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

July 25, 2021
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Fr. Tom Brown
 616-527-3610, ext. 12
 616-755-1742 (evening)

Associate Pastor: Fr. Oscar Londoño, mxy
 616-527-3610, ext. 14
 616-755-2279 (cellular)

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. in Spanish

Weekday Mass Schedule
 English: Mon & Wed, Mass at 12:10 p.m.
 Tues, Communion Service at 7:30 a.m.
 Thurs, Mass at 7:30 am (June-August)
 Fri, Mass at 7:30 a.m.
 Spanish: Wed, Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Schedule
 English: Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.
 Spanish: Wednesday 6:00-6:45 p.m.

For questions regarding Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, or any other sacrament, please call the parish office: 616-527-3610

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

The Eucharist

Bishop Barron writes, "For many Catholics today, the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Christ, and the Mass is merely a collectivity of like-minded individuals gathering to remember his life. But the truth of what is made present on the altar, and what the faithful dare to receive into their bodies and souls, is far more strange and beautiful." Others have written similar words. So it continues to raise the question: How do we come to understand that what we really receive is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, not a symbol? How do we come to understand that the bread has actually changed into the Body of Christ?

There are those who insist that the bread still exists, so it must be just a symbol. When I was in seminary, they were trying to explain the Eucharist. We were told to consider a table. It can be made of wood, metal, plastic, or some other material. It can be square, rectangular or round. It can have one leg in the center or three or four or even more legs. It can be unpainted or painted in any of a variety of colors. It can be low, medium, or tall in height. It can have a variety of drawers or no drawer at all. Still, in each and every case, we recognize it as a table. How? It is because the object has the property of "table-ness". The size, shape and material of the table are called accidents. That is, they can change without affecting the table. It is the property of table-ness that allows us to recognize it.

So it is with the Eucharist. The bread and the wine are accidents. After the consecration, the accidents of bread and wine now have the property of the Body and Blood of Jesus. It will still taste like bread and wine, but it is not. It is the Eucharist.

When they first explained it this way, it made no sense to me. With time and prayer, it did. But, like so many of Jesus' miracles, our explanations always fall short. They always will. It is a miracle because . . . well, because it is a miracle. It goes way beyond logic. I believe in Jesus' miracle of the changing of the bread and wine into his Body and Blood because He said it. "Take and eat, this is My Body. Take and drink, this is My Blood." It is true because Jesus said it.

Of course, for the Eucharist we need bread. We need wine. We need a validly ordained priest. We need the prayers of the Consecration. But what we need most of all is the promise of Jesus. "Take and eat...take and drink." Jesus gave us *His Body* and *His Blood*.

It is the miracle of the Eucharist. And that is enough for me. It is that simple.

May God bless you!

Fr. Tom

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

JULY 25, 2021

**One Lord, One Faith,
One Baptism**



The Week Ahead...

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-18/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, July 24

4:00 p.m. Intention of Gloria Hozeski—Birthday (Christine Bewell)

Sunday, July 25

8:00 a.m. Intention of John & Toni McKay—40th Anniversary

11:30 a.m. George Baer (John & Pat Klein)

1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Baptism at 1:00 Mass

Monday, July 26—Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of Mary

Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-23/Mt 13:31-35

12:10 p.m. Carrie Edwards (Christine Bewell)

Tuesday, July 27—Weekday

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28/Ps 103:6-13/Mt 13:36-43

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, July 28—Weekday

Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5-7, 9/Mt 13:44-46

12:10 p.m. Donald Pierce (Heather Pierce & family)

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, July 29—St. Martha

Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3-6, 8, 11/Jn 11:19-27

7:30 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

Friday, July 30—St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor

Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37/Ps 81:3-6, 10-11/Mt 13:54-58

7:30 a.m. Tom Gearhart (John & Toni McKay)

Saturday, July 31—St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-25, 54/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35

Saturday, July 31

4:00 p.m. Doug Antonides (Joan Nummer)

Sunday, August 1

8:00 a.m. Special Intention (Jerry & Joan Blundy)

11:30 a.m. Susan Coggan (Mike & Joan Boog)

1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Sunday, July 25

Monday, July 26

7:00 p.m. Scripture/Faith Study (PO)

Tuesday, July 27

6:30 p.m. Liturgy Commission Mtg. (PO)

Wednesday, July 28

6:30 p.m. Cancer Support Group (PO)

Thursday, July 29

4 & 5:30 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

Friday, July 30

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Parish Garage Sale

Saturday, July 31

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Parish Garage Sale

Sunday, August 1

10:15 a.m. Confirmation Classes begin (VR)



OUR PARISH OFFERING - July 17 & 18, 2021

Regular Offertory Collection	\$5,788.53
Electronic Giving	1,025.00
Total	\$6,813.53
-5% Tithe	-340.68
Net Total	\$6,472.85

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,038.46
Deficit for the Week: \$2,224.93

July 1, 2021-July 18, 2021 Fiscal YTD Offertory Collection

Year-to-Date: \$25,448.09
Budgeted Year-to-Date: \$27,115.38
Deficit Year-to-Date: \$1,667.29

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please pray for:

Bill Robinson	June Faulkner	Tom O'Connor
Tommy Meiter	Sue Thompson	Tom White
Sheree Gilbert	Rebecca Hennegan	Toni Montgomery
Jerry Blundy	Roy Fowler	Clark Reeder
Debbie Flinn	Debbie Wirtz	Pat MacLachlan
Lorie Langwith	Peter Gallagher	Pamela Coggan
Ralph Westbrook	Jim Mulnix	Kathy Coughlin
Tom Lonier	Theresa Sullivan	Mike Nelson
Yvonne Elvert	Mike O'Connor	Rachel Cross
Audra Searfoss	Carol Gallagher	Vickie Lykins
Feliciano Paredes	Ali Laninga	Joe Drysdale
Dorr Bissell	Alvina Badillo	Jack & Jo Wirtz
Jane Gazella	Della Arbour	Phil & Carol Fox
Finnly Hunt	Alice Samani-Zozo	Ed & Glenna Miller
Pete & Annie Ludwick	Isaac Fletcher	Annette Krycinski
Richard Rinker	Clara Butler	Barbara Bennett
David Clonan	Jane Baeger	Nichole Munsell
Tom Brockman	Irene Kneale	Jace Peterson
Al Slowinski	Jerry & Maribeth Fritz	Pat McKinstry
Bruce Hoeksema	Susan Montgomery	Georgia Sibert
Rick McQueen	Ken Peabody	John McKay
Christopher Van Buren	Tim Perry	Larry Lafler

We continue to pray for all who need healing. 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. Requests may be renewed.

Lector Schedule for July 24—August 1

Saturday, July 24	4:00 p.m.	Sue Wizorek
Sunday, July 25	8:00 a.m.	Walt Downes
Sunday, July 25	11:30 a.m.	Rick Esparza

Monday, July 26	12:10 p.m.	Cecilia Luke
Tuesday, July 27	7:30 a.m. C.S.	Cecilia Luke
Wednesday, July 28	12:10 p.m.	Cecilia Luke
Thursday, July 29	7:30 a.m.	Rick Esparza
Friday, July 30	7:30 a.m.	Denise Peabody

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	Rod Bergeron	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	Alice Samani-Zozo
Deb Campbell	Deb Trierweiler
David Fitzpatrick	Tim Wall
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	

Saturday, July 31	4:00 p.m.	Mary Lou Mulick
Sunday, August 1	8:00 a.m.	Pete Fox
Sunday, August 1	11:30 a.m.	Rick Esparza

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Grand Knight: Adam Rewa

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF JULY 25

GENERAL CLEANING:
Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

VACUUMING:
Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor



Knights' Corner

This past week we celebrated a notable anniversary. On July 20, 1968, the first Special Olympics took place in Chicago. It was the brainchild of Eunice Kennedy Shriver—devout Catholic, sister of President John F. Kennedy, and tireless advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. Shriver's husband, Sargent Shriver, as a Knight of Columbus, encouraged the Knights to support the cause, not only of Special Olympics, but of what's become the Knights' annual Tootsie Roll Drive to raise funds for people with intellectual disabilities. To this day, the Knights, including our own council, proudly support the Special Olympics.

Adam Rewa, Grand Knight (527-3610)

In the know . . . by Whitney Crooks

Have you noticed the fence along our parking lot? We have been in discussion about our options for a few months now. The current plan is to completely gut the west section of the parking lot and properly fix the drains underneath, fix and replace the surface of the lot, replace the retaining wall, and re-install the fence. We are still working out the details—grades of concrete, step placement, acquiring multiple bids per diocesan policy, etc. This is a big, and quite expensive, project for our parish! We **hope** to have everything completed by the start of school!

Do you shop at Meijer, Walmart, Amazon, Sozo's, or Marathon? Purchasing Scrip cards for these and MANY more merchants can help our school raise money. Simply purchase cards through the RaiseRight app, have the cards sent to your house (\$1.00 shipping fee) or to the school (free), and spend away! The school makes money, and you did very little work. There is a 15 cent fee for ordering through the app, or you can order through the school office for free.

Open Registration for Saints Peter & Paul School Pre K—Grade 8

Registration can be completed online by going to www.ssppcatholic.com and clicking on the registration tab. If you have questions or would like to schedule a tour, please email principal Jenny Leik at jleik@ssppcatholic.com.

The Lansing Lugnuts will be having a Family Faith Night on Friday, September 17. St. Edward Parish is trying to organize a group to attend. If 10 or more people sign up, the cost would be \$11 per person. If interested, call Katherine Martin at 616-374-7253 by August 13.

Prayer for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly —July 25, 2021

I thank you, Lord, for the comfort of your presence. Even in times of loneliness, you are my hope and my confidence. You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank you for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life. I thank you for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank you for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which you call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith. Make me a channel of your peace. Teach me to embrace those who suffer more than I do, to never stop dreaming, and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled, and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age. Amen.

—prayer from the Dicastery for Laity, Family, & Life

Cancer Support Group

Team members of the Ministry of Consolation are offering Cancer Support gatherings every other Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Office living room. Our next gathering will be on July 28th. All are welcome to attend. Please help us spread the word. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at: vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

RCIA Inquiry Sessions
Sundays, August 22 & 29, 9:15 a.m.
Parish Office Living Room

No matter where you are in your journey of faith, there is a place for you here with us. Don't be afraid to take that first step. Come, see for yourself what we are all about! Contact Toni McKay at the parish office for more information.

Saints Peter and Paul Parish

End of Summer Skindig

Saturday, August 28th,
12:00 noon

Home of Deacon Zenon & Maria Cardenas
3150 Nickleplate, Rd., Ionia



We hope you and your family will come and share this special time with us as summer winds down and we draw nearer to fall.

Bring a dish to pass and your favorite camp chair. We will be grilling hamburgers & hotdogs and will have all the fixin's for s'mores, including a bonfire! If you have a favorite yard game you'd like to share, please bring it!



All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Conference
"Ablaze With Praise!"
August 6, 7, & 8, 2021

St. Mary Parish, 15164 Juniper Dr., Marne, MI 49535
For more information and registration,
visit the AMCCC website at www.amccc.net



Saints Peter & Paul Annual Garage Sale
Friday & Saturday,
July 30 & 31
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All donated treasures have been sorted and organized, and we are nearly ready for the shopping to begin! Thank you to the MANY who have donated to our sale! Proceeds will benefit our parish ministries.

Helpers needed! We'd love to have you join our garage sale team! Any time you can give is appreciated, even if just a couple of hours! Contact Toni at the parish office if you can help!

Monday Night Scripture/Faith Study
July 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Living Room
This week's topic:

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive . . .
To express interest or for more information,
contact Toni at the parish office.

Confirmation Classes for 9th Grade Faith Formation Students begin Sunday, August 1st, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. in the Veritas Room. We lost much class time due to the pandemic, so earlier this year decided to begin our final preparations for Confirmation early. (We anticipate Confirmation will take place in late October or early November, depending on the date set by the Diocese.) We look forward to seeing all of our 9th grade Confirmation students on Sunday, August 1st. Be sure to bring your textbooks and folders with you!

Faith Formation Registration for Grades K-9 has begun! Registration forms can be found on the table at the entrance to church, or on our parish website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org.

Liturgy Commission Meeting - Come and see! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish office living room. We invite parishioners to explore the work of this important parish ministry by joining us at our meetings or by contacting Toni at the parish office.

Farewell, Toni, Mike, and Carol! You will be missed!

Our sister-in-Christ, **Toni (Antoinette) Montgomery**, will be moving to South Carolina at the end of this month. Toni has been a lifelong parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul, is an alumna of the Academy, and 3 of her 5 children also attended our school.

Toni has been very involved in the life of the parish throughout her life, most recently in her personal commitment to learn more about her faith through participation in adult faith formation opportunities and her dedication to the work of our parish Liturgy Commission. Toni has loved being a part of our faith community. She was dubbed the "energizer bunny" because of the hard work, energy, time, and gifts she has given to assist in so many different parish events and gatherings.

Toni will reside with her youngest son, Paul Montgomery. Cards can be sent to Toni at: 10 Latham Drive, Greenville, SC 29617.

Longtime and very active parishioners **Mike and Carol Gallagher** recently moved to Arizona. Some health issues and family have drawn them westward. Mike is a proud graduate of our school, and all three of their boys attended SSPP. Many of us have crossed paths with Mike and Carol over the years and they have certainly left a mark on our parish!

Please consider writing a card with a memory you may have shared with them. Cards can be sent to: 17031 E. El Lago Blvd., Unit 1160, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.