

THE

AUGUST 8/9, 2026

PEW BUDDY

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"O you of little faith,
why did you doubt?"*

~Matthew 14:31b

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 weekend's Gospel is one of my favorite passages to pray with: Peter walking on the water. *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water!"*

The Lord always sees far more in us than we see in ourselves. Peter was beginning to realize that Jesus was truly God—able to defy the laws of nature by walking on the sea. Something deep inside Peter—likely the promptings of the Holy Spirit—led him to call out, believing he too could do the impossible if Jesus called him. Jesus' response is beautiful and simple: *"Come."*

Peter had the courage to step out of his comfort zone—the safety of the boat—and go to the One who was calling him. As he stepped onto the water and walked toward Jesus, I suspect Peter never imagined he would ever do such a thing. Yet there he was! As long as he kept his eyes fixed on Jesus, he could do the impossible.

However, because Peter still needed to grow in faith, he eventually lost sight of the Lord. He began to focus on himself and the storm raging around him, and that is when he started to sink. Yet Jesus would not let him drown. Even in Peter's moment of weak faith, when he called out, Jesus immediately reached down to save him.

This is a powerful lesson for us. Jesus sees our true potential. If we feel Him calling us, and if we have the courage to pray, *"Lord, command me to come to you,"* He will invite us forward. But we have to "get out of the boat"—leaving behind our safe spaces and comfort zones to step out toward Him. It may feel daunting at first, but with our eyes fixed on Jesus, we can accomplish what seems impossible. Even when we falter and feel ourselves sinking, we can trust that calling out to Him will always bring His saving hand.

For me, it is comforting to know that even the great St. Peter struggled with a lack of faith at times. He needed this experience to grow, and the same is true for us. God calls us and stretches us not to watch us flounder, but to help us mature in faith. He sees a greatness in us that we so often miss in ourselves.

A Note on Mass Etiquette

Finally, several of you have asked me to continue sharing reminders about Church etiquette. These gentle reminders are a wonderful way to help all of us grow in the virtue of piety during Sunday Mass.

Over the coming weeks, we will look at practical ways to honor Our Lord together:

- Preparing our hearts for Mass.
- Genuflecting or bowing reverently toward the Tabernacle upon entering.
- Dressing modestly and appropriately for the Lord.
- Refraining from chewing gum in church.
- Fully participating in the prayers, responses, and hymns.
- Ensuring we are spiritually disposed to receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Minimizing distractions during Mass (such as unnecessary trips to the restroom).
- Remaining through the final blessing and recessional hymn before leaving (barring an emergency).

All of these small acts of reverence help foster a prayerful environment where our whole community can encounter Christ.

Have a wonderful and blessed week!

In Christ,

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING

It's time to start planning our annual St. Margaret Fall Festival, which will take place on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**. All are welcome to attend our first planning meeting on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026**, at **6:00PM** in the Seton Room of the Hall of Saints. We are hoping to include more family games this year, which will require volunteers to help run them. If you would like to volunteer, contribute new items, or share your talents, please attend the meeting or contact Gina Little at glittle1985@gmail.com or 504.237.7105.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE AND OFFICE CLOSURE

In observance of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will have Holy Day Mass on **Friday, August 14, 2026**, at **6:00PM** and **Saturday, August 15, 2026**, at **8:00AM** at St. Margaret Church.

The parish office will also be closed on **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** for our monthly Staff Meeting. Please come by before or after this time if you have any business in the office. Thank you for your consideration!

OCIA - NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US

If you want to become Catholic or learn more about your faith, it is not too late to participate in the St. Margaret Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The St. Margaret OCIA program meets on **Wednesday nights** at **6:30PM** in the Hall of Saints. OCIA is a transformative process that invites non-baptized adults and baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church to explore, learn, and grow in their faith. For more information, please contact Darlene at darlenemkg@icloud.com or Kristie at salon5ltan@gmail.com or call the parish office.

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.

"TAKE COURAGE, IT IS I;

REGISTER FOR PSR 2026-2027

The Parish School of Religion (PSR) for the 2026-2027 school year begins on **Sunday, August 23, 2026!** If you missed the deadline of August 7th, you can still register with a late fee. Please use the QR code here. If you have any questions, please contact Baleigh Henderson at the parish office or by email at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com.



GROWING WITH LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Please give a warm welcome to these newly registered St. Margaret parishioners and their families: **Donna Hampton, Juanette Russell & Lathan Hart, Courtney & Adli Carter, Mary Kay & Ryan Ford, Braville & LouAnn LeBlanc, Paige LeBleu, Claire Cyrus, and Scott, Lauren, Ashton, Adalind Viola & Landon Hymel.** Thank you for becoming members of the St. Margaret community. Remember to "officially" register if you have not done so; registration forms are available on our website or in the parish office. **Family members are also asked to register when they turn 18 years of age.** Come grow with us on our journey toward the truth which is God's love!

ALL ARE WELCOME MINISTRY
PRESENTS

THE *Unseen* SEEN & SACRED



WHERE EVERY SOUL BELONGS
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.



FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
6:15 PM



ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH
KLEINPETER CENTER
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



COCKTAIL
RECEPTION



PLATED
DINNER



STORIES OF FAITH,
HOPE & BELONGING



SILENT
AUCTION



SACRED ART BY
ARTIST JACOB ZUMO



TICKETS ON SALE NOW
\$100 PER PERSON | \$750 FOR A TABLE OF 8
PURCHASE TICKETS & LEARN MORE
<https://givebutter.com/the-unseen>



Corporate Sponsorships Available

DO NOT BE AFRAID."

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED HEALING

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, Lisa Goings, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Ann Hassenboughler, 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, 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.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity,
the **Regular Collection** for the weekend of
August 1/2, 2026, totaled:

\$17,107.50.

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

\$4,023.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness and generosity
to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



CONGRATS NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to our newest couple
married at St. Margaret during the
month of July: **Andrew Porche &
Kennedy Bougere**. 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!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Victor Amato, Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Bob Bouterie, Karen Chemay, Elizabeth Cornwall,
Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Cheryl Gaudet,
Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Alberta & Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Donna Laciura, 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, Vito Tallia, Sr., Luke Tregre,
Yancy Watkins and Tonya Wise

Sunday, August 9, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Jerry Adamcewicz, Al & Jackie Cox, Angie Deliberto, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange,
David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Audrey Maduell, Charlie Martin,
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, August 9, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, August 9, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

George & Eric Navarre

Monday, August 10, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Feast of St. Lawrence)

Fr. Kumar Kolakani

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Clare)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Karen Chemay

Thursday, August 13, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Kelsey Martin

Friday, August 14, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of Maximilian Kolbe)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, August 14, 2026, 6:00PM Mass

(Assumption of the BVM Vigil)

Philip & Irene Leon

Saturday, August 15, 2026, 8:00AM Mass

(Assumption of the BVM)

Shirley Darouse

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1146

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

God is revealed in the tiny,
whispering sound.

Romans 9:1-5

Paul affirms God's love for the Jews.

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus calls Peter to walk on the water.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15/16, 2026

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Visit the *Rightway Imaging Table Outside of Mass!*

Monday, August 10, 2026

8:00AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints

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

5:30PM—**St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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

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

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

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Parish Office Closed Today from 8:00AM until 1:00PM!

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

9:00AM—**Staff 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

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

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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

5:30PM—**Pastoral Council Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

7:00PM—**Finance Council Meeting**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Friday, August 14, 2026

6:00PM—**Assumption of the BVM Vigil Mass**, St. Margaret Church

Saturday, August 15, 2026

8:00AM—**Assumption of the BVM Mass**, St. Margaret Church

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

5:00PM—**Young Adult "Rooted" Movie Night**, St. Margaret Room

5:00PM—**Going Away Reception for Landry**, Parish Hall



Catechists preparing for a new Parish School of Religion (PSR) year.



Thank you, Bereavement Committee!

