THE

PEW BUDDY

NOVEMBER 28/29, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."
~Mark 13:33

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



BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!

By Deacon Randell Waguespack

With these urgent words, the Church begins a new liturgical year as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Jesus tells us, “Be watchful! Be alert!” not to frighten us, but to awaken us. Advent is a season of hopeful expectation, a time to prepare *for the coming of Christ – His birth at Christmas and His return in glory*.

Most of us naturally think of Advent as preparation for Christmas. We decorate our homes, prepare meals, shop for gifts, and gather with family and friends. These traditions are beautiful and important because they help us celebrate the birth of our Savior. Yet Advent calls us to more than preparing our homes. It invites us to prepare our hearts.

The child born in Bethlehem is not just a figure from history. He is the living Lord who desires to enter our lives today. Just as Mary and Joseph made room for Christ, we are called to make room for Him in our hearts. Prayer, participation in the sacraments, acts of charity, and time spent reflecting on God’s Word help us clear away the distractions that crowd Him out. Advent asks each of us a simple but challenging question:

Is there room in my heart for Christ?

At the same time, the Church reminds us that Advent is also about preparing for Christ’s second coming. “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!” The same Jesus who came in humility as a child will come again in glory. While no one knows the day or the hour, the Lord asks us to live with a spirit of readiness. This readiness is not anxious waiting but faithful living. It means striving each day to love God and neighbor, seeking forgiveness when we fall, and allowing Christ to shape our lives according to His will.

Last Sunday, on the Feast of Christ the King, we heard Jesus' sobering words about the final judgment: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* (Mt 25:40). The King who comes at the end of time is the same Lord whose birth we prepare to celebrate. This Advent, as we shop for gifts, let us remember those for whom the Christmas season brings not joy but hardship — the hungry, the lonely, the grieving, the poor. An act of charity offered this Advent is not merely a seasonal gesture. It is a response to the King Himself, and a way of welcoming Him even now.

Preparing for Christmas and preparing for the Lord’s final coming are not two separate tasks. They are one and the same. Every act of faith, every prayer offered, every kindness shown, and every sin surrendered to God makes us more ready to welcome Christ, both in the manger and at the end of time.

As we begin this holy season, take time to prepare your home for Christmas, but do not neglect your heart. Let Advent be a season of spiritual renewal. Spend a few extra moments in prayer. Read the daily Gospel. Spend time with Christ, in Eucharistic Adoration. Reconcile with someone from whom you have become distant. Reach out to someone who may be alone this Christmas. Consider celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Allow the Lord to find a heart ready to receive Him.

May this Advent be a time of joyful preparation, as we await the celebration of Christ’s birth and look forward with hope to His glorious return.

Be watchful! Be alert! The Lord is coming. Let us be ready to welcome Him.

EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

HELP SECURE OUR CAMPUS!

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland is blessed to be located in a small town. However, security is a growing concern even in a small town like ours. We need cameras, door entry systems, and monitoring systems for all our campus buildings to ensure the safety of our parishioners, children, ministers, and staff.

This year's iGiveCatholic campaign has a goal of raising $25,000 to update our security systems in the Hall of Saints, Parish Hall and Rectory. Specifically, the security cameras and building access will be upgraded so that our staff can monitor any suspicious activity, an unfortunate reality in today's world. Anything above the $25,000 will go towards security cameras inside St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Church and St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel.

It is through YOUR faith-filled response on **Giving Tuesday (now through December 1, 2026)** that you can *Give Back and Give Catholic* as we embark on this most important undertaking. I am grateful for you and how you will help change our churches with your gift! Please be generous.





ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN

The Vocations Committee of St. Margaret has done a great job in establishing a culture of vocations in our parish. Continue to help us promote more vocations by participating in our "Adopt-A-Seminarian" campaign. Take an ornament off of one of the trees in either church the weekend of **December 12/13, 2026**, and write your seminarian a note; perhaps give him a gift and do it all while praying for him and that more people listen to His call to serve the Church! Remember you can "adopt" this seminarian for the entire year!

BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

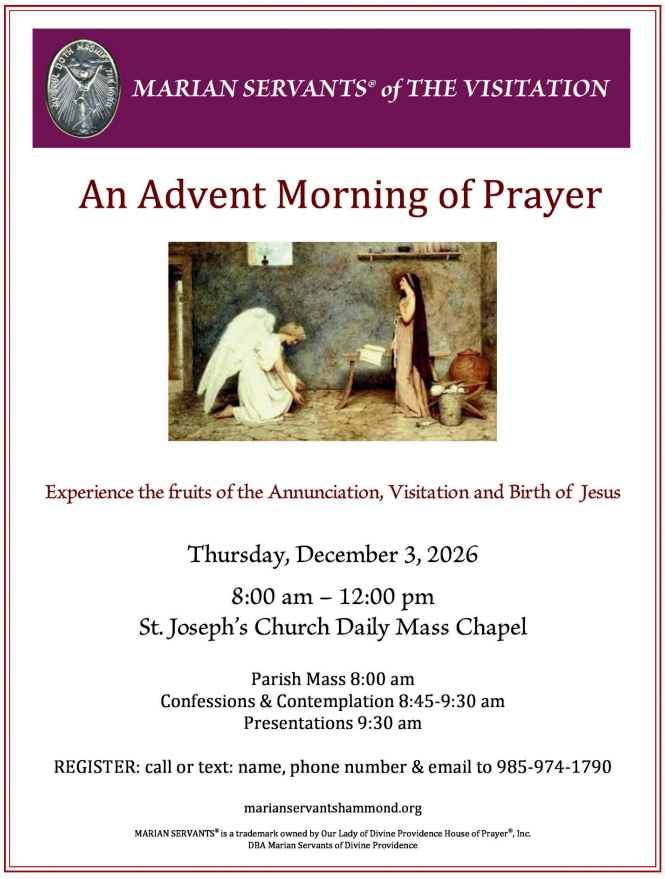
Tuesday, December 8, 2026, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass for the Holy Day will be celebrated at **6:00PM** on **Monday, December 7, 2026,** and on **Tuesday, December 8, 2026,** at **6:00PM** both at St. Margaret Church. Come honor the Blessed Mother with us!

BLOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Join us on **Sunday, December 6, 2026**, from **8:00AM** until **12:30PM** in the parish hall for a blood drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights will be serving donors a sausage, biscuit and grits breakfast. Donors will receive a Blood Bank t-shirt. All donors will also receive a Don's Seafood discount card. If you would like to give blood at the Blood Center, please use code **D227** to designate your life-giving donation for St. Margaret.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

The parish office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**, for a staff event and **Tuesday, December 8, 2026**, in observance of the Immaculate Conception. It will also be closed from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM** on **Wednesday, December 9, 2026**, for our montly Staff Meeting. If you have business in the parish office, please plan to visit outside of these times. Thank you for your consideration!





SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL, HEAR US

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

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, Coy Behler, Cindy Brasington, Carol Bates, Joyce Butler, Amber Stilley Cocchiola, Hattie Davis, Betty Sue Deakles, Sal Faldetta, Jason Fischer, Mary Ann France, Lisa Goings, Hannah Guillotte, Todd Hagan, Joseph Hanewinkel, Joe Hanewinkel, III, Tristian Harrison, David Hanner, Fulton Charles Hebert, Tommy Hebert, Randy Heitman, Brian Helmstetter, The Herbert Family, Marsha Hoffman, Paul Horrell, Herbeth Howell, Carrol Istre, Melanie Johnston, Trevor Kinchen, Frank Kovach, Barbara Lebovitz, Bill Louviere, Gregg Mader, Patricia Matthews, Dwaine McDaniel, Maggie Millet, Evan Nettles, Gunner Norman, Amelie Oriol, Gasper Guy Palermo, June Catherine Peterson, Petit Family, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Eric Plauche, Steve Plauche, Marie Prine, Lauren Rodriguez, Brooklyn Sansone, Marian Shally, Valerii Sekisov & Family, Mary Stabile, Brittnay Stilley, Danette Stilley, Christine & Joseph Stolf, Sharon Stolf, Elaine Taylor, Carolyn Toole, Trysten Tucker, Robert & Ashley Wheat, Lucy Whiddon, 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 **November 21/22, 2026,**
totaled:

$15,370.00.

The **Second Collection** for our local
St. Vincent de Paul totaled:

$3,298.00.

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

Thank you for your kindness
and generosity to our ministries!

TO GIVE...



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamps at St. Margaret Church and at St. Thomas Chapel are burning for the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, November 28, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Bergeron/Plauche Families, Polly Chatelain, Karen Chemay, Merrill Cooper, Shirley Darouse, Joan Edwards, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Ricky Genre, Irene Good, Hilton Hoover, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Earline Kraemer, Alberta & Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Ray & Connie Louviere, Manina Family, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Sansone Family, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Vito Tallia, Sr., Jason Vassil and Yancy Watkins

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 8:00AM Mass, St. Thomas Chapel

Fred Armand, Jr., Shelly Cyrus, Lloyd Dominguez, John LaGrange, David Landeche & Family, Margie & Joe Liuzza, Charlie Martin and Gerard Lou Staub

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Hilton Hoover

Monday, November 30, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Memorial of St. Andrew)

Gill Scioneaux

Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Shelly Cyrus

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Savanna Balado

Thursday, December 3, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Francis Xavier)

Lynette Pfiffner

Friday, December 4, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Weekday in Advent)

Donivan Jones

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 Debbie in 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 Baleigh in 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

First Sunday of Advent
Gather Hymnal Number 992

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
A sinful people await God's presence.
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
God's gifts prepare the Corinthians for Christ's return.
Mark 13:33-37
Be alert for the coming of the Lord.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5/6, 2026
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

To send prayer intentions to Fr. Paul, email: Prayers4frpaul@gmail.com

Sunday, November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent!
iGiveCatholic Early Giving!
Visit our Hospitality 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



Monday, November 30, 2026
iGiveCatholic Early Giving!
8:00AM—**Catholic Schoolhouse**, Hall of Saints
8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, St. Cecilia Room
5:00PM—**Mondays with Mary**, St. Margaret Church
6:00PM—**Women's Advent Night of Reflection**, Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday!
Parish Office Closed Today!
6:30PM—**OCIC**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church
5:00PM—**Junior Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room
6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, St. John Paul II Room
6:30PM—**OCIA**, Parish Hall
6:30PM—**OCIC**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room
6:30PM—**Livingston Parish Council Meeting**, Livingston



Thursday, December 3, 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, December 4, 2026
9:30AM—**Divine Readers**, St. Elizabeth Seton Room

Saturday, December 5, 2026
Second Sunday of Advent!
Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!
8:00AM—**Fostering Hope Winter Festival**, Church Grounds
3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

GATHER HYMNAL: *SANCTUS*, number 308B; *AGNUS DEI*, number 313B