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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846
P: 616-527-3610 F: 616-527-3697
Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

December 1, 2019 First Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Fr. Tom Brown

616-527-3610, ext. 12

616-755-1742 (evening)

Associate Pastor: Fr. Oscar Londoño, mxy

616-527-3610, ext. 14

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. (Spanish)

Reconciliation Schedule

Wednesday: 6:00-6:45 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m. or by appointment

Daily Mass Schedule (subject to change)

(See inside cover for this week's Masses.)

Monday: 12:10 p.m. in the chapel

Tuesday: Communion Service, 7:30 a.m.

in the chapel

Wednesday: 12:10 p.m. in the chapel

7:00 p.m. in the chapel (Spanish)

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. in the church (school days)

Friday: 7:30 a.m. in the chapel

Sacraments

For questions regarding Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, or any other sacrament, please contact our parish office.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request for immediate need, please call 616-522-0279, or 616-527-0438.



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our parishes will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, an annual appeal that benefits some 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, on December 7- 8, 2019.

As Christians, we are called to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Ps 100:2). Our elderly religious offer a shining example of what it means to answer this call. During their days of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, and embrace the neediest among us. In retirement, many continue in volunteer ministry, and all pray for the needs of our Church and world. Inspired by love, their service—past and present—is marked by joy and a deep desire to do the will of God.

As you may know, many religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide for aging members. Most older religious worked for little or no pay. Today, their communities do not have enough retirement savings. At the same time, health care costs continue to rise, and fewer members are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations plan for future retirement needs, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured, they are praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Walkowiak

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

DECEMBER 1, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One Lord, One Faith,
One Baptism



AH = Apostles' Hall
CR = Cornerstone Room
SC = School
BC = Basement Chapel
CH = Church
PO = Parish Office
VR = Veritas Room
UP = Upper Room

Sunday, December 1

3-5 p.m. No RCIA or Faith Formation classes
Confessions

Monday, December 2

6:00 p.m. Advent by Candlelight (AH)

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 p.m. English as a Second Language (AH)
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)

Wednesday, December 4

6:30 p.m. Cancer Support Group (PO)
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (AH)

Thursday, December 5

5:00 p.m. Life Fit (VR)
6:00 p.m. Ministry of Consolation Team Mtg.
& Dinner (PO)

6:30 p.m. English as a Second Language (AH)

Friday, December 6

2-3 p.m. Cookie Pre-sale (VR)
6:00 p.m. Christmas Parade (Main St.)

Saturday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Mrs. Claus Bazaar (Ionia M.S.)
Women's Book Discussion (PO)

Sunday, December 8

9-11 a.m. Breakfast with Santa (AH)
9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)
10:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes (SC)
6:00 p.m. Advent Church Walk (begins here)



OUR PARISH OFFERING - November 23 & 24, 2019

Adults	\$5,238.85
Students	1.69
Loose	745.00
Electronic Giving	2,015.00
Total	\$8,000.54
-5% Tithe	-400.03
Net Total	\$7,600.51

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,038.46
Deficit for the Week: \$1,037.92

Archdiocese for Military Services	\$20.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,829.00
Christmas Baskets	\$270.00

July 1, 2019-November 24, 2019 Fiscal YTD Offertory Collection

Year-to-Date: \$197,804.93
Budgeted Year-to-Date: \$198,846.12
Deficit Year-to-Date: \$1,041.19

Please pray for:

Della Arbour	Ian Howe	Richard Mackowiak
Vickie Lykins	Jo Wirtz	Chuck Stevens
Jeff Smejkal	Marian Gillette	Annette Krycinski
Joe Drysdale	Maxine Fox	Barbara Bennett
Berta Martinez	Sherry Palmer	Diane Wilson
Rachel Cross	Phil Fox	Nichole Munsell
Colleen Goodman	Deb Jarous	Jace Peterson
Mike Swartout	James Schroeder	Pat McKinstry
Stan Krycinski	Sue Mitchell	Brian Lyons
Jane Gazella	Joy Struble	Dalilah Tubergen
Fr. Joe Fix	Irene Kneale	Jean Barker
Pat Reinhardt	Margaret O'Malley	Georgia Sibert
Tim Cook	Sarah Hill	John McKay
Isaac Fletcher	Tom White	Ivan Stebbins
Cal Smith	John Lapien	Ian David Faist
Barbara Gibson	Marissa Fahey	Deborah Kaminski
Marilyn Rewa	Peyton Dennis	Sue Swinehart
Margaret Stoj	Nancy Roberts	Mary Lou Greenhoe
Alma Koch	Glenna Miller	Larry Lafler
Maribeth Fritz	Anne Lincoln	Larry Northrup
Margo Burton	Pete & Annie Ludwick	Janet Beeman
	Pam Coggan	Marcia Cook

We continue to pray for all who need healing in body, mind, or spirit. If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the parish office. Be sure you have the consent of the person or a family member. Names will remain on the prayer list for three months and may then be removed. Requests may be renewed.

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Staff (616) 527-3610

Permanent Deacon	Zenon Cardenas	527-8942
Secretary	Cecilia Luke	ext. 10
Office Manager	Adam Rewa	ext. 11
Pastoral Services	Toni McKay	ext. 13
Music Director	Whitney Crooks	527-3610
Maintenance	Dan Schmitz	527-3610
Cemetery Sexton	Aaren Perry	527-3610

SS. Peter and Paul School (616) 527-3561

www.ssppcatholic.com		
Principal	Jenny Leik	ext. 18
Secretary	Diane Grummet	ext. 23
Pre-School	Barb Voet	ext. 20
Daycare	Audra Searfoss	ext. 19

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Pastoral Council

Chris Brown, Chairman	Yolanda Preston	Karen Thelen
Deb Campbell	Alice Samani-Zozo	Tim Wall
David Fitzpatrick	Deb Trierweiler	
Miguel Pilar (Youth Rep)		

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Finance Council

Chris Christensen	Matt Johnson	Dave O'Mara
Jane Hemenway	John Klein	Denise Peabody

SS. Peter & Paul School - Board of Education

Tracey Bergeron	Kevin Heinlein	Kristi Wizorek
Vanessa Booth	Brian Siemen	
Nick Cusack	Melissa Wall	

Liturgical Ministers for Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8, 2019

Lector:	4:00 p.m. Phill Wizorek	8:00 a.m. Veronica Meyer	11:30 a.m. Rick Esparza
Ministers of Communion:	Julie Bennett, Jane Emelander, Sue Wizorek	John & Cheryl Hildebrandt, Mary Perrien	Petra Laux, Becca Witter, Volunteer
Altar Servers:	Carmen Rewa, Kaylynn Wizorek	Paul Meyer, Sam Meyer	SSPP Students
Hospitality:	Mary O'Connor, Theresa Scholtens	Jim Huver, Dave O'Mara	SSPP Students

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Saturday, December 7

4:00 p.m. Thomas Dossou & Lydia Apagy (John & Alice Lalley)

Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m. Special Intention (Margaret Stoj)
11:30 a.m. Deceased residents of Valley View (Marcia Cook)
(Grades 3 & 4 minister at this Mass.)
1:00 p.m. Misa en español

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS FOR THIS WEEK

GENERAL CLEANING:
Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

VACUUMING:
John & Phyllis Powell

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Stephen C. O'Mara
Financial Advisor
431 Swartz Ct
616-522-0544

Paul R. Lentz
Financial Advisor
222 W Main St
616-527-9441

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER
301 W. Washington St., Box 396
Ionia 616-527-1530

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Knights of Columbus

Father Fierle Council #944

First Tuesday
of each month

Rosary: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
SSPP School
Veritas Room

GK Tom O'Connor



Mall Pay

ALL TIMES. ALL PLACES. ALL YOURS.
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The **Our Shepherds—Our Future** Capital Campaign has two main objectives: to build up a restricted fund for seminarian education, and to fully fund our priests' retirement. Our parish's targeted amount is \$570,000 over a 3-year period.

You should have received your capital campaign information packet in the mail. Please prayerfully consider what you can afford to donate over the next 3 years. You will probably receive a call from a fellow parishioner who can help to answer any questions you may have. (Feel free to call the parish office as well.) You may drop your pledge card in the Sunday collection, bring it to the parish office, or mail it to the diocese. We hope to have most of the pledge cards turned in before Christmas. Thank you for your support!

"Above all, let your love for one another be constant, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be mutually hospitable without complaining. As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received." (1 Peter 4:8-10)

Youth Group

Our Youth Group will be going to the Live Nativity at Shiloh Church on Saturday, December 7th. Meet in our parish parking lot at 5:45 p.m. We anticipate returning to church around 8 p.m. This is a free event complete with hot chocolate and cookies! O come, let us adore Him.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Kevin Heinlein

Spiritual Adoption—Week 31

"Head on down, baby." This week your baby moves to the head-down position in preparation for birth, less than two months away. He or she also moves in rhythm to music, preferring some types over others. There's finally enough baby fat to make his or her skin turn pink. Thank you for the prayers that will bring this baby to his or her birth day.

Advent Confession Schedule:

Sunday, December 1	3:00—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 15	3:00—5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 11	11:00 a.m.—12 noon
Wednesday, December 18	11:00 a.m.—12 noon
Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21	3:00—3:45 p.m.

Advent Church Walk—next Sunday!

Next Sunday, December 8, will be the annual Advent Church Walk. For 45 years, members of the community have walked from one downtown church to the next on the Second Sunday of Advent to hear scripture readings, sing hymns, and enjoy refreshments. The Walk will begin at SS. Peter and Paul at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at approximately 8:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church. Join us if you can!

Mrs. Claus Bazaar – Bake Sale

The SSPP Family School Council (FSC) is once again hosting its annual bake sale at the Mrs. Claus Bazaar on December 7. We invite parish and school families to donate homemade Christmas cookies or candy for the bake sale. Please deliver your baked goods to the Veritas Room by 12 noon on Friday, December 6. The FSC will take care of packaging the goodies for the sale.

Ideas: peanut butter balls/buckeyes, peanut brittle, fudge, candies, decorated sugar cookies, ginger snaps, peanut butter/Hershey Kiss cookies, chocolate covered pretzels or cherries, etc.! Any questions, please reach out to Kristin Cusack: 616.902.1067 or nkcusack@outlook.com.

Breakfast with Santa

Join us for the annual pancake breakfast with Santa, hosted by the SS. Peter and Paul Family School Council. All are welcome! When:

Sunday, December 8, 9-11 a.m.

Where: Apostles Hall in our school

Cost: Your donation

Christmas Flower Memorials

The Christmas wreaths and poinsettias that adorn our church during the Christmas season are offered to honor the birth of Christ and to glorify God. You are invited to honor your loved ones, living or deceased, by offering a Christmas Flower Memorial. The names of those honored will be published in our parish bulletin during the Christmas season. Your donation will help to decorate the church not only at Christmas, but into the new year. The suggested donation is \$10 per name. To make an honorary or memorial offering, please pick up a request form near the main entrances to church. You can submit your request and donation in an envelope in the collection basket, or return to the parish office by December 18.



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

is celebrated this year on Monday, December 9. Masses that day will be at 12:10 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. in English, and at 7 p.m. in Spanish. All these Holy Day Masses will be held in the church.



There are MANY ways you can help and participate in this vital ministry! See the flyer at the entrance to church for more information. We have a handful of families that still need adopting for Christmas. To adopt a family, please call our parish coordinator, Katherine Martin, at 616-308-5525.

Food collection

Christmas is not far off, and there are many people in our community who could use some extra help in making this a special time of celebration for their families. You are encouraged to offer weekly donations of non-perishable food items. Certain food items are requested each week (listed below) to assist us in coordinating types of donations. You may place your donations at Mary's altar in the church through December 15. Thank you!

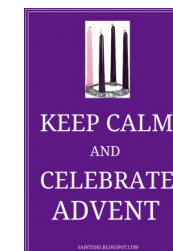
Nov. 9/10 - beans, both canned and dried

Nov. 16/17 - canned meat, fish, soup, stew

Nov. 23/24 - cereal, pancake/muffin/bread mixes, rice/rice mixes

Nov. 30/Dec.1 - crackers, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, honey, condiments

Dec. 7/8 - Dried/canned pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, noodle mixes



In this bulletin is a calendar for the month of December which includes the many parish Advent opportunities available to parishioners, as well as regular programming and meetings. The calendar offers parishioners a snapshot view of parish activities and is a convenient tool for reference as you plan how you will celebrate and perhaps become more actively involved in the life of our parish this Advent. We hope you will post it in a visible place in your home as a reminder!

Advent Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, December 18, in the Parish Office following the 12:10 p.m. Mass

Come to Mass, and then share an Advent lunch with fellow parishioners! If you can donate soup or bread, please call Jackie Franz at 616-902-3590.



Advent by Candlelight

An Advent evening for women

Beautifully decorated tables, dinner, prayer, music, special speaker, and community!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00 p.m., Apostles Hall - \$6 event fee
(For individual reservations, call Toni McKay.)

"All flesh shall see the Salvation of God!"



The short season of Advent can be a rich training ground for practicing the presence of God in our hearts and in our everyday relationships. It can equip us to tell of the marvelous acts of God that we celebrate at Christmas time.

Guest Speaker, Terry Marshall
Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, Aquinas College

Real Presence: Christ With Us

An Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 14th
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Apostles Hall
Lunch will be provided.
Opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3 p.m. and attend Mass at 4 p.m.

Please register by contacting the parish office.



In order to understand this subject of Real Presence properly, we need a sort of sixth sense. We need the spiritual gift of faith. Faith is a gift by which we come to know, with certainty, that the Eucharist is no longer bread. Rather, it is God. It is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of God the Son.

No amount of study, reasoning, or arguing will convince us of this truth. But faith will. In fact, faith will convince us so deeply that we can come to believe with our whole being. And this is a conviction and level of belief that we can never arrive at using only our five senses or reasoning ability.

If this is hard to believe then perhaps it's a sign that God wants to deepen your faith in the Eucharist. He wants you to meet His divine presence there in the depth of your soul. He wants you to know Him, love Him, adore Him and surrender your life to Him in this precious gift.

Christmas Card Exchange

Please drop your addressed greeting cards in the box in the back of church from now through December. Use first and last names when addressing the cards. Please do not place anything inside the cards/envelopes except your wishes. Cards in the mailbox will be sorted and placed in alphabetical order on the same table. Be sure to check each week for cards sent to you!

Our Parish Purpose Statement - Saints Peter & Paul Parish

Our Pastoral Council has been working intensely with Father Tom to develop a Pastoral Plan for our parish. Parish Pastoral Planning is a prayerful and participative process through which a parish characterizes itself as a particular community of faith by developing its own purpose statement, assessing its strengths and resources, as well as its limitations and needs. All of this leads to making recommendations to the pastor concerning establishment of priorities and goals, and devising ways to accomplish its mission. Parish Pastoral Planning helps to answer the questions: Who are we as a parish? What are we called to do? How are we best going to do it?

All of us are called to participate fully in the life and mission of the Church. The mission of the Church is rooted in the mission of Christ who commanded everyone - clergy, religious, and laity - to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15). From its earliest days the Church has responded to this mission in various ways depending upon the times and circumstances.

Creating this statement of our parish's purpose was a great challenge. The council could have simply quoted the parish purpose from the great commission of Matthew 28: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Jesus' commission rings loud, yet there is great need in the world for the Catholic faithful to be moved to a renewed zest for the gospel, both personally and in sharing it with others. By establishing a purpose statement for our parish, the council hopes to eliminate any question as to our parish's sacred purpose, and to ensure that the work of the parish, in all its forms, is directed toward this purpose.

Our parish purpose statement:

Our sacred purpose as Saints Peter and Paul Parish is to . . .

use our God-given gifts . . .

Every parishioner is called upon to exercise the divinely-inspired calling and gifts conferred in Baptism for a particular function in carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ.

to awaken faith, inspire discipleship, and trust in God's plan . . .

Being a member of Saints Peter & Paul Parish is not only aimed at one's personal sanctity. We are called to bring Christ out into the world, wherever our journey takes us, to affect the sanctity of all people. Each of us is to exude our Catholic faith as to rouse faith in others, to be an example of Christian discipleship, and to exemplify trust in God's divine plan in all things.

so that all who enter our doors may receive, believe, and share God's love.

Whether one "enters our doors" by simply coming into contact with a parish member, or physically passes through the doors of our church building, our purpose is the same: To stir the hearts of people, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to become open to receive all the Lord unconditionally offers to every person, to attain certainty in the Gospel message, and to share in God's love by embracing his love personally and becoming a vessel in bringing his love to others.



RECEIVE. BELIEVE. SHARE.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for always being present to us in the Church which you gave as the means for our salvation and that of the whole world. A Church through which life-giving and sustaining graces are poured into and over us by the holy Sacraments. A Church which is truly your "body" here on earth. We are members of that body, filled with the Holy Spirit and bountiful graces, and compelled to use the blessings, gifts, and favors which have been given us to build up that body.

Renew us with your grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may give serious thought to how each of us can better use our time, talent, and treasure to build up your Church and to love better our brothers and sisters who make up your holy Church.

May the Parish of SS. Peter and Paul continue to be a community of believers who are willing to spend time learning about God's Word and will, about the words and works of Holy men and women who have loved Jesus and his Church, and may we then serve one another and our fellow human beings, in showing them God and his Holy Church.

This we pray, dear Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Stewardship Campaign Prayer was written by a Saints Peter and Paul Parishioner.

