

THE

JULY 25/26, 2026

PEW BUDDY

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"The kingdom of heaven is
like a merchant searching
for fine pearls."*

~Matthew 13:45

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 PEDALING PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! I want to begin my bulletin article with the words of St. Paul from our second reading this weekend: *"Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose"* (Rom 8:28).

Memorize that verse! It is a good one to keep in your heart's "arsenal" so that when circumstances in our lives seem to be going haywire, and the enemy of our souls is tempting us to despair, we can fight back!

Of all the evil in the world, nothing was or will ever be worse than the crucifixion, in which humanity crucified God on a cross. Nevertheless, through the wisdom of God, the worst of circumstances—the cross—was transformed into the best of circumstances: the resurrection.

St. Paul is applying this mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection to **all things**. This even includes our sins! Recently, I have been reading a book entitled *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacques Philippe. It is a book that has been on my shelf for a while, but one I finally picked up when it became clear that the Holy Spirit was inviting me to read it.

In one section, Fr. Philippe speaks of how we must not get discouraged when we find ourselves falling into the same sins and faults that often haunt us. When we do, this discouragement is usually a form of pride that places more confidence in ourselves than in God (which is the reason we often get so upset with ourselves when we fall). The humble heart is one that immediately turns to God in repentance, is not surprised by its own weakness, and does not allow the fall to lead to despair.

Fr. Philippe writes:

"...This sadness and discouragement [from our sins and faults] are not good, in that we must not view our own faults too tragically, because God is able to draw good from them. Little Thérèse of the Child Jesus loved greatly this phrase of St. John of the Cross: 'Love is able to profit from everything, the good as well as the bad that it finds in me, and to transform it into itself.' Our confidence in God must go at least that far: to believe that He is good enough and powerful enough to draw good from everything, including our faults and our infidelities" (p. 61).

He then goes on to quote St. Paul from today's second reading— *"Everything works together for the good of those who love God..."* (Rom 8:28)—but he adds what St. Augustine added to the end of that verse: **"Even sins!"**

"Even sins!"—do we believe that?! Can we believe that?! I invite you to reflect on your own life and the frequent internal response you give yourself after falling.

Of course, Fr. Philippe is **not** saying that we should become tepid or lax in our efforts to avoid sin and grow in holiness. Resigning ourselves to mediocrity is never the Catholic way (Rev 3:15–16). However, he is reminding us that ALL THINGS, even our sins and faults, can be turned to good for those who love our great God and Father!

Have a wonderful week,

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

REGISTER FOR PSR 2026-2027

While we may only be half-way through the 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.

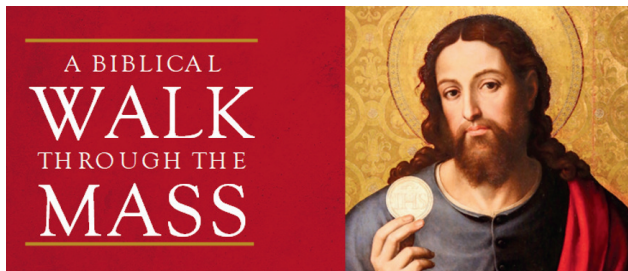


Can you believe it?! Time to get ready for another great year of PSR! Classes will begin **Sunday, August 23, 2026**. Begin the registration process here (we are online this year!):



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.

SIT AWHILE WITH JESUS IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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 or 225.921.4071.

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of the **Karen Chemay** by Mark Chemay. If you would like to have flowers given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, call the parish office to schedule in advance.

THE LORD'S LAW IS MY DELIGHT



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



SEMINARIAN SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The KC Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a Back-to-School Supply Drive to support our 22 diocesan seminarians for 2026/27. Let's show our love and encouragement to these devoted men as they continue their journey of discernment.

If you would like to contribute, please bring your donated items to any Mass on August 1st or 2nd. The KC Ladies Auxiliary will be outside the church to gratefully receive your offerings.



- Notebooks (College-ruled, Single Subject)
- Thank You Cards w/Envelopes
- Gifts Cards (Amazon preferred)
- Postage
- Pocket Folders
- Pens (preferably G2 or Sharpie Ultra Fine)
- Sticky Note Pads
- Laundry Detergent (Woolite Darks Defense preferred)
- Black Sport Socks
- Dryer Sheets
- Shampoo & Body Wash

Supplies will be collected the weekend of August 1/2, 2026.

LORD, I LOVE YOUR COMMANDS

O Lord, my portion is to obey your words.

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, 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 18/19, 2026**, totaled:

\$13,305.50.

The **Second Collection** for the **Young Women of India Ministry** totaled:

\$3,948.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given in memory of
Shirley Darouse by the St. Margaret Staff.

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Martha Brown, Karen Chemay, Elizabeth Cornwall,
Shirley Darouse, Sr. June Engelbrecht, 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, Ray & Connie Louviere,
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, Barbara Stallcup,
Vito Tallia, Sr. and Courtney & Garret Tregre

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

Monday, July 27, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Joy Bennett

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of Ss. Martha, Mary and Lazarus)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jeff Day

Friday, July 31, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Jeff Day

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1140

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Solomon asks for, and is granted,
a wise heart.

Romans 8:28-30

"All things work for good for
those who love God."

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus offers more parables
about the kingdom of heaven.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 1/2, 2026

Isaiah 55:1-3

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, July 26, 2026

St. Margaret Service Ministries Second Collection!

Monday, July 27, 2026

5:00PM—**Young Adult Gathering**, St. Margaret Church/Off Campus

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

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

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

5:30PM—**(Small) Ministry Table Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

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

6:00PM—**Italy Youth Pilgrimage Interest Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Thursday, July 30, 2026

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

5:00PM—**India Pilgrimage Presentation**, St. Margaret Room

Friday, July 31, 2026

12:30PM—**High School/Junior High Water Slide**, Church Grounds

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Ladies Auxiliary Seminarian School Supply Collection!

10:00AM—**PSR Catechist Retreat**, St. Margaret Church/St. Margaret Room

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



Mission Krewe



Bottling honey for a local mission.



God blessed a productive mission!



Getting walls up!



Hard at work!!