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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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

September 17, 2023 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Reconciliation Schedule
 English: Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.
 Monday 11 a.m.-12 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.

Frequently we run into a friend or acquaintance who asks us to pray for them or a family member. We assure them we will, but do we? We meant to, but soon we have forgotten about it. Let us take a lesson from Jesus in the gospels. We read in Luke that Christ went up to the hills to pray. Sometimes He prayed at night, and other times the Apostles came looking for Him and found Him deep in prayer. Jesus was often deep in prayer, united with His heavenly Father in intimate and confident prayer. That Jesus Christ, who is perfect God and perfect man, should pray for us, gives us an example of prayer that is humble, confident, and persevering. He commanded us to pray always, without losing heart.

Jesus made His prayer to God His Father, and God always heard Him. We see this over and over. After the death of Lazarus, his sister Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died; and even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Just before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He prayed, “Father, I thank you because you have heard Me. I know that you always hear Me, but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe.”

Before His passion, Jesus prayed for Peter: “Simon, Simon, Satan demanded to have you that he may sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.” Peter did indeed fall, but he repented, turned back, and prayed for the others. Likewise, Jesus prayed for all the Apostles and for us at the Last Supper, “I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one.” Jesus knows so well the discouragement we will have, but had confidence in the power of His prayers. His prayers gave strength to the Apostles, even to the point of giving up their lives. Jesus also prays for us to remain faithful and confident in his love.

Let us strive to do better. We know that Jesus, seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven, continues to pray for us. He remains always as our advocate and mediator. He pleads for us to His Father, and He knows that His prayer cannot be refused. What a joy to know that Jesus prays for us!!! Our prayers, weak and distracted though they are, will be joined with His prayers and gain infinite value. Infinite value! How can we then not pray with confidence to our Lord?

Let us then pray with renewed fervor. Let us ask Jesus to inspire us that our prayers, springing from our hearts, may be one with His for all eternity. Let us also take our prayers to our Blessed Mother Mary and other saints in heaven. Then, united with them, they are given to Jesus and passed on to the Father. Even when we don’t think our prayers are being heard, St. John of the Cross taught that “a little of this pure love is more precious before God and does great good for the Church.” It does more good than any and all other works that are without Christ. St. John Vianney said that all the evils that oppress us on earth come from not praying or from not praying well. Let us then renew our desire to turn to God with love and trust. Let us have the joy of living our life close to God. It is the only place where it is worth our while to live.

May God richly bless you! Fr. Tom

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Saturday, September 16
4:00 p.m. Bud Bollinger (Tom & Pat Brockman)
Sunday, September 17
8:00 a.m. Jim Hayden (Colleen Hayden)
11:30 a.m. Vernon Brown
Confirmation students attend this Mass.

Monday, September 18—Weekday
1 Tim 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Gerry Burrows (Barb Burrows)

Tuesday, September 19—St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1-3, 5-6/Lk 7:11-17
7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, September 20—Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs
1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35
12:10 p.m. Robert Sayers (SS. Peter & Paul Parish staff)
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

Thursday, September 21—St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13
8:00 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

Friday, September 22—Weekday
1 Tm 6:2-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3
7:30 a.m. Living & deceased of Patrick & Carol Lewis family

Saturday, September 23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 8:4-15
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
1:00 p.m. 25th Anniversary for Rolando & Claudia Graciano
3:00 p.m. Confessions

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20-24, 27/Mt 20:1-16
Saturday, September 23
4:00 p.m. Doris, James, & Patrick Crowley
(Paula & Rich Geldhof)
Sunday, September 24
8:00 a.m. Peter & Edith Brown
11:30 a.m. Earl Allen (Johanna Allen)
1:00 p.m. Misa en español (w/Baptism of Elias Sanchez-Lucero)

GOD’S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 17
GENERAL CLEANING:
Beth Alberda, Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan
VACUUMING:
Beth Alberda, Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

Sunday, September 17
9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)
9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)
10-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8
1-4 p.m. Confirmation Retreat (Wilson home)

Monday, September 18
6:30 p.m. Scripture Study (PO)

Tuesday, September 19
6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (VR)
6:30 p.m. Blessing of Musicians Mass
w/ Bishop Walkowiak (Cathedral)

Wednesday, September 20
6:30-8 p.m. T.O.P.S. Session (VR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (AH)

Thursday, September 21
3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

Friday, September 22

Saturday, September 23
9:30 a.m. Grief Support Group Session (PO)

Sunday, September 24
9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)
9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)
10-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-9
6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)



OUR PARISH OFFERING - Sept. 9 & 10, 2023	
Regular Offertory Collection	\$5191.70
Electronic Giving	3,050.00
Total	\$8,241.70
-5% Tithe	-412.09
Net Total	\$7,829.61
Budgeted Weekly:	\$9,519.23
Deficit for the Week:	\$1,277.53

Please note that the offertory collection is only part of the income needed to operate the parish. Other funds come from school tuition, fundraising, Mass stipends, educational trust fund interest, sale of votive candles, etc.

National Migration Week:
September 18—24

The plight of migrants and refugees stands out as a pressing global issue. National Migration Week, September 18-24, is a time for us as a Church to engage in prayer, reflection, and action on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are forced to flee their homes.

The theme this year, “Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay,” highlights the root causes that drive migration. The Catholic Bishops of the United States and Mexico have said, “Catholic teaching also states that the root causes of migration – poverty, injustice, religious intolerance, armed conflicts – must be addressed so that migrants can remain in their homeland and support their families.”

Join us for the following events as we deepen our understanding of these complex issues and renew our commitment to building strong communities.

Monday, September 18, 12:00 Noon

Rosary in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese on Facebook (@GRDiocese)

Wednesday, September 20, 7—8:30 p.m.

Cathedral Square Center

A night of prayer, reflection, and action with Fr. Alejandro Solalinde, founder of “Hermanos en el camino”

A panel who will share their migrant experience

A reflection from Bishop Walkowiak.

More information can be found at grdiocese.org.

September 23 & 24, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Sue Wizorek Altar Servers: Carmen & Jaclyn Rewa EMs: Mary Perrien, Phill Wizorek, Volunteer Greeters: Volunteers CLOW: Barb Montgomery	11:30 a.m. Lector: Kevin Kenney Altar Servers: Wyatt Johnson EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe, Barb Mulnix Greeters: Pamela Pontius CLOW: Kylie Booth & Karen Miller
8:00 a.m.	Lector: Pete Fox Altar Servers: Alexis Heinlein, Nicole Trierweiler EMs: John & Cheryl Hildebrandt, Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Deb Porter	

Please pray for:

Martha Misak

Todd Cooper

Gloria Hozeski

Jennifer Durden

Beth Buffey

Tom McClintock

Phill Wizorek

Chuck Tarpey

Renee Wagner

Flynn McClintic

Cindy White

Michelle Richard-Mix

Sue Huver

Dave Erbes

Margaret O’Malley

Sheila Jobbitt

Lorna Weitzel

Jennifer Lewis

Jamison Crynes

Diane Rogers

Karen Balice Gregory

Hannah Wirtz

Andrew Fisher

Mary O’Connor

Pam Garragon-Goss

Kym Coryell

Jacqueline Franz

Carol Ardis

Justin Miller

Terri Nurenberg

Jessica Fritz

Larry McKaig

Devin Dowsett

Cole LeBarre

Travis Eveleth

Alice Cardenas

Michelle Montgomery

Charles Timm

Kathy Kranz

Dennis Mould

Emma Furman

Larry Lafler

Arlene Stanton

Pat MacLachlan

Jack Wirtz

Jim & Barb Mulnix

Sherry North

Phyllis Richardson

Rueger Eveleth

Nathan Lower

Bill Robinson

Debbie Flinn

Dorr Bissell

Finnly Hunt

Mike O’Connor

Isaac Fletcher

Jerry & Maribeth Fritz

Ken Peabody

Tom White

Pamela Coggan

Rachel Cross

Joe Drysdale

Barbara Bennett

Nichole Munsell

Jace Peterson

Georgia Sibert

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Staff

Permanent Deacon	Zenon Cardenas	(616) 527-3610
Secretary	Cecilia Luke	616-527-8942 ext. 10
Office Manager	Adam Rewa	ext. 11
Pastoral Services	Toni McKay	ext. 13
Music Director	Whitney Crooks	616-527-3610
Faith Formation	Vanessa Booth	ext. 21
Maintenance	Rod Bergeron	616-527-3610
Cemetery Sexton	Aaren Perry	616-527-3610

SS. Peter and Paul School

www.ssppcatholic.com

Principal	Jenny Leik	ext. 18
Secretaries	Joann Johnson & Amie Heinlein	ext. 23

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Pastoral Council

Deb Campbell Deb Trierweiler

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Finance Council

Chris Christensen	Kip Geldhof	Denise Peabody
Tom O’Connor	Dave O’Mara	Vanessa Booth

SS. Peter & Paul School - Board of Education

Cara Brownell	Kevin Heinlein	Anna Johnson
Lauren Christensen	Nick Cusack	Allen Wizorek
Deb Trierweiler	Ryan Walter	



Knights' Corner

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the parish picnic last Sunday! It was a wonderful time to spend together, and God certainly blessed us with fine weather for it. A big thank you also goes to all the brother Knights who helped set up the tents, tables and chairs on Saturday, and who helped cook, serve, and clean up on Sunday. Being men of service is fundamental to our order, and this was a fine example of that. Let's do it again next year!

Pope Francis' Intention for September

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Our next **Youth Group Night** will be on Sunday, September 24, from 6-8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. All students from 8th grade through high school are welcome. Bring a friend!

--Kevin Heinlein Soli Deo gloria



Food and Fellowship is back!! We will gather in Apostles Hall beginning this Sunday, September 17, and most Sundays, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Join us for good food and great conversation. If you would like to host, co-host, or just provide a morning dish for one of our gatherings, please call or text Deb Trierweiler at 616-902-3473.

You can help make a difference in local AND global hunger by walking in our **Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk** this year on October 1. With two weeks to go, our parish has a number of walkers participating. Won't you join them? To sign up to be a Walker, contact Pat Rinker (517-898-5676) to get a Donation Envelope. If you can't walk, please sponsor a Walker. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP

CROP HUNGER WALK — 800.CWS.CROP — Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk



Fr. Oscar to Depart

We are sad to report that Fr. Oscar will be leaving SS. Peter and Paul in October. He has completed his agreed upon term with us and will be moving on to a new assignment. We have been blessed with his ministry for the past 7 years, and we will miss him!!

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray with us in thanksgiving for the 24 new HP desktop computers that were installed in our school computer lab through EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools) funding.



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is offered during the 4:00 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses.

Are you interested in helping our children hear the Word of God at their own level in a fun, interactive way? Contact Barb Montgomery at lkydog67@yahoo.com or Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

The Ministry of Consolation is now offering a five-session Grief Support Series

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We invite you to attend this support group series. Each session offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. We are here to walk the journey with you. Sessions are held in the parish office living room on 5 Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. First session is September 23.

Please contact Vanessa for more information or if you are interested in private sessions. vbooth@ssppcatholic.com

Evangelization Committee Planning & Development Session

Sunday, October 15, 9:30 a.m., Veritas Room

As our parish enters into a phase of renewal on the New Evangelization called for by Pope John Paul II, we invite all parishioners to prayerfully consider becoming involved in the development of a parish Evangelization Committee. Let us embrace Pope Francis' words and work to "**be the oxygen**" that breathes life into Christ's Church and his people. Your RSVP for joining this session would be helpful, but not required. Contact Toni McKay.

Eucharistic Revival - Study Groups Forming

Our Monday Night Study Group has nearly completed its discussion of This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival by Bishop Robert Barron. Participants report that they have experienced exceptional growth, insight, and renewal in the source and summit of our Catholic faith, the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

We invite other parishioners to consider participating in a newly forming group that will meet on Mondays at 1:00 p.m., following the 12:10 p.m. Mass, in the parish office living room, beginning October 2. (Other groups can be scheduled as needed.) Contact Toni McKay to reserve your copy of the book and/or sign up for the group.



Calendar for upcoming classes.

Classes held in the school from 10—11:15 a.m.

September 17—Faith Formation Classes K-8

September 17—**Confirmation Candidates attend 11:30 Mass, followed by Retreat 1-4 p.m.**

September 24—Faith Formation Classes K-9

October 1—Faith Formation Classes K-8

October 1—**Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30-6 p.m. (Veritas Room)**

October 8—Faith Formation Classes K-8

October 8—**Rite of Enrollment**—at 11:30 Mass.

Confirmation Candidates & Sponsors meet in church at 11:00 for a brief rehearsal.

After Mass, Candidates & their families are invited to the school for lunch and a short Parent/Sponsor-Candidate session

October 15—Faith Formation Classes K-9

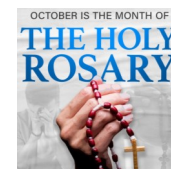
October 22—Faith Formation Classes K-8

October 22—**Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30-6 p.m. (Veritas Room)**

October 29—Faith Formation Classes K-8

October 29—**First Reconciliation/Communion Parent Meeting during class**

October 29—**Confirmation Mass 3:00 (Cathedral)**

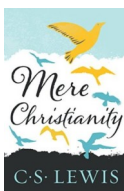


October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. We invite all parishioners to gather before weekend Masses in October to pray the Rosary. We will begin at 3:30 p.m. before the 4:00 p.m.

Mass on Saturdays, and on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. before the 8:00 a.m. Mass and 11:00 a.m. before the 11:30 a.m. Mass. **Volunteers are needed to lead the Rosary.** A sign-up sheet is available at the entrance to church, or you can contact Yolanda @ 616-560-3945 to add your name to the Rosary schedule.

Women's Book Discussion Group Resumes

on Saturday, September 16, at 9:30 a.m. (and on Saturdays bi-weekly thereafter) in the parish office living room.



We will be discussing **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis

Contact Toni McKay to reserve your copy of the book and study guide (\$22).

In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis aims to prove to the skeptic that God does exist and that He sent His son Jesus Christ to redeem the world.

Diocesan Assembly 2023:

Share your Encounter

Saturday, September 30, 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cathedral Square Center, Grand Rapids

You are invited! Keynote speaker will be Fr. René Constanza, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers and former rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

The conference will be offered in-person and online. The in-person and livestreamed sessions will be presented concurrently in English and Spanish.

Cost of the in-person event is \$15 (includes lunch)

Registration to attend via livestream is free. In-person registration closes September 25.

For registration information, please contact Jennifer Baxter at jbaxter@grdiocese.org.

Another option: We will be offering the livestream right here at SS. Peter & Paul School, allowing us to share our encounters with each other. Come for the whole day, or just part of the day. Please let us know if you can join by using the signup genius link. Those who sign up with their email will get a reminder the day before the event. Questions? Call Deb Trierweiler at 616-902-3473.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948ABA729A7F94-diocesan>

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Walkowiak invites all couples celebrating milestone anniversaries to join him on **Sunday, October 22, at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by calling our parish office at 616-527-3610 and letting us know the names of the anniversary couple, the parish, how many years married, and how many people will attend the reception.

Caitlin Cusack invites you to be part of the Purple Concert & Music Video Shoot

September 20, 7 p.m., Watt Auditorium presented by Ionia Community Awareness.

Caitlin will perform alongside musicians from the Grand Rapids Symphony. Suggested donation is \$10. A portion of proceeds will go to Ionia Community Awareness. **RSVP at caitlincusackmusic.com**



*Come rest awhile
in the Lord's
presence.*

*Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.
in the church*