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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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 Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

March 19, 2023
 Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Associate Pastor: Fr. Oscar Londoño, mxy
 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 8:00 a.m. (school year)
 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.
 Monday 11 a.m.-12 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.

Lenten Confession

Have you gone to confession yet? Lent is a time of year that places great emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room on Easter night, breathed on them and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent Me, so I send you." As He said this, He breathed on them, adding, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven, and whose sins you retain are retained." Notice that Jesus did this by breathing on them. The only other time we read this is when God breathed life into the first human beings He created. This speaks of the power of the symbol and the power given to the Apostles. Just as God breathed life into the human body, the followers of Jesus were to breathe new life into those damaged by sin! Notice also that they had the power to forgive and the power to not forgive. This means the disciples had to hear the confessions in order to know whether to forgive them or hold them bound.

Many say that they confess directly to God, while Catholics confess to a priest, but this is wrong. Catholics always confess their sins to God. They do it directly as well as through His ministers because that is what God requires. Look at St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians in chapter 5: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation...All this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and given us a ministry of reconciliation, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." What does this mean other than that they share in the ministry of Christ and forgive sins in His name?

James also makes it clear that the sins of the sick are forgiven in the Sacrament of Anointing. He specifies that the priests are to be called. They obviously had power the ordinary Christian did not, the power to forgive sins. Otherwise why didn't James just ask ordinary fellow Christians to pray over the sick, as is the case in numerous other passages?

Jesus said to the Apostles, "As the Father sent Me, so I send you." The Apostles are to continue the mission of Christ. The essence of that mission is the forgiveness of sins. Jesus knows us. He provided sacramental confession to give us humility, the certainty of forgiveness, and help to overcome self-deception and rationalization in matters of sin. Christ gave his disciples the power to forgive sin. This power is intended to be passed on, since Christ knew people would sin until the end of time.

Bishop Walkowiak has directed all pastors to be in the confessional from 5-8 p.m. on March 23rd. I will be at SS. Peter & Paul. Other opportunities include 11 a.m. to Noon on Mondays and Wednesdays and 3 to 3:50 p.m. on Saturdays. Thursdays I will be at St. Edward at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Sundays are from 3 to 5 p.m. at St. Edward on March 19th and April 2nd, and at SS. Peter & Paul on March 26th. Finally, special times are available by appointment. God bless you! - Fr. Tom

Together is where we belong!



The Week Ahead...

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

Saturday, March 18

4:00 p.m. Living & deceased members of Freund & Stoj families

Sunday, March 19

8:00 a.m. Rex O'Connor (Mary E. O'Connor)

11:30 a.m. Jane Dipzinski

**No 1:00 Misa en español at SS. Peter & Paul

**1:00 Misa en español at St. Joseph in Belding

Monday, March 20—St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin

2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

Tuesday, March 21—Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, March 22—Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

***No 11 a.m. Confessions today & no 12:10 Mass

12:10 p.m. Communion Service

2-7 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

***No 7 p.m. Misa en español today

Thursday, March 23—St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47

8:00 a.m. Irene Kneale (John & Sherry Heckman)

5-8 p.m. Confessions ("The Light Is On For You")

Friday, March 24—Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1,12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

7:30 a.m. Peter & Edith Brown

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English (by SSPP Youth Group)

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish

Saturday, March 25—The Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

Saturday, March 25

4:00 p.m. Deceased Lefevre family members (Lillian Overbeck)

Sunday, March 26

8:00 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

11:30 a.m. Ann Bales-Ludwick (Dan & Gail Lower)

1:00 p.m. Misa en español

3-5 p.m. Confessions

3:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service

Sunday, March 19

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)

9 a.m.-1 p.m. K of C Pie Sale (Parish Garage)

10:15 & 11:30 Faith Formation for Gr. 2-7 & 8

6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)

Monday, March 20

6:30 p.m. Lenten Topic #4 (PO)

Tuesday, March 21

6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council & Liturgy Commission Meeting (PO)

7:15 p.m. RCIA (PO)

Wednesday, March 22

12:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Luncheon (PO)

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (AH)

Thursday, March 23

3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

5-8 p.m. "The Light Is On for You" (CH)

Friday, March 24

Saturday, March 25

9:30 a.m. Women's Book Study (PO)

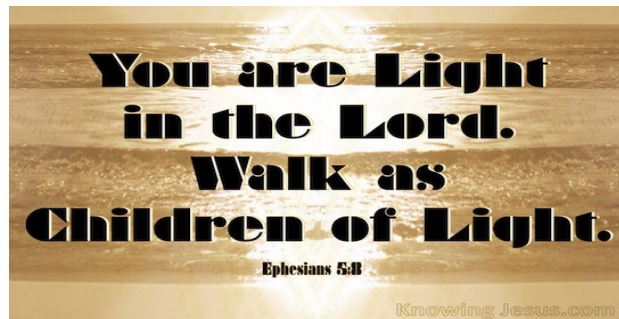
Sunday, March 26

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)

10:15 & 11:30 Faith Formation for Gr. 2-7 & 8

11:30 a.m. Hisp. 1st Comm. Parent Mtg. (VR)

2:00 p.m. Quinceañera Meeting (VR)



OUR PARISH OFFERING - March 11 & 12, 2023

Regular Offertory Collection \$5,713.86

Electronic Giving 2,945.00

Total \$8,658.86

-5% Tithe -432.94

Net Total \$8,225.92

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,230.77

Deficit for the Week: \$571.91

Catholic Relief Services \$400.00

Flowers \$20.00

July 1, 2022—March 12, 2023 Fiscal YTD Offertory Collection

Year-to-Date: \$346,251.41

Budgeted Year-to-Date: \$341,538.49

Surplus Year-to-Date: \$4,712.92

Please pray for:

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 Karen Balice Gregory
 Hannah Wirtz
 Andrew Fisher
 Mary O'Connor
 Pam Garragon-Goss
 Patricia Klein
 Kym Coryell
 Jacqueline Franz
 Fr. Mel Fox
 Carol Ardis
 Justin Miller
 Terri Nurenberg
 Jessica Fritz
 Larry McKaig
 Devin Dowsett
 Cole LeBarre
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Alice Cardenas
 Michelle Walsh
 Michelle Montgomery
 Charles Timm
 Kathy Kranz
 Dennis Mould
 Emma Furman
 Larry Lafler
 Arlene Stanton
 Donnette Vogt
 Pat MacLachlan
 Jack Wirtz
 Jim & Barb Mulnix
 Sherry North
 Phyllis Richardson
 Rueger Eveleth
 David Esparza
 Craig Collen
 Joe Rosse
 Nathan Lower
 Denny Lesky
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Permanent Deacon Zenon Cardenas 616-527-8942
 Secretary Cecilia Luke ext. 10
 Office Manager Adam Rewa ext. 11
 Pastoral Services Toni McKay ext. 13
 Music Director Whitney Crooks 616-527-3610
 Maintenance Rod Bergeron 616-527-3610
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SS. Peter and Paul School

Principal Jenny Leik ext. 18
 Secretaries Diane Grummet & Joann Johnson ext. 23

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Deb Campbell Tim Martin Tim Wall

Deb Trierweiler

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Finance Council

Chris Christensen Matt Johnson John Klein

Jane Hemenway Mike Keast Dave O'Mara

SS. Peter & Paul School - Board of Education

Angela Anderson Tracey Bergeron Cara Brownell

Lauren Christensen Nick Cusack Anna Johnson

Deb Trierweiler Nancy Wilson Kristi Wizorek

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.

March 25 & 26, Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Lector: Sue Wizorek
 Altar Servers: William Drown, Levi Haskin
 EMs: Jane Emelander, Garry & Mary Lou Mulick
 Greeters: Pat Brockman

8:00 a.m. Lector: Walt Downes
 Altar Servers: Paul & Sam Meyer
 EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Laurie Tjalsma
 Greeters: Deb Porter

11:30 a.m. Lector: Shannon Andrews
 Altar Servers: Evan Bailey, Lillian Mabe
 EMs: Ron Drysdale, Monica Mabe, Theresa Scholtens
 Greeters: Pamela Pontius

Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders and Helpers

4:00 p.m. Joann Johnson and Lily Johnson

11:30 a.m. Kari Jones and Vanessa Booth

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Knights' Corner

Thank you to everyone who bought or helped make pies! Please be sure to pick up your order this weekend (March 18 & 19) after Mass in the parish office garage. If you missed out, we may have a few pies left. Call the parish office to check.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8th, at 10 a.m. We are pretty well stocked with baskets and stuffed animals, but we will happily accept donations of candy and plastic eggs. We are looking for individually wrapped candies that can fit into an Easter Egg. They may be dropped off at the parish office. Thank you!

If you would like to help fill the eggs, we will be working on this on Wednesday, April 5th, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the parish office. We can use many helpers for this!

Stations of the Cross are prayed on the Fridays of Lent through March 31 (6 p.m. in English, 7 p.m. in Spanish).

Also, on Thursday, March 30, the SSPP School 7th & 8th Graders will be offering the Live Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the church on the Wednesdays of Lent through March 29 from 2 to 7 p.m. If you can commit to an hour on one or more of the Wednesdays of Lent, please add your name to the sign-up sheets in church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948ABA729A7F94-lenten1>

Lenten Confession Schedule

Mondays & Wednesdays from 11 a.m.—12 noon, (but No Confessions on Wednesday, March 22)

Thursday, March 23, from 5—8 p.m.

“The Light is ON for You: An Evening of Penance” (here, and in many other parishes of the diocese)

Saturdays from 3—3:45 p.m. (regular schedule)

Sunday from 3—5 p.m. on March 26 ***

***A Taizé Prayer Service is also offered at 3 p.m. on March 26.



Lenten Soup and Bread Luncheons

Following the Wednesday 12:10 p.m. Masses on March 1-29 at 12:45 p.m. in the Parish Office Living Room.

If you would like to donate soup or bread, you may sign up in the back of church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948ABA729A7F94-lenten>

The school is planning its annual Auction with the theme “Let’s Fiesta” for Saturday, April 29th, at the Ionia Armory. For many years, the Auction has been an event that brings together school, parish, and community members. We pray for God’s blessing on all who are planning the event and on all who will attend.

Knights of Columbus Pie Sale

Saturday, March 18, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Parish Office garage
Apple, Cherry, & Blueberry pies
\$12 each or 3 for \$30
All proceeds support the charitable work of K of C Council 944. Thank you!



Our next **Youth Group Night** is Sunday, March 19th. We will meet from 6-8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. We will be practicing to lead the Stations of the Cross the following Friday.

On Friday, March 24th, we will be leading the parish Stations of the Cross. Please arrive at church about 5:30 p.m. on the 24th so we can prepare to lead the Stations starting at 6 p.m.

Soli Deo gloria —Kevin Heinlein

Taizé prayer is a simple, repetitive, and meditative form of prayer that calls us to dwell deeply in Christ through prayerful silence and mantra-like songs, combined with brief Scripture readings, Psalms, and a candle-lit environment. Taizé prayer is offered on Sundays at 3 p.m. concurrently with the beginning of confessions. Remaining dates are March 19 and April 2 at St. Edward, and March 26 at SS. Peter & Paul.

Pilgrimage to St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery & Solanus Casey Center, Detroit Tuesday, May 16, 7 a.m.—7 p.m.

Join the Grand Rapids Diocesan Council of Catholic Women on a one-day pilgrimage. Depart at 7 a.m. from St. Isidore Parish’s lower parking lot (628 Diamond Ave., Grand Rapids), with a stop in Lansing Leave Detroit at 4 p.m.

Day includes history/movie, tour, lunch, & Mass. Cost is \$99, including all gratuities.

Registration deadline is April 25. For more information or to register, contact Mary Ellen Sparks at 616-452-3054 or facebook.com/GRDCCW/events or grdccw@grdiocese.org



CRS Rice Bowl Meatless Meals Recipe Book

To enrich family Lenten meal planning and promote awareness of and participation in Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, the CRS Chapter West Michigan is creating a Meatless Meals Recipe Book. People from the Dioceses of Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids are invited to share their meatless meals recipes for inclusion in the recipe book. Along with a recipe, families may share pictures of their families making and sharing the meals together. Please submit your recipes and pictures by March 31 to Teri Burns, tburnsfaith@gmail.com. Recipe books will be available to purchase by May 5.



Grief Support Group Sessions

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? The Ministry of Consolation invites you to join us at bi-weekly Grief Support Group Sessions. We meet every other Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Office living room. Our next 2 meetings will be on March 18 and April 1. Each of the sessions offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. RSVPs are encouraged when possible. If you are interested in learning more about the Ministry of Consolation and its benefits to you or a loved one, please contact Vanessa Booth at: vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.



We invite all children from ages 4 to 10 to join us for **Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)** during the 4:00 p.m. & 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses.

CLOW is a worship experience geared especially for children that allows them to hear the readings and discuss God’s message on a level that is engaging and interactive.

The children are invited to follow the Faith Leaders, right after the Introductory Rites, to a special area of the sacristy that has been prepared for them to hear the readings. The children and Faith Leaders return to the assembly during the Presentation of the Gifts. If you would like more information or have children above the age of 10 who would like to become Faith helpers, please contact Barb Montgomery at lkqdog67@yahoo.com or Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Embracing the Way of Love in Lent

Mondays, February 27 & March 6, 13, 20, 27 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Living Room

All are welcome to join in this Lenten spiritual enrichment opportunity! Each week we will focus on faith-related practices that will strengthen us in living a Jesus-centered life. Sessions are independent of each other, so come when you can!

Aquinas College Open House Saturday, March 25

Aquinas College welcomes any high school students and their families to our Open House on Saturday, March 25! Choose your own path throughout the day to get the inside scoop on academics, athletics, and scholarships, as well as our Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community, and service! Details and registration information can be found at aquinas.edu/openhouse.

Happy Birthday, Jane Gazella!

Jane has moved from her apartment in Ionia to an assisted living facility in Portland. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday on March 23. She would certainly enjoy hearing from her friends in Ionia. You may send your cards and good wishes to:

Jane Gazella
223 Charlotte Hwy.
Portland, MI 48875

Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood



Pray for:
John F. McCarthy

University of St. Thomas
St. John Vianney Seminary
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St. Paul, MN 55105

Heavenly Father,
We give you thanks and praise for your son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful men to minister as priests. Lord, we pray for vocations to the priesthood, and especially John. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.