

THE

SEPTEMBER 12/13, 2026

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (A)

forgive

*"I say to you, not seven times
but seventy-seven times."*

~Matthew 18:22



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



PONDERINGS OF THE PEDAL-N-PADRE

By Father Paul Gros

Dear Parish Family,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ! Next weekend will be my last weekend in the parish before I leave for a short vacation ahead of my 30-day silent retreat and sabbatical. I will return on **Sunday, September 27th** to celebrate the **5:30 p.m.** Mass. Below are answers to a few common questions regarding my upcoming time away, as previously shared in the letters placed in the foyers of St. Margaret and St. Thomas:

• **What is a sabbatical, and why do priests take one?**

The word "sabbatical" comes from the Hebrew word Shabbat (Sabbath). In Genesis, God rested on the seventh day, establishing the Third Commandment for us to do the same. Rest and renewal are not signs of weakness, but essential components of holiness. Priests are granted this opportunity by their Bishop to step away from full-time ministry for spiritual renewal, ongoing formation, and a deepening of their priestly identity.

• **Why take a sabbatical now?**

This has been on my heart for several years, though the timing was not right during my initial transition as Pastor of St. Margaret. Our diocese allows priests to request a sabbatical every seven years; after 17 years of priesthood, this will be my very first one.

• **How long will Father be gone?**

I will be away from late September until just before Christmas week.

• **Where will Father be located?**

I will participate in the Priest Support Ministry program at Our Lady of the Isle in Grand Isle, LA, led by Fr. Mark Toups and Kristin Niedbala, CV.

• **What will Father be doing?**

My time will be dedicated to an Ignatian 30-day silent retreat alongside specialized formation for pastors.

• **Is everything okay? Is Father sick or burned out?**

Everything is great! I am neither sick nor burned out. This is a proactive period for spiritual growth rather than a reaction to a crisis.

• **What is Father preparing for?**

I am not preparing for a new assignment or role. This sabbatical was initiated entirely at my own request.

• **Did something happen to cause this departure?**

Not at all! This is a standard and encouraged practice in the life of the Church.

Staying Connected Through Prayer

To remain connected with our community, I have set up a dedicated email account to receive your prayer intentions while I am away: **prayers4frpaul@gmail.com** Deacon Byrd and Deacon Tim will check this account weekly and send me a compiled summary of your intentions. Only Deacon Byrd and Deacon Tim will view these submissions, and you are welcome to send them anonymously or by name. Please know that I will have ample time in prayer and intend to hold up your needs, along with the intentions of St. Margaret and St. Thomas.

Have a wonderful week!

In Christ,

Fr. Paul

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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**. 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.

COMMITTED ADORERS NEEDED

We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. *We are especially in need of committed adorers for the hour from 10:00AM until 11:00AM.* If you can commit to an hour weekly or need additional information, contact Gretchen Johnson at 225-921-4071 or at gretjohnson5@yahoo.com.



MARIAN SERVANTS® of THE VISITATION

Please join us to

Taste & See the Goodness of the Lord

Psalms 34:9

Is the Lord calling you to be a part of a community⁺ of
men and women who pray, praise, learn and serve together?

⁺Marian Servants communities are made up of members from different parishes.

Monday, September 21, 2026

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

St. Joseph's Ministry Building

Ponchatoula, LA

Delicious food will be served!

"Where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20

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YOUNG ADULT BOOK STUDY

Our Young Adult Ministry will have a Book Study on "Jesus I Trust in You: A 30-day Personal Retreat with the Litany of Trust." We will meet on all the **Monday** nights in **October** from **6:30PM** until **8:00PM**. Young adults, both men and women, in their 20's and 30's are welcome to join us. If you would like to sign up, test Baleigh at 985-981-6524 or Megan at 985-517-6428. The deadline to register is **September 20, 2026**. The cost is **\$20**.

FALL FEST DONATIONS

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.

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Robert Laubacher** donated by Diania Laubacher. 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.

LIVE OR DIE, WE ARE THE LORD'S

Knights of Columbus Council 10178

Rotisserie Chicken Dinner

Large Leg Quarter, Baked Beans,
Corn on the Cob, Bread & Dessert

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Drive thru pick up time 11:00AM until 12:30PM
at the Parish Hall.



\$11.00 per plate

Funds raised will benefit our charitable
activities, including supporting and
assisting many St. Margaret ministries
and events.

**Tickets will be sold outside of all Masses the
weekend of September 19/20, 2026.**

For more information, contact Glenn Young (225-964-0947).

SEPTEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The St. Margaret Monthly Food Distribution is made possible thanks to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank who provides the USDA food boxes and Catholic Charities – Baton Rouge who rescues perishable food from local grocery stores and delivers it to St Margaret each month. Special thanks to our 63 Volunteers – 203.25 hours of service who helped with the August Food Distribution. There were 161 Families (445 Individuals) who were blessed with much needed food.

Please let your friends and neighbors, who get food through the Food Distribution Program, know Annual Registration is still open. On September 17, during our food distribution, Catholic Charities will be doing registration until the cap on the number of families who can register is reached. The cap is based on the amount of food available through the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – USDA program.

Our distribution is **Thursday, September 17, 2026**, with pickup from **8:30AM** until **10:30AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **11:00AM**.

You can also support this ministry by joining our New Prayer Circle. The group will meet during Food Distribution around **8:00AM** (after we sort the perishable food) in the Hall of Saints. Volunteers will pray for the recipients and all the people in our area who are physically, emotionally or spiritually in need.

If you are a regular volunteer, let your team leader know that you will be able to help. If you want to get involved, please call 985-969-7477 so we can best utilize your time and talents.

*Mass for the Care of Creation
with Bishop Michael Duca*

*Thursday, Sept. 17
at 6 pm*

St. George Catholic Church
7808 St. George Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

CREATION CARE MINISTRY
ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BE CROWNED WITH MERCY

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

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, 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, Todd Hagan, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Ann Hassenbouhler, Tristian Harrison, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Randy Heitman, Brian Helmstetter, The Herbert Family, Marsha Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Paul Horrell, 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, Judy Staub, 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 **September 5/6, 2026**, totaled:

\$13,962.00.

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

\$3,811.00.

The **Second Collection** next weekend will
be for **Religious Education!**

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1161

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Wise living includes forgiveness.

Romans 14:7-9

We are all called to new life in Christ.

Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness of one another
must be boundless.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 19/20, 2026

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret Church is given
in memory of **George & Eric Navarre** by Kim Navarre.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Thomas Chapel is given
in memory of **Robert Laubacher** by Diania Laubacher.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron-Plauche' Families, Karen Chemay, Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans,
Maureen Felder, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre,
Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Frank & Margaret Koles, Earline Kraemer,
Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere,
Manina Family, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah,
Caroline & Tyler Pellegrin, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman,
Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Vito Tallia, Sr. and Yancy Watkins

Sunday, September 13, 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, September 13, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, September 13, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Susan Hammett Brantley

Monday, September 14, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

(Feast of The Exaltation of the Cross)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows)

Jeff Day

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian)

Shirley Darouse

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Friday, September 18, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donna Laciura

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday - 7:30AM-8:00PM
Concluding with Benediction
St. Margaret Church

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

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*)

OUR 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, September 13, 2026

Catholic University of America Special Collection!

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

11:15AM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 3), St. Margaret Church

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

Monday, September 14, 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

6:30PM—Respect Life Meeting, St. Jean Vianney Room

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

5:30PM—Catholic Daughters Rosary, St. Margaret Room

6:00PM—Adult Confirmation Class, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

6:00PM—Catholic Daughters Meeting, St. Margaret Room

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

6:30PM—OCIA, Parish Hall

6:30PM—OCIC, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:30AM—Food Distribution, Church Grounds

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

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

Friday, September 18, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Planned for Today!

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Religious Education (PSR) Second Collection!

KC Chicken Dinner Fundraiser Tickets Available!

3:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

RETROUVAILLE

—a lifeline for married couples

Come and experience

forgiveness, healing, renewal.

Come and experience what

God intends for your

marriage.



Saints of the Food Distribution

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!
bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com