

THE

AUGUST 29/30, 2026

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"Whoever loses his life
for my sake will find it."*

~Matthew 16:25



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



ARE WE THINKING AS GOD DOES, OR AS HUMAN BEINGS DO?

By Deacon Randall Waguespack

When I was in college, I attended a retreat that promised a deeper encounter with Jesus. What I found, however, was not the real Jesus. It was Jesus, the way I wanted him to be. What I now call my “Hippie Jesus” – a Jesus who was always smiling, always affirming, and who promised that life would be easier if I followed him. As long as things were going well, this version of Jesus worked just fine. After all, it is easy to trust God when life is going our way.

But then life became difficult, as it does for all of us. Suffering found its way into my life. Prayers seemed unanswered. Disappointments piled up. And suddenly, my “Hippie Jesus” did not have much to say. The problem was not Jesus; it was the image of Jesus I had created, a mistake that many of us make without realizing it.

As Jesus warns, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” I had fashioned a Savior who existed to make me comfortable rather than the Lord who calls me to take up my cross and follow him. Only then did I begin to discover the real Jesus of the Gospel, the one who loves us deeply but also challenges us to trust God even when the road is hard.

Today, I have found a deeper peace in Christ than I ever knew in my younger years. That peace does not come from having everything I want or from a life free of suffering and uncertainty. Instead, it comes from knowing that Jesus walks with me through every trial. He never promised that we could avoid the cross; he promised that we would never carry it alone. My peace comes from trusting in his presence and knowing that my true reward is not found in this world, but in the life to come.

This is the difference between thinking as human beings do and thinking as God does. Human thinking often seeks comfort, security, and the avoidance of sacrifice. God's vision is much larger. He reminds us that this life is not our final destination.

Once we begin to see life through God's eyes, we also begin to see other people differently. Human thinking asks, “What's in it for me?” God's thinking asks, “Who needs me right now?” Human thinking sees the poor, the vulnerable, the elderly, the unborn, the immigrant, and those on the margins as someone else's responsibility. God's thinking recognizes the dignity of every human person and calls us to walk with them, even when it requires sacrifice.

Peter wanted a Messiah without suffering and a kingdom without a cross. We often want discipleship without sacrifice. Yet Jesus calls us to something greater. He invites us to trust him, take up our cross, and see the world through God's eyes. Perhaps this week, the first step is simply to sit before the Blessed Sacrament and pray for Jesus to show us the cross we have been avoiding.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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 the parish office to leave a message for Deacon Byrd.



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!**

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

In observance of Labor Day, we will not have PSR classes on **Sunday, September 6, 2026**. Classes will resume on **Sunday, September 13, 2026**.

Mondays with Mary will NOT meet on **Monday, September 7, 2026**, due to the Labor Day holiday. We will have 5:30PM Mass that evening.

JOIN OUR FALL FESTIVAL MINISTRY

Members of the fall festival ministry will be outside after mass. Please consider signing up to donate an item, volunteer that day, or prepare for the festival. Also, our next Fall Festival meeting will be on **Thursday, September 3, 2026**, at **6:00PM**.

The fall festival is starting to collect items for the auction and raffle. If you have a new item or a handmade item, or if you have a service you can provide, please contact Gina Little (504-237-7105 glittle1985@gmail.com), even if it's not ready yet. If you are willing to help prepare and plan, also let us know.

BIBLE STUDY - HOLY SPIRIT

Beginning **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, and continuing on Tuesdays for the following five weeks, St. Margaret will offer a Bible Study on the Holy Spirit. Each session will be from **9:30AM** until **11:00AM** and consists of an opening prayer, video lecture and a discussion on the readings. The cost of the materials per person is **\$15.00**. The sessions will take place in the St. Ignatius Room of the Hall of Saints. Come by the parish office to pick up your book and read the first chapter. Men and women of all ages are welcome! For more information contact Christine at caribe500@gmail.com or 504-450-7343.

DO YOU THIRST FOR GOD?

HEALING SERVICE-JESUS HEALS THE BODY AND SOUL

This is a conversion story and healing service you won't want to miss! Alan Ames' life was changed from a violent, alcoholic, motorcycle gang member to a man of complete devotion to God. Alan is an internationally known Catholic evangelist approved by his bishop in Australia, who has been graced with the gift of healing and a mystical prayer life *he has shared globally the past 32 years in over 50 countries and 6 continents!* There have been thousands of documented spiritual and physical healings. Alan will be sharing his ministry at *St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church* in Baton Rouge on **Friday, September 18, 2026, at 6:00PM.**

PIONEERS FOR OUR TIMES:

Living Humbly, Praying Courageously

A Discernment Retreat for Catholic Women
Un Retiro de Discernimiento para Mujeres Católicas
Khóa Tĩnh Tâm Phân Định Ôn Gọi dành cho Phụ Nữ Công Giáo



Date
Friday, October 2 -
Sunday, October 4, 2026

Location
St. Catharine Motherhouse,
2645 Bardstown Rd.
St. Catharine, KY 40061

Details
Free event,
travel assistance available

About the Retreat

Welcome the grace of fall with a weekend of prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Single Catholic women, ages 18-45, are invited to a peaceful retreat at the historic Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky, to pause, reconnect with God, and explore the Dominican Sisters of Peace way of life.



Dominican
Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates
in Mission
opeace.org

Scan to register
For more information or to register, please contact Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP, at ana.gonzalez@opeace.org.





MARIAN SERVANTS® of THE VISITATION

A HOLY HOUR

Before the Blessed Sacrament

Please join us

*To pray through the intercession of St. Monica
for our loved ones to return to God & the Church*

Monday, August 31, 2026

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

St Joseph's Daily Chapel
Ponchatoula, LA

"Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the Lord. "They will return from the land of the enemy."

Jeremiah 31:16 NIV

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CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to our newest couples married at St. Margaret during the month of August: **Kade Kern & Grace DeMars** and **Joe Taylor & Maria Tarevas**. 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 August, **Alice Counselman** and **Clementine Regalo**. 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!

GOD THIRSTS FOR YOU!

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

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, June Catherine Peterson, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Wayne Poche, Herb Pretus, Marie Prine, Kim Prokop, Lauren Rodriguez, 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 22/23, 2026**,
totaled:

\$14,489.00.

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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1155

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Jeremiah rebukes God for his suffering.

Romans 12:1-12

We are called to live sacrificial lives.

Matthew 16:12:1-12

Jesus rebukes Peter for denying
that he must suffer.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 5/6, 2026

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Romans 13:8-10

Matthew 18:15-20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 29, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Karen Chemay, Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans,
June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Earline Kraemer, Alberta & Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Donna Laciura, Guy & Lawrence Leon,
Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Gina & Adam Mocsary,
Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak,
Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, Amelie Oriol, Lynette Pfiffner,
Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman,
William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Izzy Spitale and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, August 30, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Jerry Adamcewicz, Lloyd Dominguez, Paul Kluka, John LaGrange,
David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin,
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, August 30, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

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

Hilton Hoover

Monday, August 31, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Adeline Evans

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Larry J. Evans

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Hilton Hoover

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Gregory)

Jeff Day

Friday, September 4, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

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*)

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 30, 2026

Visit the Fall Festival Ministry Table outside of Mass!

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

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

Monday, August 31, 2026

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

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

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

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

6:00PM—**Adult Confirmation Class**, St. Elizabeth Seton 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, September 2, 2026

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

6:00PM—**March for Life Interest Meeting**, St. Margaret Room

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

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

6:30PM—**KC Fourth Degree Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room

Thursday, September 3, 2026

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

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

6:00PM—**Fall Fest Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Friday, September 4, 2026

9:30AM—**Divine Readers**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

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

