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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846
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 Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

September 3, 2023
Twenty-second 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.


The Cost of Suffering
 Last week we heard St. Peter declare Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God. It is a wonderful passage, one that can make us feel proud of Peter for having listened to God and correctly identifying Jesus. But as Jesus continues to identify Himself as one who would suffer greatly and would be killed, Peter and the rest of the Apostles get more and more troubled. This does not sound like the savior they had been waiting for, and indeed not the image of the one they thought they were following. Finally, Peter can take it no longer and he pulls our Lord aside and begins to rebuke Him! “No Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you!” Jesus not only rejects these thoughts, but does so powerfully: “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do!” I imagine Peter is utterly shocked and crushed. He had been speaking out of his great love for Jesus, but our Lord is firm. “Whoever wishes to come after Me must take up his cross, and follow Me.”
 Peter had spoken from a purely materialistic viewpoint. No one wants a cross. The idea that it is in some way good and a means of salvation sounds very strange. Looking from a worldly view leaves us not wanting the pain and suffering, or indeed anything that requires such effort. Yet, deep inside, we are uncomfortable, for we know there is truth there.
 It reminds me of weddings. So often, during the homily, I tell the bride and groom that there will come a time when disagreement will strike them. Indeed it may even get to the point that the husband is sitting at the table looking at his wife and thinking, “Why did I ever marry her?” And the wife will be looking for something to smack some sense into his head! They will look at me with shock, but the older and wiser married couples smile and nod their heads yes. It happens to all couples, and there will be times requiring sacrifice. One or the other will have to give up something good, maybe even great, for the sake of their spouse. The same is also true with married couples giving up things they really want for the sake of the children. This is where our faith kicks in and helps us.
 Faith enables us to see and realize that, without sacrifice, we encounter no true love, no genuine joy, no lasting purification, and especially no possession of God. The path to holiness passes through the cross. Jesus knows this. The cross is a key part of this living book we call the Bible. It teaches us who we are and how we need to behave. We learn who Jesus is, the greatness of his love for us, and how we are to follow Him. Anyone who looks for God without sacrifice, without the cross, will never find Him.
 Nowadays there are far too many people who are not on the side of God, but of society. They have their gaze fixed on things here and chase after them as if they are all that matter. Mankind is suffering from a wave of materialism that is filling everything. Let us take up our cross as a necessary condition to following Jesus. Our Lord makes use of pain, voluntary sacrifice, poverty, and sickness, all of which, far from separating us from God, will unite us more closely to Him. If we go to Jesus and offer Him everything we find difficult, we discover that it is only through Christ and in Christ that His light is thrown on the riddle of suffering and death. It is the only way to lose fear of suffering that will accompany us throughout our lives. The great Christian revolution has been to convert pain into fruitful suffering and so turn a bad thing into something good. We see this time after time in the lives of saints from Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, to Saint Faustina Kowalska, Saint Therese of Lisieux, and back through the ages to so many others. Let us seek God in a love rooted in generosity and sacrifice, which will enable us to obtain our eternal destiny in heaven.
 May God bless you. —Fr. Tom


SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

TWENTY-SECOND 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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Saturday, September 2

4:00 p.m. William Overbeck Sr. (Lillian Overbeck)

Sunday, September 3

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

11:30 a.m. Suzanne Swinehart (Ben & Lynette Kirby)

1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, September 4—Labor Day

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13/Lk 4:16-30

7:30 a.m. Sanctification of Human Labor

Tuesday, September 5—Weekday

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, September 6—Weekday

Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10-11/Lk 4:38-44

12:10 p.m. George Supp (Jean Barker & Judy Hamblin)

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

Thursday, September 7—Weekday

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-6/Lk 5:1-11

8:00 a.m. Toni Montgomery (Tom & Julie Bennett)

Friday, September 8—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4/Ps 13:6/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

7:30 a.m. Mass in thanksgiving (Helene Dunn)

Saturday, September 9—St. Peter Claver, Priest

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8/Lk 6:1-5

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

Saturday, September 9

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

CLOW begins at 4 p.m. Mass

Sunday, September 10

8:00 a.m. Frank & Betty McMullen (Hildebrandt family)

11:30 a.m. Bilingual Mass at 11:30. No 1:00 p.m. Mass today.

Bob Terpstra (Christine Terpstra)

CLOW begins at 11:30 a.m. Mass

3:00 p.m. Baptism of Rhett James Christensen (CH)

GOD’S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 3

GENERAL CLEANING:

Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nuñez, Carolina Velasco

VACUUMING:

Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

Sunday, September 3

Monday, September 4—Labor Day

Parish Office closed. No school.

Tuesday, September 5

School Pictures

Wednesday, September 6

12:45 p.m. After-Mass Luncheon (PO)

Thursday, September 7

9:30 a.m. Parish Staff Meeting (PO)

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

Friday, September 8

Saturday, September 9

9:30 a.m. Grief Support Coffee Hour (PO)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word begins at 4 p.m. & 11:30 a.m. Masses this weekend

Sunday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Faith Formation begins (SC)

1:00 p.m. Parish Picnic (parish grounds)



deny yourself
take up your
cross and
Follow Me

Mark 8:34

Knowing-Jesus.com

OUR PARISH OFFERING - August 26 & 27, 2023

Regular Offertory Collection

Electronic Giving

Total


-5% Tithe

Net Total

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,519.23

Surplus for the Week: \$956.52

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.



HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.

Consider the following quotes from Sacred Scripture.

Genesis 2:1-3

Genesis 2:15

Deuteronomy 5:13-15

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Isaiah 58:3-7

Jeremiah 22:13

Matthew 20:1-16

Mark 2:27

Luke 3:10-14

Luke 12:13-21

James 5:1-6

God rests on the seventh day.

God settles man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate & care for it.

On the Sabbath, all are allowed to rest from their work.

The Lord blesses our work so that we may share its fruits with others.

To observe religious practices, but oppress your workers is false worship.

Woe to him who treats his workers unjustly.

Workers should be paid a just and living wage.

The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.

Practice integrity in your work.

One’s worth is not determined by an abundance of possessions.

Those who become rich by abusing their workers have sinned against God.

September 9 & 10, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Phill Wizorek

Altar Servers: Kendall & Kyle Cusack

EMs: Gloria Hozeski, Mary Perrien, Sue Wizorek

Greeters: Volunteers

CLOW: Kristin & Autumn Cusack

11:30 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson

Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey

EMs: Shannon Andrews, Barb Mulnix, Theresa Scholtens

Greeters: Pamela Pontius

CLOW: Vanessa Booth & Meghan McGillis

8:00 a.m. Lector: Walt Downes

Altar Servers: Alexis Heinlein, Nicole Trierweiler

EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Laurie Tjalsma

Greeters: Trierweiler family

Please pray for:

Beth Buffey

Tom McClintock

Phill Wizorek

Chuck Tarpey

Renee Wagner

Flynn McClintic

Cindy White

Michelle Richard-Mix

John & Pat Klein

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

Fr. Mel Fox

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

David Esparza

Nathan Lower

Bill Robinson

Debbie Flinn

Dorr Bissell

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Mike O’Connor

Isaac Fletcher

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Ken Peabody

Tom White

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& Amie Heinlein

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Tim Wall

Deb Trierweiler

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Chris Christensen

Tom O’Connor

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SS. Peter & Paul School - Board of Education

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Tracey Bergeron

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Nancy Wilson

Cara Brownell

Anna Johnson

Kristi Wizorek



Knights' Corner

This Tuesday, September 5th, is our monthly business meeting. Please join us in the Veritas Room for the rosary at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30.

Also, we hope you have the parish picnic on your calendar for next Sunday, September 10. Festivities start at 1:00 p.m. on the parish grounds. Don't miss out!

Finally, if you are a Catholic man who has been thinking of joining the Knights, let us know! We are planning for an exemplification ceremony in the coming weeks.

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.

Upcoming Virtus Training Opportunity

A *Protecting God's Children* (PGC) training session will be held at SS. Peter & Paul School on Friday, September 8, at 6 p.m. This one-time training session is required for all volunteers who will be working with children at the school or parish. To register, go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration; follow the prompts to choose SS Peter & Paul Ionia and choose the September 8th session. For more information about this or other PGC sessions, please call the school or parish office.

Training required for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Per diocesan directive, all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must be trained in updated diocesan norms for ministry. Most of our current Ministers received the diocesan training last spring - here at SSPP on May 13, or at another parish. If you are currently a Minister of Communion and haven't yet attended a diocesan training, they are offering additional sessions this fall. **The nearest one is right here at SS. Peter & Paul on Thursday, September 14, from 6:30-8 p.m.** For other places and times the training will be offered, go to grdiocese.org/ministries/worship-3. Please register for the session you plan to attend.

Attention, Singers & Musicians: Choir practice starts on September 13 at 7 p.m. in Apostles Hall. Ages high school freshman and up, of all abilities, are welcome! Prayerfully consider joining our ministry. Let's pack the loft to praise our Lord through song!! Questions? Ask Whitney: wcrooks@ssppcatholic.com



Panther Prayer Corner

For zeal in ensuring that all children & families will benefit from an authentic Catholic education, and that SSPP will nurture the souls and form the minds of its students for generations to come.

CROP Hunger Walk—Sunday, October 1

Would you like a way to visit with friends, make new friends, enjoy the outdoors, get exercise, AND help change the world? Come walk with us in the CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. We'll start and end at First Christian Church on Washington St. We'll meet at 1:45 p.m., collect our money, and begin our walk shortly after 2:00. Contact Pat Rinker (517-898-5676) for more information or to get your Walker envelope. Checks payable to CWS/CROP. Sign up for the walk with Pat Rinker after the Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses on September 2 and 3.



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will be returning during the 4:00 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses, starting September 9th and 10th.

Volunteers of *all ages* are invited to consider helping the children of our parish hear the Word of God at their own level in a fun, interactive way. We invite new and current volunteers to contact Barb Montgomery at lkdog67@yahoo.com or Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com for more information.

The Ministry of Consolation is growing! In addition to offering the 5-session Grief Support Series, we will begin offering a Coffee Hour once a month for all past participants to come and share about their continued challenges and progress in the grief journey. All sessions will be in the Parish Office living room at 9:30 a.m. every other Saturday, with a once-a-month Coffee Hour.

We will be kicking this off with our first Coffee Hour on September 9. The first session in the support group series will be held on September 23. Each of the sessions 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.

Cancer Support sessions are also offered. The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, from 5-7 p.m. in the Parish Office living room.

Please contact Vanessa Booth for more information about any of these Ministry of Consolation opportunities. vbooth@ssppcatholic.com

Wednesday, September 6, is our next potluck style luncheon after the 12:10 p.m. Mass. Lunch is served in the parish office living room, and all are welcome. Please let Deb Trierweiler (616-902-3473) know what dish you can bring to share.



Our parish Faith Formation Program for Grades K-9 begins on September 10!

Sessions will take place on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in our parish school. Registration forms are available on the table in the back of church and in the parish office. Please call the parish office with any questions. We ask your prayers for the growth of this vital ministry!

Our SS. Peter & Paul Parish Picnic, sponsored by K of C Council 944, is next Sunday, September 10, following an 11:30 a.m. bilingual Mass. (No 1:00 p.m. Misa en español that day)

The picnic will be held on the parish grounds (not at the Cardenas home as originally planned) and will begin about 1:00.

There will be yard games, train rides, Bingo with prizes, and a Cornhole Toss.

Food buffet will begin at 2:00. The Knights will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, beverages, and table settings. Please bring a dish to pass.

Please R.S.V.P by calling or texting 616-902-3473



Come rest awhile in the Lord's presence.

Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. in the church



SS. Peter & Paul Parish Garage Sale Update
There are SO MANY to thank for the success of our Parish Garage Sale this year!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our parish family members who were so generous in donating treasures for our sale! Because of your gifts, we realized more than \$2,200 in proceeds to benefit our parish general fund! An added bonus of this sale is that the unsold items go on to help many different organizations in our community. Thank you also to the many who came out and shopped our sale! We hope you found that special item you simply couldn't live without! Special thanks to our GARAGE SALE POWER TEAM who volunteered their time and energy in a variety of ways: Rod Bergeron, Zenon Cardenas, Roger Cardenas, Chris and Pilya Christensen, Roy and Debbie Conrad, Jackie Franz, Jaclyn Rewa, Joseph Rewa, Theresa Scholtens, Christine Strickling, Sharon Sullivan, Laurie Tjalsma, Glen and Deb Trierweiler, Christian Trierweiler, Nicole Trierweiler, and Mary Ziegler. Thank you, one and all!
—Toni McKay

JESUS, FEED ME SSPP Vacation Bible School Recap

Our first Parish Vacation Bible School was a wonderful success! Eighteen children gathered over the course of five Mondays this summer, focused on learning about Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. We chose our theme in accord with the Catholic Church's Eucharistic Revival. At each session, the children enjoyed hearing and discussing the Word of God, learned about a Saint, engaged in crafts and activities with a Eucharistic theme, played games, viewed video snip-its, and ate snacks – all relating to the Eucharist. Our final project was making a banner demonstrating that we receive the great gift of Jesus in the Eucharist as we come forward with our feet at Mass and receive Him with our hands. We then use our hands and our feet to take what we have received out into the world and share it by loving and serving others.

Thank you to our volunteer leader, Monica Mabe, and our grandparent assistant, Jane Hemenway, as well as to Jane Hemenway and Theresa Scholtens for making it possible for us to have VBS t-shirts printed, and, of course to all of the children and their families for participating! Enjoy the photos at the entrance to church, and the children's banner project, hanging either in the church or the entrance hallway to Apostles Hall in our school building. (At this writing, I am not sure in which location it will be displayed.) We look forward to our second Vacation Bible School experience next summer!
—Toni McKay