

THE

SEPTEMBER 26/27, 2026

PEW BUDDY

TWENTY-SIXTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"Complete my joy by
being of the same mind,
with the same love."*

~Philippians 2:2



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



DOING THE FATHER'S WILL WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST

By Deacon Randall Waguespack

The Scriptures this week invite us to reflect on a fundamental question of discipleship: **Is my faith expressed only in what I say, or is it visible in the way I live?**

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the story of two sons. One initially refuses his father's request to work in the vineyard but later changes his mind and goes. The other readily agrees but never follows through. The lesson is simple yet challenging: God desires not merely our words, but our hearts. What matters most is not what we promise, but whether we ultimately respond to His love by doing His will.

Most of us can probably see a little of both sons in ourselves. There are times when we enthusiastically say "yes" to God, but then we struggle to follow through when circumstances become inconvenient or difficult. There are other times when we resist His call at first, only to discover His grace gently leading us back. The comforting truth is that God never gives up on us. He is always ready to welcome a change of heart and a renewed commitment to follow Him.

In his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul gives us a beautiful picture of what genuine Christian living looks like: "Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." These words can seem counterintuitive in a world that often encourages us to focus on ourselves first. Yet Paul is not asking us to think less of ourselves. He is inviting us to love as Christ loves, with a heart attentive to the needs, joys, and struggles of others.

Paul goes on to say, "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Everything about the Christian life begins here. We are called not simply to admire Jesus, but to imitate Him. Christ's humility, compassion, mercy, and self-giving love become the pattern for our own lives. He continually placed others before Himself, reaching out to the forgotten, comforting the suffering, and offering His life for our salvation.

This is why love of God can never be separated from love of neighbor. We encounter Christ not only in prayer and worship, but also in the people He places before us each day. A listening ear, a word of encouragement, patience with a family member, concern for someone who is lonely, care for the poor, or forgiveness offered to one who has hurt us are all ways of living the Gospel. These ordinary acts of love reveal whether we are truly allowing Christ's attitude to take root within us.

This week, perhaps the Lord is inviting us to look honestly at our own lives. Where is He calling us to move beyond words and into action? Who might need our attention, our compassion, or our help? In what ways can we more closely reflect the humility and love of Jesus?

The Gospel reminds us that the Father is not seeking perfect people. He is seeking willing hearts. Even when we have fallen short, He invites us to begin again. May we ask for the grace to have the mind and heart of Christ, so that our faith may be seen not only in what we profess, but in how we love. In doing so, we become living witnesses to the One who teaches us that the surest path to God is found in humble love and service to one another.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

BLESSINGS OF THE PETS

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the blessing of the pets next **Sunday, October 4, 2026**, at **12:30PM** between the Church and the Hall of Saints. Bring your cat, dog, turtle, bird, fish, rabbit, duck, hamster, snake, horse, goat, cow, chinchilla, guinea pig, lizard, gerbil, ferret, frog, pig, hermit crab, llama, etc. Father Kumar will welcome the animals and give them a special blessing (some of them need it, right!)

SAVE THE DATE - 2026 ST. MARGARET FALL FESTIVAL

This year's St. Margaret Festival Day is **Sunday, November 15, 2026**. The Fall Festival Committee is seeking donations for our Festival Auction. Your handiwork (woodwork, metalwork, fabric crafts, paintings, needlework, etc.) or talents (gardening, baking, handyman, updo styling, etc.) can raise funds for our church while also celebrating our diverse community! 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 or glittle1985@gmail.com), even if it's not ready yet. If you are willing to help prepare and plan, also let us know.

CONFESSION & MASS NEWS

There will be no Confessions available on **Thursday, October 8, 2026**, and no Daily Mass on **Monday, October 5** through **Thursday, October 8, 2026**, due to mandatory priest continuing education. We will have Daily Mass on **Friday, October 9, 2026**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration on **Wednesdays** between **7:30AM** and **8:00PM**. One hour of silence with Jesus can surely change your life. *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>



Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

2026 - 2027 Discernment Retreats

for young women, 18*-35, interested in learning more about religious life or in the beginning stages of discernment



Please email before making plans to attend.

Retreats are free and meals are provided. Housing accommodations are limited.

October 17, 2026

Day Retreat

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

*17-year-olds are able to attend with parent permission
sistermariegethsemene@mercedariansisters.org

February 27, 2027

Day Retreat

Gainesville, Florida

*17-year-olds are able to attend with parent permission
sisterjosefina@mercedariansisters.org

January 15-18, 2027

Weekend Retreat

Cleveland, Ohio

sisterchiara@mercedariansisters.org

March 5-7, 2027

Weekend Retreat

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

sistermariegethsemene@mercedariansisters.org

Seriously discerning and considering which religious family you may be called to?
Please contact sisterjeanette@mercedariansisters.org to attend a Come and See.



www.mercedariansisters.org



QUO VADIS

5th - 8th Grade Boys Retreat

October 9 - 11, 2026

Fathers encouraged to attend
with their sons

Recommended cost \$115
Scholarships available
upon request

Camp Abbey
77002 KC Camp Road
Covington, LA 70435

Register at
bit.ly/MSQuoVadisBR
or Scan the QR Code to register!



Hosted by Diocese of Baton Rouge Office of Vocations
and Director of Vocations, Fr. Albert Blount

OFFICE OF
VOCACTIONS

For questions please contact
Luke Zumo at lukezumo@gmail.com

"And Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.' - John 1:43



The Diocese's Offices of Life, Peace & Justice and Marriage & Family Life invite you to a presentation by Dr. Tyler Pellegrin

THE CATHOLIC MORAL VISION FOR HUMAN SEXUALITY: PROCREATION, CONTRACEPTION, AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

"Neither the Church nor her doctrine is inconsistent when she considers it lawful for married people to take advantage of the infertile period but condemns as always unlawful the use of means which directly prevent conception" (*Humanae Vitae* 16)



OPEN
TO THE
PUBLIC!



Tyler Pellegrin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Theology
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
in Baton Rouge (Fran U)

WEDNESDAY

11-11-26

FROM 6-8 P.M.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLDG.
WESTERFIELD CENTER

1900 S Acadian Thruway
Baton Rouge



Registration is REQUIRED.

Use link or QR code to register:

<https://diobr.org/respect-life-event>

Contact us at:

jlavastida@diobr.org



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
OFFICE OF LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE



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

TEACH ME YOUR PATHS, LORD

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCIFUL HEALING

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

Tina Allen, Howard Balthaser & Family, Louis Bartus, Coy Behler, Nancy Bergeron, Cindy Brasington, Carol Bates, Joyce Butler, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, Mary Ann France, Jimmy Giannobile, Wendy Gill, Lisa Goings, David Guillot, Hannah Guillotte, Todd Hagan, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Ann Hassenboughler, Tristian Harrison, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Randy Heitman, Brian Helmstetter, The Herbert Family, Marsha Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Paul Horrell, Herbeth Howell, Suzanne Howze, Carrol Istre, 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 19/20, 2026**, totaled:

\$11,106.00.

The **Parish School of Religion**
Second Collection totaled:

\$1,829.00.

The **Second** next weekend will be for
the **Building & Maintenance Fund!**

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO 
GIVE...

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1167

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Those who transform their lives shall live.

Philippians 2:1-11

Christ's self-emptying is
a model for the Philippians.

Matthew 21:28-32

A parable about the truly righteous.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 3/4, 2026

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, September 26, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Jeremiah & Cayden Amato, Oliver & Marinette Amato, Karen Chemay,
Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard,
Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover, Earline Kraemer, Alberta & Francis Kronlage,
Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Frank & Guy Leon, Ray & Connie Louviere,
Manina Family, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III,
June Koles Olah, Timmy Patton, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner,
Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Jerry Adamcewicz, Fred Armand, Jr., Lloyd Dominguez, Robert Guidry, Sr.,
Paul Kluka, John LaGrange, David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza,
Charlie Martin, Eron Puro and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

Monday, September 28, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael)

Fr. Kumar Kolakani

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Jerome)

Jason Summers

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Therese)

Fr. Paul Gros

Friday, October 2, 2026, 7:00AM Mass

(Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels)

Savanna Balado

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 27, 2026

Visit the Vocations Committee Ministry Table!

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

11:15AM—PSR Reconciliation (Grade 5), 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 28, 2026

8:00AM—Catholic Schoolhouse, Hall of Saints

5:00PM—Young Adult Gathering, St. Margaret Church

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



Sixth Grade PSR in their element.

Tuesday, September 29, 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



First High School bible study.

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

7:30AM—Eucharistic Adoration, St. Margaret 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, October 1, 2026

4:00PM—Confessions, St. Margaret Church

Friday, October 2, 2026

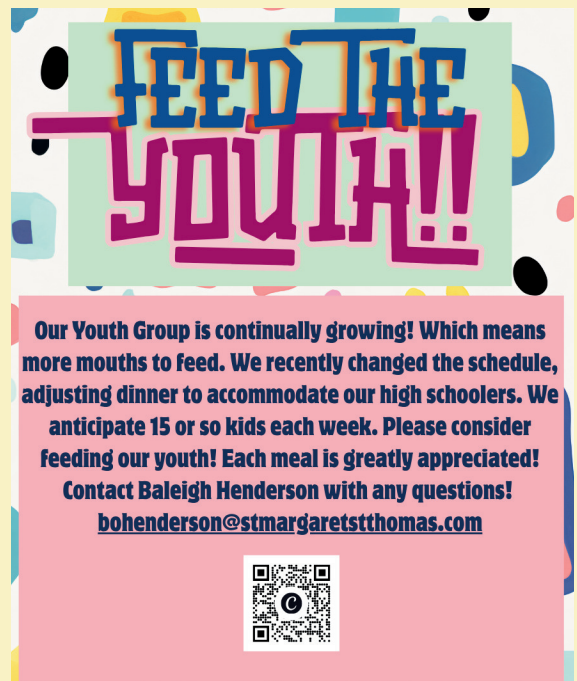
9:30AM—Divine Readers, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, October 3, 2026

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. KUMAR!

Building & Maintenance Second Collection!

3:00PM—Confessions, 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

