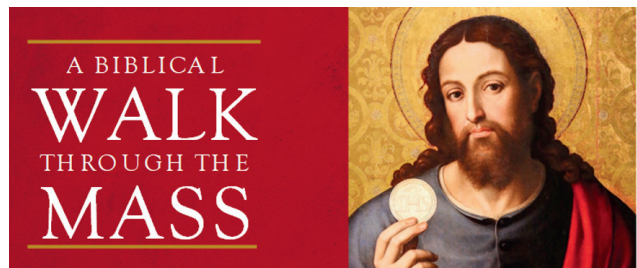
WHY BECOME CATHOLIC? INQUIRE HERE!

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!

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.



YOU ARE GOD'S RICH SOIL

JULY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please let your friends and neighbors, who get food through the Food Distribution Program, know Annual Registration is still open. On **July 16, 2026**, during food distribution, Catholic Charities will be doing registration until the cap on the number of families who can register is reached. The cap is based on the amount of food available through the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – USDA program. **July 16, 2026**, is the Food Distribution pick-up time from **8:30AM** until **10:30AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **11:00AM**.

You can also support this ministry by joining our New Prayer Circle. The group will meet during Food Distribution at **8:00AM** (after we sort the perishable food) in the Parish Hall. Volunteers will pray for the recipients and all the people in our area who are physically, emotionally or spiritually in need.

If you are a regular food distribution volunteer, let your team leader know that you will be able to help. If you want to get involved, please call 985.969.7477 so we can best utilize your time and talents.



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:
Baileigh Henderson
bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com
Michelle Bates
michelle.bates@stafalcons.org

CIAO!!!
FROM ITALY

When: SUMMER 2021

Where: ROME, ASSISI, & FLORENCE

Learn More:

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

GO, PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

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 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, 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 Pffner, 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 11/12, 2026**, totaled:

\$12,353.00.

The **Second Collection** for the **Building & Maintenance Fund** totaled:

\$4,014.00

The **Second Collection** next weekend will be for the **Young Women's Ministry in India!**

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



Can you believe it?! Time to get ready for another great year of PSR!

Classes will begin

Sunday, August 23, 2026.

Begin the registration process here (we are online this year!):



The DEADLINE to register will be Friday, August 7, 2026!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given in memory of
George & Eric Navarre by Kim Navarre.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is given in memory of
Donivan Jones by Kim Navarre.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Mike & Trish Barras, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Susan Brantley, Karen Chemay,
Jeff Comeaux, Bill Dantin, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr.,
Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Benny Gex, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz,
Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere,
Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Alex Newman, 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, Barbara Stallcup
and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jeff Comeaux, Al & Jackie Cox, Angie Deliberto, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange,
David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Audrey Maduell, Charlie Martin,
Richmond Peacock, E.D. Purvis, Sherry Rider Smith, Barbara Stallcup, Gerard Lou Staub
and Dorothy Stier

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Susan Hammett Brantley

Monday, July 13, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Ted & Jan Resetar

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha)

Jeff Day

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Bonaventure)

Donivan Jones

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jeanne Dakin Guillot

Friday, July 17, 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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1134

Isaiah 55:10-11

A prophetic teaching
on the power of God's word.

Romans 8:18-23

Paul professes hope in the face of suffering.

Matthew 13:1-23

God's word is powerful
for those who really hear it.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 18/19, 2026

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, July 12, 2026

**Knights of Columbus Membership Drive!
Happy Priestly Ordination Anniversary, Fr. Kumar!**

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mission Krewe!
5:00PM—Mondays with Mary, St. Margaret Church
5:30PM—St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mission Krewe!
8:30PM—St. Matthew's Guild, St. Cecilia Room
5:30PM—GriefShare, St. Ignatius Room

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mission Krewe!
1:00PM—Eucharistic Adoration, St. Margaret Church
6:30PM—KC Fourth Degree Meeting, St. Maria Goretti Room

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Mission Krewe!
8:30PM—Food Distribution, Church Grounds
4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

Friday, July 17, 2026

Mission Krewe!

Saturday, July 18, 2026

**Young Women's Ministry of India Second Collection!
3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church**



Mentors for Talitha Cumi Unnathi Girls



Talitha Cumi Unnathi Girls with Fr. Paul



Mass at Church in Vijayawada, India



St. Margaret Donation to Fr. Laz's Church in India, the Village Chapel



Fr. Paul speaking to the Talitha Cumi Unnathi Girls