

THE

SEPTEMBER 19/20, 2026

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"The last will be first and the
first will be last."*

~Matthew 20:16a



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

JUST IMAGINE

By John Foley, S.J.

I taught grade school religion for a short semester when I was about 22. By accident I discovered a great trick to teaching, one I needed very much. The class, you see, was in complete chaos each time I arrived at midday.

But if I told a story, even the simplest story, the pandemonium ceased. It morphed into rapt attention. You could hear a pin drop. Until the story ended, that is, and then anarchy resumed.

I never did find another way besides stories to reach these little cherubs, even though I memorized each name and each picture in the lengthy list, and called different ones out for serious talks, etc.

There must be a special part of the brain devoted to story-hearing.

It was only years later that I applied this insight. Why does the gospel get such special attention at Mass? Why do we hold the book up and parade it to the pulpit? Because it is a story, the story of Jesus. We are struck by the narrative about him, much more than we are by the sometimes-complicated theology in Paul's letters. Within the gospels, which are themselves stories, we find the parables Jesus told.

Stories.

So, take a good look at the parable in Sunday's Gospel and let the story lead you. See if it works. Imagine the landowner hiring laborers for his vineyard as he shakes their rough hands and invites them to work. You can see their satisfied smiles, since they know they will get the usual daily wage.

The day gets hotter. And hotter. High noon has come and the owner walks back to town to go shopping for this and that. He glances around. Men are leaning on buildings, loitering really, bored but still hopeful. The owner crosses over to them and offers to hire them. They come to life and hurry off to his vineyard to earn just half a day's wages. It is more than nothing.

Then the workday is about over. The owner is still in town for whatever reason, and what should he see but strong men lolling about in doorways, wet with sweat from the heat and from their dejection. To their surprise, he hires them too.

Day ends and "just wages" are handed out. It is the exact same amount for every worker, no matter how many or how few hours anyone has worked. Look at the faces. Anger in the ones who had slaved all day. This is not fair! We demand our rights! We put in the time and these oafs did nothing. The late ones smiling sheepishly.

What does the story mean? You will find the answer if you sense the scene rather than just use brain power. Let your imagination see the kindness in the owner's face. Call to mind the gloom of the ones hired so late. See their amazement now.

Obviously, these wages are not strict remuneration for hours worked. They are more like a gift from a fond heart. How does this feel to you? Didn't Jesus tell his parable to show how God's caring heart works, how he gives a depth of love to each person in this world, especially to ones who suffer and are left behind?

If it is hard to see, ask for light.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Join us beginning **Sunday, September 20, 2026**, for High School Bible Study from **6:45PM** until **8:00PM** after the 5:30PM Mass. All students in grades 8 through 12 who have been confirmed are invited to attend. The bible study will be every Sunday evening following the PSR schedule. Come grow in faith, fellowship, and God's Word with us! RSVP to Baleigh at bohenderson@stmargaretstthomas.com

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, text Baleigh at 985-981-6524 or Megan at 985-517-6428. The deadline to register is **September 20, 2026**. The cost is **\$20**.

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).

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.

HEARTFELT THANK YOU

The Darouse Family would like to thank the Parishioners of St. Margaret for being so kind to their family and mother, Shirley, over the years and most recently her passing. She loved her church and the Lord. Your kindness, love and compassion will never be forgotten by our family and you all will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. St. Margaret is truly a special place and that is a testament to its parishioners. Thank you again and may God bless you.

TURN TO THE LORD FOR MERCY

A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend at St. Margaret are in memory of **Thomas A. Scoper** 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.

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.

HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about the upcoming local Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, **(October 2-4, 2026)** call 1-800-470-2230 or visit our website: <https://helpourmarriage.org/batonrouge>

Join us in praying with and for our neighbors

**PRAISE, WORSHIP,
& FAITH SHARING**

SATURDAYS
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

St. Louise de Marillac Chapel
1628 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

 **St. Vincent de Paul of Baton Rouge**
FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

"A network of friends, inspired by gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need."

THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE

The Lord is near to all who call on him.

CALL ON THE LORD IN PRAYER 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, 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, Gunner Norman, 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 12/13, 2026**, totaled:

\$11,362.00.

The **Catholic University of America**
Second Collection totaled:

\$1,000.00.

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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1164

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek God, as God seeks us.

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Paul ponders his future in light of the Gospel.

Matthew 20:1-16a

A parable about God's generous salvation.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26/27, 2026

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

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, Mary-Grace Landreneau,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family,
Mitchell & Virginia Miletello, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III,
June Koles Olah, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Anne Sherman,
Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Peggy Sterling and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Jerry Adamcewicz, Vincent Deliberto, Sr., Lloyd Dominguez, Donivan Jones, Paul Kluka,
John LaGrange, David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin
and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, September 21, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Feast of St. Matthew)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donivan Jones

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina)

George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Donna Laciura

Friday, September 25, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

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 20, 2026

Religious Education (PSR) Second Collection!

KC Chicken Dinner Fundraiser Tickets Available!

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

11:15AM—**PSR Reconciliation (Grade 4)**, St. Margaret Church

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

6:45PM—**High School Bible Study**, St. John Paul II Room

Monday, September 21, 2026

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

1:00AM—**St. Faustina's Stitches**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

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

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

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

9:30AM—**Holy Spirit Bible Study**, St. Ignatius Room

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

6:30PM—**OCIC**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room



St. Pius of Pietrelcina, pray for us!

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

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

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

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

6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall

6:30PM—**OCIC**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Thursday, September 24, 2026

11:00AM—**KC Chicken Dinner Fundraiser**, Parish Hall

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

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

Friday, September 25, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Planned for Today!

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Visit the Vocations Committee Ministry Table!

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

4:00PM—**SVDP Commissioning Ceremony**, St. Margaret Church

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@stmargaretsstthomas.com