

THE

OCTOBER 24/25, 2026

PEW BUDDY

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

*"You shall love
your neighbor as
yourself."*
~Matthew 22:39

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

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



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

By Deacon Randell Waguespack

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

At the heart of this Sunday’s Gospel is Jesus’ beautiful and straightforward answer: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Then He adds, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus makes it clear that these two commandments belong together. We cannot truly love God while ignoring the people He places in our lives.

The first reading from Exodus helps us understand what that love looks like in practice. God tells His people not to mistreat foreigners, widows, or orphans, and not to take advantage of the poor. The reason is simple: God cares deeply for those who are vulnerable. He hears their cries, sees their struggles, and expects His people to treat them with compassion and justice.

It is easy to love those who love us in return. It is easy to be kind to family, friends, and those who share our values. But Jesus calls us to something greater. He calls us to love as God loves.

Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, offered a challenging reflection on this commandment: “If you truly love God, your love for Him should match your love for the person you love the least.”

Those words invite us to pause and examine our hearts.

Who do I love the least?

Perhaps it is someone who has hurt us. Perhaps it is someone whose opinions frustrate us, whose actions disappoint us, or whose personality simply rubs us the wrong way. Maybe it is someone we have judged, ignored, or quietly written off. It may even be a group of people to whom we carry unexamined prejudices or assumptions. We all have biases that can shape how we see others, especially those who are different from us in their background, culture, politics, beliefs, economic status, or life experiences. The Gospel invites us to recognize those attitudes honestly and to ask God to help us see others as He sees them.

Jesus does not ask us to love only the people who are easy to love. He calls us to see every person as a beloved child of God. Loving others does not mean agreeing with everything they do or pretending that wounds do not exist. It means recognizing their God-given dignity and desiring their good. It means treating them with respect, praying for them, and showing the same mercy we ourselves hope to receive.

The challenge of this Sunday’s readings is not only to ask whether we love God. Most of us would answer that question with a sincere “yes.” The deeper question is whether that love is visible in the way we treat other people, especially those who are struggling, vulnerable, or difficult for us to love.

This week, spend a few moments in prayer reflection on Dorothy Day’s challenge: Who do I love the least? Is that how I love God?

The answer may show us exactly where the Lord is inviting us to grow. For when we learn to love others as God loves them, we grow closer to the One who is Love itself.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

ALL SAINTS DAY EVENTS

Our All Saints Candlelight Mass will be on **Saturday, October 31, 2026**, at **4:00PM** at St. Margaret Church. We will honor our beloved dead who have died since last All Saints Day. The Blessing of the Graves will immediately follow the **10:00AM** Mass on **Sunday, November 1, 2026**, which will be held at the cemetery (weather permitting, bring your chairs). Please make plans to join us to honor our beloved dead! We will also pray for all of our beloved deceased inscribed in our Book of Remembrance through the month of November. This Book of Remembrance is in the back of the church. *Remember to inscribe the names of those who have died since last year and are **NOT** already in the book from a prior year.*

HONOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Please join the Knights of Columbus and Mondays with Mary ministry on **Monday, November 2, 2026**, at **5:00PM** in St. Margaret Church for a special rosary and prayer service to honor the patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe. All are welcome to come hear the telling of the miracle that occurred in 1531 in Mexico with the appearance of Our Lady. More than 30 million indigenous people converted to Catholicism during the next decade. We will affirm our devotion to Our Lady and to protect life, especially the blessed and innocent unborn, those in most need of protection. Please call Glenn Young at 225-964-0947 for more information.

DO SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS CHRISTMAS - ADOPT A FAMILY

Your St. Margaret/St. Thomas St. Vincent de Paul Conference is looking for individuals, families, or service-oriented groups interested in adopting a family for Christmas this year. We typically receive requests from our local schools to assist needy families as well as calls from people living in our immediate area pleading for help. Thanks to the generosity of many, last year 108 children experienced the blessing of gifts that included toys, clothing, and food at Christmas. We all recognize that higher living costs and utility expenses will create an even greater need this year for many families in our area. We suggest two gifts per family member, with each gift ranging from \$20-\$40. If you or your organization feel called to adopt a family this year, please contact Tracy Andry at 225-485-5215 by **Saturday, November 14, 2026**, and help make Christmas 2026 special for neighbors in our community who are in need!

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.

O LORD, MY STRENGTH

CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The St. Margaret Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest for 8th through 11th grade youth. The 500 to 750 word typed essay topic is "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God." Explain what this quote from former U.S. President and Knights of Columbus member John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address means and its importance for the flourishing of a nation. The winner of each grade level will receive a \$50 award from the Knights and higher awards for winners of each higher level of the contest up to \$500. This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. For more information and to submit essays please contact Glenn Young at rgyoung2@bellsouth.net. Deadline to submit essays is **Thursday, November 5, 2026**.

**MARIAN SERVANTS® of THE VISITATION**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

A HOLY HOUR

Before the Blessed Sacrament



ALL SOULS DAY
Monday, NOVEMBER 2, 2026
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

St Joseph's Daily Chapel
Ponchatoula, LA

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\$25
LONG SLEEVE
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ORDERS DUE BY
OCTOBER 28!

CONTACT BALEIGH
HENDERSON WITH
ANY QUESTIONS.



2026
ST. MARGARET
FALL FESTIVAL
T-SHIRTS

ORDER FORM



TIME CHANGE NEXT WEEKEND

Daylight Savings Time ends next **Sunday, November 1, 2026**. Set your clocks back one hour next Saturday night.

**ST. ALBERT**
CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

ROME RAFFLE

Win a Trip to Rome for 2!
one lucky winner will be drawn!

2026!

RAFFLE TICKET PRICE:
\$50 EACH
VALUE OF \$5000

DRAWING HELD ON
NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Scan QR code to purchase



PRAISE BE THE LORD!

May the God of my salvation be exalted.

FOSTERING HOPE MINISTRY

Fostering Hope Ministry provides individualized support to foster children and to the foster, kinship, and adoptive families who care for them. This fall, we are helping an 18-year-old foster student begin college at ULM and pursue a career in nursing. We are also supporting two new foster families, one in Albany and one in Springfield—who have graciously opened their homes to children in need. Our goal is to give these families the practical support they need to provide safe, loving homes where children and caregivers can thrive. Services that Fostering Hope offers families: help with groceries and meals, laundry, tutoring, provide for fees or equipment for extracurriculars, transportation, and any other individualized needs we can, help with children's needs including beds/bedding, uniforms, school supplies, etc. We tailor our support to the direct needs of each family and child we help. Fostering Hope also helps to stock the family visitation pantry at the Livingston DCFS office & provides shelf stable meals for children experiencing food insecurity. We partner with local nonprofits & DCFS to help meet needs of families in need in our local area and spread the word on what resources are available. Direct ways you can help - sign up to cook or provide groceries, do laundry, tutor or drive. Donate supplies for pantry meals or children's needs. Help pack meals for the DCFS visitation pantry. Thank you for helping us to foster hope, support families, and share God's love with those in need.

STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Thanks to your generosity, the
Regular Collection for the weekend
of **October 17/18, 2026**,
totaled:

\$13,376.00.

The **Special Collection** for the
Propagation of the Faith totaled:

\$1,226.00

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

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO
GIVE...



CEMETERY REMINDERS

All Saints Day is fast approaching and many of you will be cleaning up the graves of your loved ones in our cemetery. Our groundskeeper, Jason, works very hard at making our cemetery a beautiful and safe place to visit. When making your loved one's resting place a thing of beauty, please be sure to observe the rules of the cemetery. No weed killer of any kind is allowed on the grounds. Only latex paint (*no oil-based paint*) is allowed on the graves. For safety reasons, no glass is allowed in the cemetery. All flowers left after All Saints Day around the graves in the grass need to be removed by **December 1, 2026**, or will be disposed of. Any other items left in the cemetery **cannot** remain in the grass. If you have any questions concerning our cemetery, please call Tammy in the parish office. *If you are interested in having your loved ones grave pressure washed for a fee by our groundskeeper, please call the parish office for contact information.*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Velma & Leonce Berteau, Karen Chemay, Shirley Darouse, Larry J. Evans,
June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Hilton Hoover,
Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Howard Kidder, 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, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Ashley Rouse,
Frank & Denise Schilling, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman,
William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Aaron Szyszak and Vito Tallia, Sr.

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

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

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

Monday, October 26, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Jessica Galatas Bleakley

Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Feast of Ss. Simon & Jude)

Donivan Jones

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Ordinary Time)

George & Eric Navarre

Friday, October 30, 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 (*Parochial Vicar*)

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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1179

Exodus 22:20-26

God's command to respect the alien,
the widow, the orphan, the poor.

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

The Thessalonians live their faith,
even in tribulation.

Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus proclaims
the two greatest commandments.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

All Saints Day
October 31/November 1, 2026

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12a

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Youth Group Second Collection!

Visit Our Fostering Hope Ministry Table!

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

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

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

6:45PM—**Candlelight Rosary Procession**, St. Margaret Church Piazza

Monday, October 26, 2026

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

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

6:00PM—**Young Adult Book Study**, St. Margaret Room

**To send prayer intentions
to Fr. Paul, email:**

Prayers4frpaul@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

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

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

Wednesday, October 28, 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 29, 2026

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

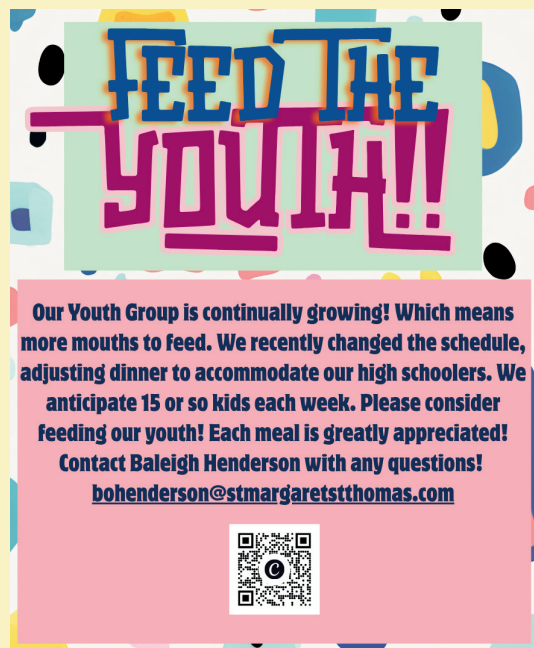
Friday, October 30, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!

Saturday, October 31, 2026

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

4:00PM—**All Saints Candlelight Vigil Mass**, 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@stmargaretstthomas.com



CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Our Respect Life Ministry invites all, especially those who have lost an unborn baby, to join them in a candlelight Rosary procession to the plaque of the Unborn in St. Margaret Cemetery beginning in front of the church on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, after the **5:30PM** Mass.