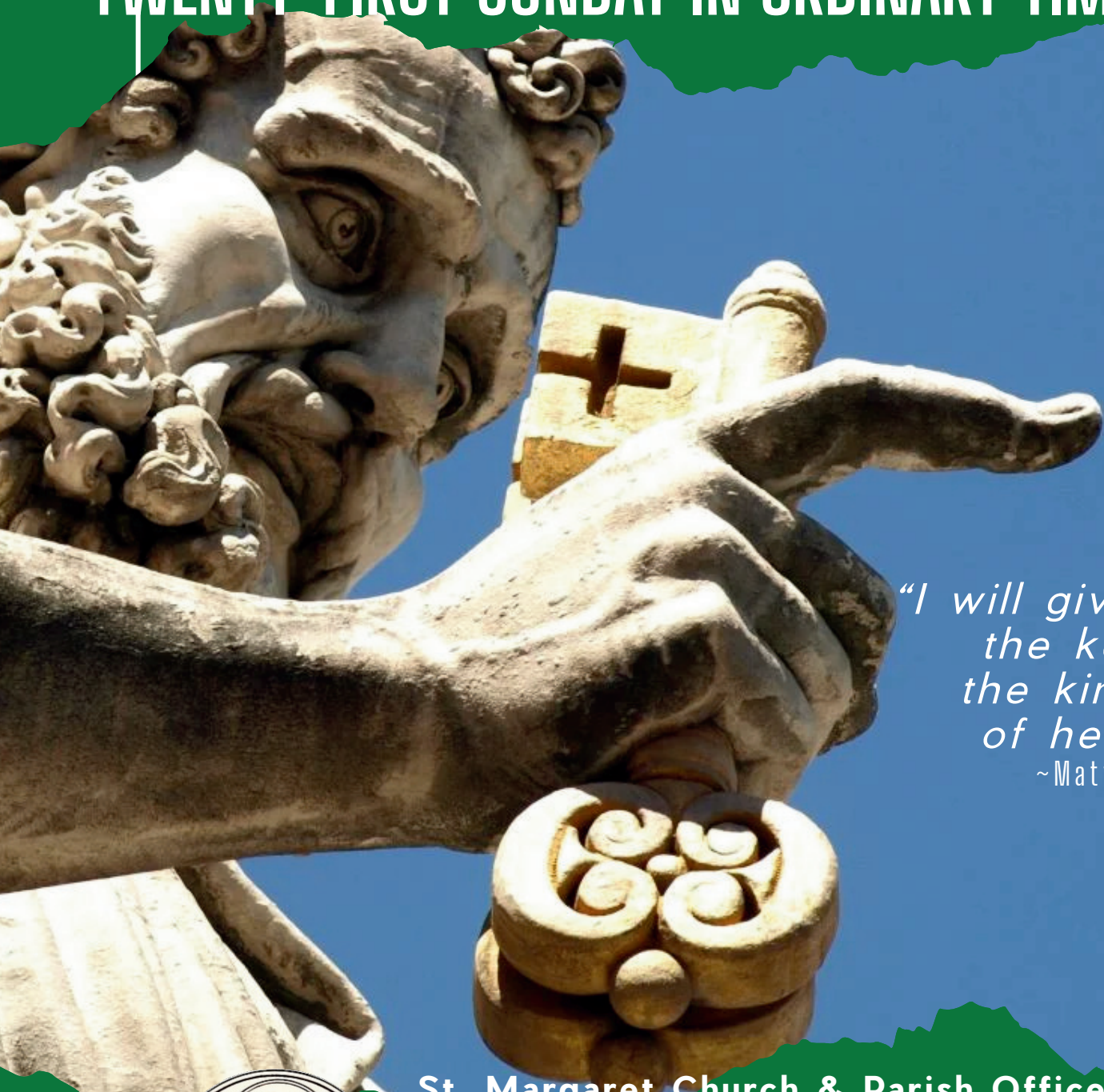


THE

AUGUST 22/23, 2026

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



*"I will give you
the keys to
the kingdom
of heaven."
~Matthew 16:19*



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

IT TAKES TWO

By John Foley, S.J.

On previous Sundays Jesus has been curing people. Yet an odd thing happens in each case. He tells them, "Your faith has saved you." That creates a mystery. Quite obviously Jesus does the healing, so why does he say their faith did it? Why didn't he just say, "Go in peace, I have healed you"? Let us seek the answer in Sunday's Gospel. This will be a roundabout way to get an answer, so I ask you to wait for it.

Jesus is in Caesarea Philippi, and the disciples are just back from their mission of preaching. He asks them who people think he is. The disciples laugh boyishly and repeat some answers they have heard. Obviously, they regard these guesses as absurd. Something like this:

"Believe it or not, some think you are John the Baptist returned from the dead!"

"The ones I talked to said you were the prophet, Elijah! It was hilarious!"

"A few of them said you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets! They just don't know what to make of you."

Laughter all around. But Jesus' question was a curve ball and now it crosses the plate. He says abruptly, "And what about you? Who do you say I am?" Eyes wander, feet scuff, laughter turns into a cough. The disciples' faith is still young and perhaps they are confused about it, not to mention the fact that up to this point they have not been required to profess anything out loud. Red faces.

Peter is bold, awkwardly walking on water again, figuratively this time. He stammers out his best answer. "You ... you are ... the, uh, ... yes, uh, the ... the Son of ... you are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Silence and then nods and relief all around.

"Simon, how great is your faith," Jesus says. "Whatever you open with this faith will stay open. Whatever your faith shuts will remain shut, not only here but in heaven."

A high compliment to Peter's tottering belief status.

But does this help with the contradiction we began with? Is it Jesus' action or an act of their faith?

Jesus is always seeking a two-way liaison between himself and us, not just one-way. He wants us to have a relationship to the fullness of who he is. Besides being a charismatic leader or a good friend, he is *the very reality of God's love, present in the world, wide open to loving each of us—and being loved in return*. He wants a mutual love-relationship with you and me, one in which we open up our hearts and let Godly love in—and return it.

The name of that openness to God's love on the part of a person is "faith." Faith. So, the answer is truly, "your faith has saved you." *But it is faith in Jesus' cures*. These are never just a matter of him acting on his own, like a mechanic replacing spark plugs. They are love being given and love being received. The ones who were cured must have opened themselves and have at least a beginning relationship with Jesus as the loving Messiah.

Healing is then at last able to take root.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

WELCOME BACK, PSR STUDENTS!

PSR classes begin **Sunday, August 23, 2026**: grades K-6 from **11:15AM** until **12:30PM** on Sunday morning after the 10:00AM Mass and grade 7 after the 5:30PM Mass from **6:45PM** until **8:00PM**. We are looking forward to another great year!

MANDATORY PSR PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETING

There will also be MANDATORY meetings for PSR parents/guardians next **Sunday, August 23, 2026**, in St. Margaret Church at the same time as your child's PSR class. See the Parish Calendar on the back of the bulletin for times. If you have any questions, please contact Baleigh Henderson at the parish office or by email at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com.

REMINDER: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

The Bible Study, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, will begin on **Thursday, August 27, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in the Parish Hall. Don't miss this journey you will not soon forget!

HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED?

If you are an adult who has been baptized and received First Eucharist but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation, five preparatory sessions will be held on Tuesdays beginning **September 1, 2026**, from **6:00PM** until **8:00PM** in order to assist you to prepare to receive the sacrament. The sacrament will be celebrated at the end of the five weeks. If you have any further questions, please call Deacon Byrd at the parish office.

JOIN OUR FALL FESTIVAL MINISTRY

Our Fall Festival Ministers will be available outside of all Masses next weekend to discuss their ministry with those interested in maybe helping out with our annual St. Margaret Fall Festival. Also, our next Fall Festival meeting will be on **Thursday, September 3, 2026**, at **6:00PM**.

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of the **Chuck Raborn, Sr.** by the Raborn Family. 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.

SIT A WHILE WITH JESUS IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. If you can commit to an hour weekly or need additional information, contact Gretchen Johnson at 225.921.4071 or at gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.

YOU ARE THE CHRIST



Youth March for Life!!!

STUDENT & PARENT INTEREST MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, 6:00 PM

ST. MARGARET ROOM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TO FOLLOW

THIS MEETING IS MANDATORY FOR THOSE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 2027 MARCH FOR LIFE!

Sponsored by:



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE



DIocese of LAFAYETTE
OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE

in partnership with:



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER

End-of-Life Decision Making and the Dignity of Human Life

“Let us care for one another as Christ cared for us.” - Romans 15:7

When: Saturday, October 31, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(Lunch Provided)

Where: Tracy Center Auditorium
Catholic Life Center
1800 S. Acadian Thruway
Baton Rouge, LA



Registration is required

Use the QR Code or this link:

<https://diobr.org/rlc-event>

The talks will include:

- Ordinary and extraordinary end-of-life care: Nutrition & hydration and pain medication
- Advance directives: Power of Attorney and living wills
- Catholic teaching on euthanasia and assisted suicide
- Ethical challenges w. palliative care and hospice

Meet our speaker:



Dr. Joe Zalot is a nationally recognized Catholic ethicist and the Director of Education at The NCBC. He lectures across the country, and has provided more than 2,200 ethics consultations, helping many make faithful medical decisions in accordance with Catholic teaching.

“The important thing is to give people good and faithful information so they can make good decisions in line with the teachings of the Church.” - Dr. Zalot



Please Join Us For Supper & Substance

A New Ministry for St. Margaret & St. Thomas

Our first installment for this engagement will be presented by

Fr. Paul Gros on

“Marriage & Family: Making it Matter”

All are welcome! Childcare for children 3+ (potty-trained) will be available (donations to our youth group are most welcome!).

Dinner will be provided!

August 29, 2026, 6:00 PM

St. Margaret Parish Hall

This is a FREE event, but please kindly RSVP here:

Contact Baleigh Henderson with any
questions:

bhenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com



FEED THE YOUTH!!

Our Youth Group is continually growing! Which means more mouths to feed. We recently changed the schedule, adjusting dinner to accommodate our high schoolers. We

anticipate 15 or so kids each week. Please consider feeding our youth! Each meal is greatly appreciated!

Contact Baleigh Henderson with any questions!

bhenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com



THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

HEALING PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

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

Tina Allen, Louis Bartus, Coy Behler, 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, Herbeth Howell, 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, Robert & Ashley Wheat, 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
August 15/16, 2026, totaled:

\$14,977.50.

The **Feast of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Collection** totaled:

\$2,369.00

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

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO 
GIVE...

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1152

Isaiah 22:19-22

God bestows authority upon Eliakim.

Romans 11:33-36

Peter gives praise to an inscrutable God.

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus bestows authority upon Peter.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 29/30, 2026

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-12

Matthew 16:21-27

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given
in memory of **A.R. Horrell** by Lucie & Joe Hanewinkel.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is burning
for our Holy Father, **Pope Leo XIV.**

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 22, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Karen Chemay, Shirley Darouse,
Leon A. Dauterive, Jr., 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, Donna Laciura,
Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Thelma Meridier, Gina & Adam Mocsary,
Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak,
Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Victor & Mary Pepitone, Lynette Pfiffner,
Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Gwen Socha, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman
and William F. Sherman, Sr., MD

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Donna Laciura, John LaGrange,
David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Audrey Maduell, Charlie Martin,
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, August 24, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Feast of St. Bartholomew)

June Koles Olah

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jeff Day

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Thursday, August 27, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Monica)

Yancy Watkins

Friday, August 28, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Augustine)

Donivan Jones

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*)

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

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 23, 2026

First Day of Parish School of Religion (PSR) Classes!

11:15AM—Parish School of Religion (Grades K-6), Hall of Saints

11:15AM—Mandatory PSR Parent Meeting, St. Margaret Church

6:45PM—Parish School of Religion (Grade 7), Hall of Saints

6:45PM—Mandatory PSR Parent Meeting, St. Margaret Church

Monday, August 24, 2026

8:00AM—Catholic Schoolhouse, Hall of Saints

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

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

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

5:30PM—GriefShare, St. Ignatius Room

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

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

3:00PM—Cemetery Committee Meeting, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

5:00PM—Junior Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room

6:30PM—High School Youth Group, St. John Paul II Room

6:30PM—OCIA, St. Jean Vianney Room

Thursday, August 27, 2026

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Parish Hall

6:00PM—Master Planning Committee, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Friday, August 28, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Visit the Fall Festival Ministry Table!

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

6:00PM—Supper & Substance, "Marriage & Family", Parish Hall

Farewell Landry!

