

THE

JULY 4/5, 2026

# PEW BUDDY

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"Take my yoke upon you and  
learn from me, for I am  
meek and humble of heart."*

~Matthew 11:29

### 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](mailto:stmargaret@diobr.org)

**Website:**

[stmargaretstthomas.com](http://stmargaretstthomas.com)



# FINDING REST IN CHRIST, SHARING HIS MERCY

*By Deacon Randall Waguespack*

In today's Gospel (Matthew 11:25–30), Jesus extends a deeply comforting invitation: *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”* These words reach into the very heart of our human experience. Each of us carries burdens – concerns about family, work, health, and the uncertainty of daily life. Yet Jesus does not simply promise relief from these struggles; He invites us into a relationship with Him, where we discover that we do not carry them alone.

Jesus begins by praising the Father for revealing divine truth to the “little ones.” This reminds us that God's wisdom is often most clearly seen in humility and simplicity rather than status or power. Those who are poor, struggling, or vulnerable hold a special place in the heart of God. They are not overlooked; rather, they reveal to us something essential about the Kingdom of God. When we draw close to those in need, we come closer to Christ Himself.

The image of the yoke may at first sound like an added weight, but Jesus transforms its meaning. *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.”* His yoke is light because it is shared. He walks beside us, offering strength, guidance, and peace. As His disciples, we are not only invited to receive this rest. We are also called to help extend it to others.

This Gospel challenges us to recognize the burdens carried by those around us. Many in our community struggle with financial hardship, loneliness, grief, or uncertainty about the future. These burdens are often hidden, but they are very real. Christ calls us to respond not with indifference, but with compassion – offering what we can to lighten the load of another.

Serving those in need is not simply about meeting material needs; it is about restoring dignity and offering hope. A kind word, a listening ear, or a small act of generosity can become a powerful expression of Christ's love. When we act with humility and compassion, we reflect the very heart of Jesus, who meets people where they are and lifts them up.

Jesus describes Himself as “meek and humble of heart,” inviting us to learn from Him. This humility is the foundation of authentic Christian service. It reminds us that we are not above those we serve but standing beside them as brothers and sisters. In these encounters, we often find that we receive just as much as we give.

As we reflect on this Gospel, we are invited to ask ourselves: How can I help carry someone else's burden? The opportunities are all around us – in our families, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods. Each act of love, no matter how small, makes God's presence visible in the world.

May we come to Christ with our own burdens and find in Him the rest we seek. And strengthened by His grace, may we go forth to bring that same peace, compassion, and hope to others.

# **EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH**

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THIS WEEK!**

Vacation Bible School will be happening this week **Monday** through **Friday** from **9:00AM** until **12:00PM**. We look forward to all the excitement the children bring to our campus this week. If you have business in the parish office this week, please be aware that there will be many little people enjoying the activities and organized chaos in the Hall of Saints. Pray for the children, our volunteers and our staff!

## **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 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.

## **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!

## **CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS**

Congratulations to our newest couples married at St. Margaret during the month of June: **Sebastian Ribbeck & Morgan Busch, Jordan Wyble & Delaney Jones, and Michael Carr, Jr. & Anna Hanks**. We wish them many blessings in the future together! Contact one of the clergy to schedule your wedding or to learn more about marriage at St. Margaret!

## **NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS**

Congratulations to the family and friends of the newest Catholics welcomed into the faith at St. Margaret during the month of June, **Ava Duplechain, Evangeline Vall, Brylee Chauvin and Noel Latino**. May these children 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!

# THE LORD'S WORD IS FAITHFUL

## STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,  
the **Regular Collection**  
for the weekend of  
**June 27/28, 2026,**  
totalled:

**\$12,699.00.**

The **Special Collection**  
for **Peter's Pence**  
totalled:

**\$1,223.00**

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

Thank you for your kindness  
and generosity to our  
ministries!

TO  
GIVE... 

Walking with  
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



### INTERCEDE

May mothers  
receive ongoing  
care and support  
in raising their  
children.



### PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

### REFLECT

While we often think of pregnancy as culminating in the birth of child, we know that the journey is only just beginning. While motherhood brings with it many joys and blessings, it also involves challenges and difficulties. In raising their children and dedicating themselves to their families, mothers participate in a type of “daily heroism,” one for which they “do not always find support in the world around them” (EV 86). Providing and caring for children as a single mother includes additional hardships. Sadly, today, one in four children are being raised without a father. Certainly, there are many reasons this might occur in any given circumstance. However, it is also true that in a culture that largely rejects the Church’s teachings on marriage, life, and sexuality, women and their children are often disproportionately impacted. It was Pope Paul VI in *Humanae vitae* who warned that, “a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman... no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection” (HV 17).

In the midst of this reality, the Church is called to be a beacon of light, hope, and support. May we respond to this call, individually and communally, to surround mothers with assistance and support as they lovingly care for their children.

### ACT (choose one)

- Saints Anne and Joachim—whose feast is celebrated on July 26—were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parents often seek the intercession of these married saints as they raise their own children. Offer this prayer ([bit.ly/anne-joachim](http://bit.ly/anne-joachim)), asking Saints Anne and Joachim to pray for the featured intention.
- Fast from television, social media, music, or electronics altogether for one day. Ask the Lord to use the quiet and stillness to bring you more closely to Him.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

### ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about Saints Anne and Joachim, models for parents and for marriage: [bit.ly/sts-anne-joachim](http://bit.ly/sts-anne-joachim).

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

[www.WalkingWithMoms.com](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com)

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## A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of the **Lynette Pfiffner** by Pete Pfiffner. 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 DEEDS ARE HOLY

*I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.*

## 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 Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Kim Prokop, Brooklyn Sansone, Valerii Sekisov & Family, Ricky Simoneaux, Mary Stabile, Brittney 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.*

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

CIAO!!!  
FROM ITALY

When: SUMMER  
2021

Where: ROME, ASSISI, & FLORENCE

Learn More:

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

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given in memory of  
**Norma Sterling** by the Gaspard Family.

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

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Fr. Howard Atkins, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Sean Bouterie,  
Susan Hammett Brantley, Karen Chemay, Courtney Culotta, Jeff Day, Larry J. Evans,  
June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover,  
Ronnie Johnson, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Alberta & Francis Kronlage,  
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, 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,  
Vito Tallia, Sr. and Yancy Watkins

### Sunday, July 5, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Al & Jackie Cox, Lloyd Dominguez, Donivan Jones, John LaGrange,  
David Landeche, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Audrey Maduell, Charlie Martin, Chucky Martin,  
E.D. Purvis, Sherry Rider Smith, Barbara Stallcup, Gerard Lou Staub and Dorothy Stier

### Sunday, July 5, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

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

George & Eric Navarre

### Monday, July 6, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Marion Davis

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

Jeff Day

### Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

George & Eric Navarre

### Thursday, July 9, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

### Friday, July 10, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

# PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

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## 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

*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
**Gather Hymnal Number 1131**

### Zechariah 9:9-10

God's people are given the promise  
of a hopeful future.

### Romans 8:9, 11-13

The life-giving Spirit dwells in us.

### Matthew 11:25-30

"Come to me - for my yoke is easy,  
and my burden is light."

### Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

*Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*July 11/12, 2026*

### Isaiah 55:10-11

### Romans 8:18-23

### Matthew 13:1-23

# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, July 5, 2026**

**Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!**  
**Coffee & Donut Ministry!**

**Monday, July 6, 2026**

**Vacation Bible School!**

10:00AM—**St. Thomas Altar Society**, St. Thomas Chapel  
1:00PM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room  
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church

**Tuesday, July 7, 2026**

**Vacation Bible School!**

6:30PM—**Knights & 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, July 8, 2026**

**Vacation Bible School!**

1:00PM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church

**Thursday, July 9, 2026**

**Vacation Bible School!**

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

**Friday, July 10, 2026**

**Vacation Bible School!**

5:30PM—**VBS Finale**, Parish Hall  
6:00PM—**Family Movie Night**, Parish Hall

**Saturday, July 11, 2026**

**Knights of Columbus Membership Drive!**

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



Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle's tomb



Mass at St. Mother Teresa's Convent



Steubenville South in Alexandria

*Catholic Daughters & Together in Holiness present:*

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

*Showing:*



**FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026**

ST. MARGARET PARISH HALL

**6:00-8:30 PM**

FOLLOWING THE VBS FINALE PERFORMANCE

*Food will be provided.*