NOVEMBER 7/8, 2026

THE PEW BUDDY

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
~Matthew 25:13

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



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

Post Office Box 100 • Albany, Louisiana 70711-0100 • 225.567.3573

08 November 2026

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends in the Lord:

Everything we have is truly a gift from God, and the Lord encourages us to generously share those blessings with others. When we do, we accumulate lasting treasure. Because we define giving as an act of love and because we measure it against the great gift of God's Son, then giving generously and sacrificially is exactly the point. Prayerfully, we give with generous hearts. At St. Margaret and St. Thomas, we have much for which we are thankful, and we are mindful that these things – our health, our homes, our relationships, our communion with Christ and other parishioners, all our earthly treasures – are gifts from God's hands and are entrusted to us with his blessing, that we might live as his own and honor Christ by sharing. We honor Jesus when we give. Giving is planned, proportionate, sacrificial, born of free expression, and prayerful.

On the next page is a generic financial report for the 2025/2026 fiscal year – proof to you that God has blessed this community abundantly and that we continue to use these gifts as "good stewards" – a theme that has long been a hallmark of the administration of this parish. I am especially grateful to all of you for your continued stewardship this past year. From the prior year, we dropped slightly in total receipts (-7%) but this is merely a reflection of our St. Thomas renovation campaign which has been completed.

As a result of your generosity, we were able to do many great things on our campus and in our community. As the parochial vicar, I pledge to work with Father Paul, the parochial administrator, to commit that we will use the temporal gifts you give to us prudently. **Please feel free to call me or Mary E. Herbert, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, directly should you have any questions about this report** as it is often difficult to read.

We have begun a new fiscal year, and there are many ministerial and physical plans that we hope to accomplish together over the next year including security around campus and continued improvements around both campuses. Would you consider being a continued "good steward" by investing in St. Margaret your time, your talent and your treasure and continue to give *prayerfully* with your generous hearts? As we begin a new year of ministry, we continue the work of a faithful Catholic community whose every effort is a work of faith rooted in a generous heart and spirit!

Yours in the Lord,

Fr. Kumar Kolakani

Reverend Kumar Kolakani
Parochial Vicar

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Catholic Church
Annual Financial Report

As of 30 June 2026

Income	Actual	Annual Budget
General Receipts[1]	1,211,275	901,737
Extraordinary Receipts[2]	138,322	43,222
Total Income	1,349,597	944,959
Expense		
Administrative Expenses[3]	515,375	586,697
Parish Share Contributions[4]	140,268	140,268
Pastoral Services[5]	76,285	48,400
Plant Operations and Maintenance[6]	102,050	74,142
Capital Expenses[7]	66,089	668,452
Extraordinary Expenses[8]	41,509	27,000
Total Expense	941,576	1,544,959
Net Operating Results[9]	408,021	-600,000

[1] "General Receipts" include items such as weekly church support contributions, building and maintenance fund contributions, capital improvement contributions, cemetery plot sales and interest on diocesan savings accounts.

[2] "Extraordinary Receipts" include fees raised from religious education tuition, vacation bible school fees, and disaster relief contributions.

[3] "Administrative Expenses" include items such as staff salaries and other related payroll expenses, utilities, postage, office supplies, liturgical supplies, contracted services, and offertory envelope purchases.

[4] "Parish Share Contributions" include the monthly tax imposed by the Diocese of Baton Rouge on church support contributions. This number changes annually based upon parochial income and has decreased over the past fiscal year.

[5] "Pastoral Services" include expenses such as those related to the religious education of children and adults, sacramental preparation materials, youth group, liturgy, and music expenditures.

[6] "Plant Operations and Maintenance" includes all insurance, repairs, replacements, and supplies for the buildings and property of St. Margaret, St. Thomas, and the St. Margaret Cemetery.

[7] "Capital Expenses" include equipment purchases and capital improvements to parochial property. It also includes our interest payments, which are part of our monthly loan payment of approximately $12,000 per month to reduce our debt.

[8] "Extraordinary Expenses" include items such as our service ministries, St. Joseph altar, Mission Krewe, disaster relief disbursements and other miscellaneous items.

[9] "Net Operating Results" is the result of renovations at St. Thomas. To cover the deficit, funds were drawn from the diocesan loan and savings account. Neither of these are included on this financial report.

St. Margaret Financial Performance at a Glance

Fiscal Year	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Total Receipts	$282,976	$282,627	$327,759	$377,728	$459,735	$539,711	$846,079	$1,009,731
Amount Change Year Over Year	-------	($349)	$45,132	$49,969	$82,007	$79,975	$306,367	$163,652
Percent Change Year Over Year	-------	FLAT	15.97%	15.25%	21.71%	17.40%	56.77%	19.34%
Parish Share (Monthly)	$3,670	$2,898	$2,830	$2,779	$3,551	$4,407	$5,098	$5,093
Parish Share (Annually)	$44,040	$34,776	$33,960	$33,348	$42,612	$52,884	$61,176	$61,116

Fiscal Year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total Receipts	$784,420 [i]	$911,928 [ii]	$1,117,337 [iii]	$1,161,235 [iv]	$1,407,159 [v]	$1,073,969 [vi]	$1,455,120 [vii]	$1,349,597 [viii]
Amount Change Year Over Year	($225,311)	$127,508	$205,409	$43,898	$245,924	($333,190)	$381,151	($105,523)
Percent Change Year Over Year	-22.31%	16.26%	22.52%	3.93%	21.18%	-23.68%	35.49%	-7.25%
Parish Share (Monthly)	$6,149	$8,138	$6,606	$8,819	$10,485	$11,115	$12,104	$11,689
Parish Share (Annually)	$73,788	$97,656	$79,272	$105,828	$125,820	$133,380	$145,248	$140,268

[i] Note that FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018 saw a $250,000 gift during each FY for Phase II of Reconstruction. These figures are reflective of these extraordinary gifts.

[ii] Note that FY 2019/2020 (COVID-19 year) saw an extraordinary gift of $150,000 from a single donor. St. Margaret also received benefits from the Payroll Protection Program of approximately $30,000.

[iii] Note that FY 2020/2021 (COVID-19 continuation) saw decreased revenue but increased giving. Extraordinary gifts of over $200,000 were received from three generous donors.

[iv] Note that FY 2021/2022 saw a slight increase due to the continued effects of the COVID pandemic and recovery from Hurricane Ida. Also standards of reporting to the Diocese of Baton Rouge affected the computation of receipts and expenses.

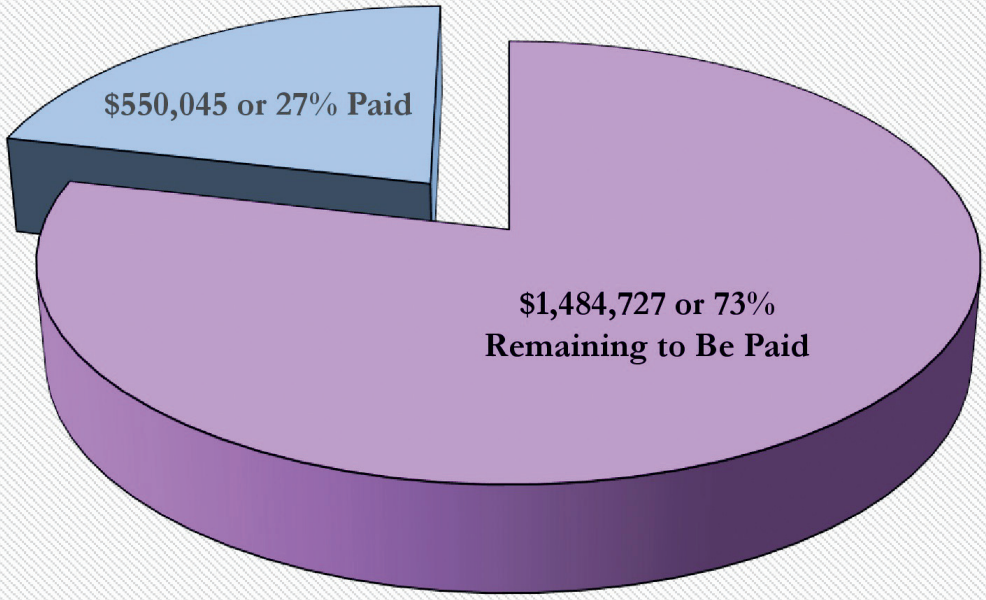
[v] Note that FY 2022/2023 saw a dramatic increase due to solicitation of the St Thomas renovation project.

[vi] Note that FY 2023/2024 saw decreased revenue for the St. Thomas renovation project.

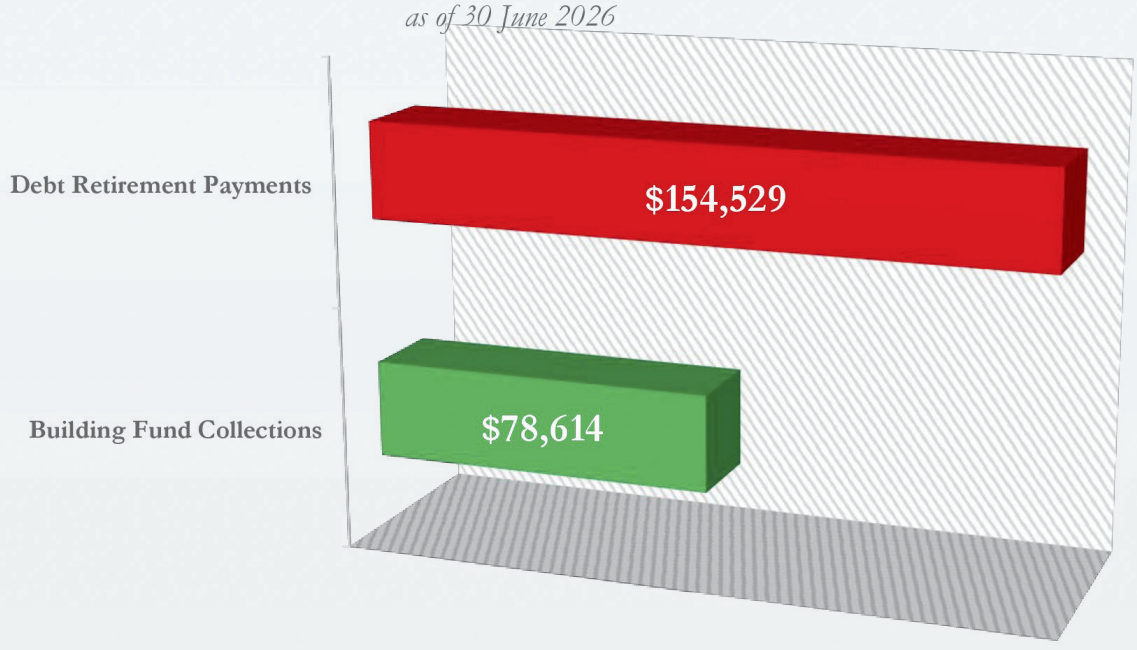
[vii] Note that FY 2024/2025 saw a dramatic increase due to a second solicitation for the St. Thomas renovation project.

[viii] Note that FY 2025/2026 saw a slight decrease due to the completion of the St. Thomas renovation project.

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland
Loans for St. Margaret Church & St. Thomas Chapel Renovations
as of 30 June 2026
Final payment will be June 2041



St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland
Debt Retirement Payments VS. Collections
as of 30 June 2026



EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

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

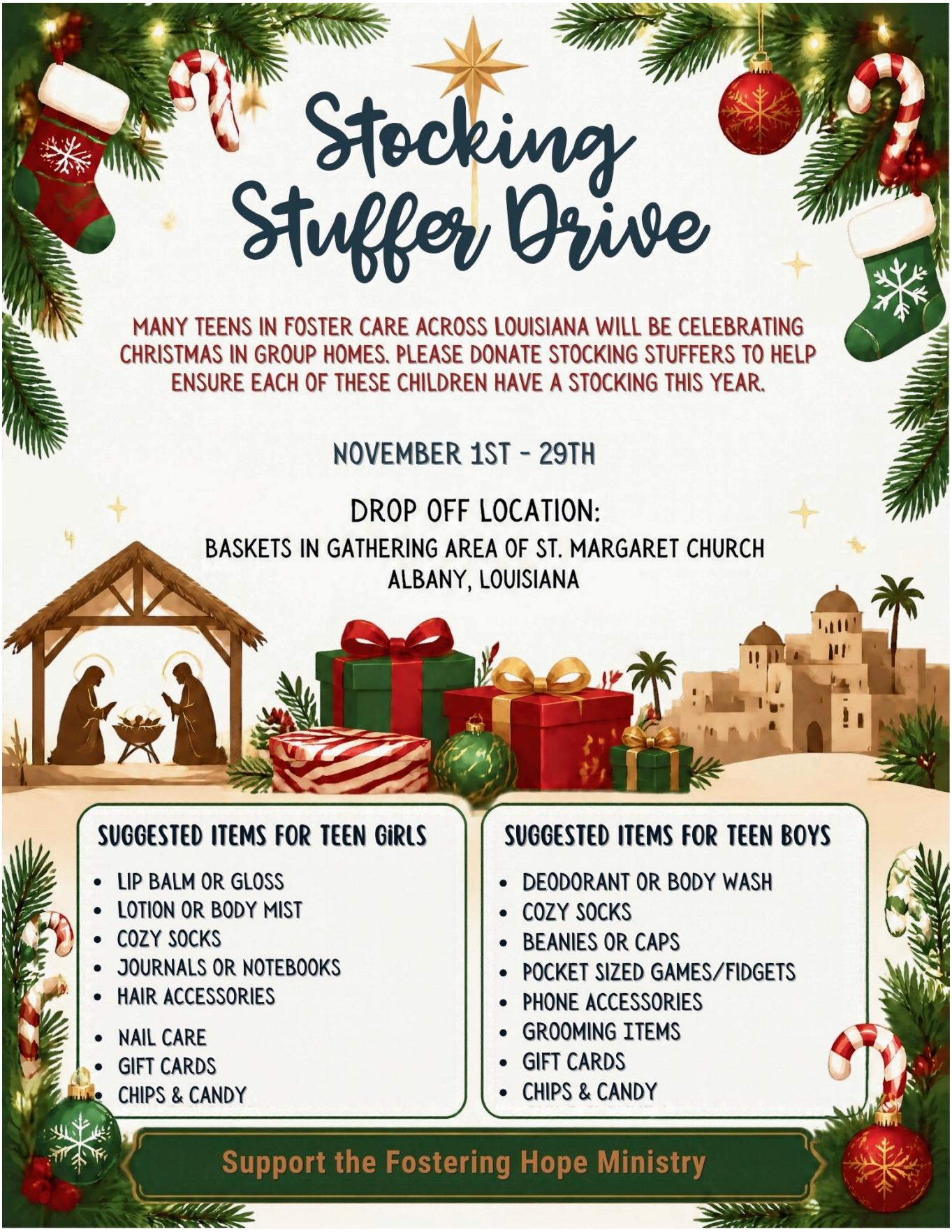
Mark your calendars for our Fall Festival coming up on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**, after **10:00AM** Mass! This weekend the Fall Festival committee will be collecting all auction and raffle donations. You can bring your items to the Parish Hall after the Masses at St. Margaret. (Gina Little will be at St. Thomas after 8;00AM Mass to collect items there.) Otherwise, you can bring it to the church office or contact Gina Little to make arrangements. Make sure to complete a donation form when you drop it off.

ADVENT WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION

Join the women of St. Margaret on **Monday, November 30, 2026**, at **6:45PM** for a night of reflection this Advent season. Our speaker, Lisa Veron, will share on the topic "Praying with Mary...With Open Hands and a Listening Heart". The event will take place in the St. Margaret Parish Hall. There is no cost to attend, but you must reserve your seats by calling Gloria at 419-348-9674. Seating is limited! You are welcome to reserve a table of 8 for a group of friends, family or ministry group. Hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Our next St. Margaret Food Distribution is **Thursday, November 19, 2026**, with pick-up from **8:30AM** until **10:30AM**. Volunteers are needed from **7:00AM** until **11:00AM**. The St. Margaret Food Distribution is possible thanks to ongoing partnerships with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank & Baton Rouge Catholic Charities. They provide the food we give out and deliver it to St. Margaret each month. Thank you to all of the many wonderful volunteers who help with everything from setting up tents, tables/chairs & signs to sorting food, directing traffic and greeting recipients. The Food Distribution now has another way to support people in need – It's a Prayer Circle. Volunteers meet in the Parish Hall after we sort the perishable food for Food Distribution. They usually meet around **8:15AM**. Everyone is invited to pray for the recipients and all the people in our area who are physically, emotionally or spiritually in need. If you are a regular food distribution 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.


Stocking Stuffer Drive
MANY TEENS IN FOSTER CARE ACROSS LOUISIANA WILL BE CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN GROUP HOMES. PLEASE DONATE STOCKING STUFFERS TO HELP ENSURE EACH OF THESE CHILDREN HAVE A STOCKING THIS YEAR.
NOVEMBER 1ST - 29TH
DROP OFF LOCATION:
BASKETS IN GATHERING AREA OF ST. MARGARET CHURCH
ALBANY, LOUISIANA
SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR TEEN GIRLS
LIP BALM OR GLOSS
LOTION OR BODY MIST
COZY SOCKS
JOURNALS OR NOTEBOOKS
HAIR ACCESSORIES
NAIL CARE
GIFT CARDS
CHIPS & CANDY
SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR TEEN BOYS
DEODORANT OR BODY WASH
COZY SOCKS
BEANIES OR CAPS
POCKET SIZED GAMES/FIDGETS
PHONE ACCESSORIES
GROOMING ITEMS
GIFT CARDS
CHIPS & CANDY
Support the Fostering Hope Ministry

COME OUT TO MEET HIM!

Walking with Moms in Need | Pray for Moms

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

To a woman facing an unexpected pregnancy in difficult circumstances, adoption is sometimes felt to be worse than aborting her child. In reality, placing a child for adoption is a loving, generous, and sacrificial option that demonstrates a woman's profound, long-term motherly care. In considering and choosing whether to place her child for adoption, a mother seeks what is best for her child, making a selfless act of love. Still, a woman considering adoption may experience a number of conflicting emotions. It is essential that she be supported throughout and after the process, whether she decides to place her child with another loving family or to raise her child herself.

By grace, we are made children of God through adoption and can call him, "Abba, Father!" (Rom. 8:15). This spiritual adoption also makes us brothers and sisters in the Lord. Let us call on the intercession of our brothers and sisters in heaven—the saints! Through our united prayers, may expectant mothers making an adoption plan receive the support and care of the Christian community as they make a loving choice for their children.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Offer this Prayer for Pregnant Mothers (walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers), praying especially for the featured intention.
- Abstain from meat or another enjoyment for one day this week.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about how you can support women by reading "Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption": respectlife.org/mothers-considering-adoption

DID YOU KNOW?

November is recognized as National Adoption Month. The USCCB offers a novena seeking the intercession of the foster father of Jesus. Consider praying the St. Joseph Adoption Novena (bit.ly/adoption-novena), at any time of the year.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

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O GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

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, 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, Gunner Norman, Amelie Oriol, Gasper Guy Palermo, June Catherine Peterson, Petit Family, Pete Pfiffner, Adrian Phillips, Jr., Steve Plauche, Marie Prine, Lauren Rodriguez, Brooklyn Sansone, 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 **October 31/November 1, 2026,** totaled:

$13,760.70.

The **Special Collection** for
the **Seminarian Education Fund** totaled:

$2,917.00

The **Special Collection** next weekend will be
for the **Campaign for Human Development!**

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our ministries!

TO GIVE...

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Morgan Carel, Karen Chemay, Shirley Darouse, Joan Edwards, Larry J. Evans, June & Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Helen & Alex Galladora, 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, Judy, Mitch, Andrew & Tony Monistere, Patti Niehaus, Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Ian Pauli, Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Ashley Rouse, Sansone Family, Anne Sherman, Judy Sherman, William F. Sherman, Sr., MD, Aaron Sziszak, Vito Tallia, Sr. and Hilma Woods

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

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

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 10:00AM Mass

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

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 5:30PM Mass

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Monday, November 9, 2026, 5:30PM Mass (Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Leo the Great)

Lynette Pfiffner

Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Martin of Tours)

Chuck Raborn, Sr.

Thursday, November 12, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Josaphat)

Donivan Jones

Friday, November 13, 2026, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini)

George & Eric Navarre

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

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gather Hymnal Number 1185

Wisdom 6:12-16
The call to be attentive to wisdom.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Paul speaks words of hope to the Thessalonians.
Matthew 25:1-13
A parable on being prepared for what is to come.

Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 14/15, 2026
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!

Coffee & Donut Ministry!

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

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

Monday, November 9, 2026

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

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

5:30PM—**St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**, St. Jean Vianney Room

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

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

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

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Veterans Day!

Parish Office is Closed Today until 1:00PM!

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

9:00AM—**Staff Meeting**, 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—**KC Fourth Degree Meeting**, St. Maria Goretti Room



Thursday, November 12, 2026

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

Friday, November 13, 2026

No Extraordinary Events Scheduled for Today!

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Campaign for Human Development Special Collection!

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

MONTHLY STAFF MEETING

Our monthly staff meeting for November will be **Wednesday, November 11, 2026**. The parish office will be closed from **8:00AM** until **1:00PM**. If you have business in the office, please visit us before or after this time. Thanks you for your consideration!