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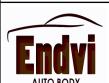
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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Phone: 616-527-3610 Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846

January 21, 2024 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Fr. Tom Brown

616-527-3610, ext. 12 616-755-1742 (evening)

School Principal: Mrs. Jenny Leik

616-527-3561, ext. 18 Email: ileik@ssppcatholic.com

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. (bilingual)

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.

Praver Chain

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

"When the Communists came into power in China, one of the things they wanted to do was suppress religion, especially Christianity. At one point they came to this village, took the priest, and locked him in the house next to the church. And then they went into the church and just destroyed the place. They turned over pews and they ripped the Bible.

The priest was sitting at the window, looking out of his rectory, watching helplessly as they destroyed the church.

At one point these soldiers took the tabernacle and they threw it out the window. It crashed through the window. hit the ground, and exploded open. The Eucharist fell out and scattered on the ground. Jesus' body, this body that was given for him, was discarded on the ground.

Because the priest was under house arrest, all he could do was stand there and keep watch with Jesus. So, he stood there, with the Eucharist on the ground outside his window.

As night fell, he saw this figure getting closer and closer. darting from shadow to shadow. And as it came closer. he recognized it was a 12-year-old girl from his parish. She had seen what the soldiers had done, and she had seen the Eucharist on the ground. So she waited until night fell, and she snuck back to the Eucharist. She was taught as a kid not to touch the Eucharist with your hands, so she knelt down and bent her face to the ground. She picked up the Eucharist off the ground with her tongue, stood up, and made the Sign of the Cross. She was also taught you only receive Communion once, so she got up and snuck away into the night.

The priest knew exactly how many consecrated hosts of the body of Christ were there. Night after night this girl kept coming back. She'd sneak toward the abandoned hosts, kneel down, receive the Eucharist off the ground. make the Sign of the Cross, get up, and run away into the night—until the last night.

The priest knew it was the last time, and he knew that after this she'd be safe. After this she wouldn't have to keep coming back and risking her life.

That last night, he saw her approaching as he was praying. She came closer and closer, knelt down, received Jesus off the ground with her tongue, and made the Sign of the Cross. The beautiful ritual brought the priest to

But, as the girl got up, she knocked something over and a noise echoed through the night. Her heart skipped a beat, and the priest's heart was seized with fear for the airl's safetv.

Two soldiers rushed to where she was. They saw what she was doing and beat the 12-year- old girl to death with the butts of their rifles."

> Father Mike Schmitz found this excerpt from 'Why do you do that?' in Beautiful Eucharist.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

JANUARY 21, 2024

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism!



AH = Apostles Hall
CR = Cornerstone Room
SC = School
BC = Basement Chapel

<u>CH</u> = Church <u>PO</u> = Parish Office <u>VR</u> = Veritas Room

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-9/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Saturday, January 20

4:00 p.m. Dr. Jack Buck (Jim & Joan Laws and Joe & Loretta Kirby)

Sunday, January 21

8:00 a.m. Jack Wirtz (Mary Jo Wirtz)

11:30 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

Monday, January 22—Day of Prayer for all human life

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Respect for all human life

Tuesday, January 23—St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

2 Sm 6:12-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7-10/Mk 3:31-35

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, January 24—St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-30/Mk 4:1-20

12:10 p.m. Peter & Edith Brown

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (in the Basement Chapel)

Thursday, January 25—The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Acts 22:3-16/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18

8:00 a.m. Celia Jackson

Friday, January 26—Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-8/Ps 96:1-3, 7-8, 10/Mk 4:26-34

7:30 a.m. Larry Listerman

Saturday, January 27—St. Angela Merici, Virgin

2 Sm 12:1-7, 10-17/Ps 51:12-17/Mk 4:35-41

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Saturday, January 27

4:00 p.m. Thomas Brockman (Paul & Jean Barker)

Sunday, January 28

8:00 a.m. The Saints Peter & Paul School Family 11:30 a.m. Dr. Jack Buck (Jim & Joan Laws and

Joe & Loretta Kirby)

1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS-WEEK OF JAN. 21

GENERAL CLEANING: Kip Geldhof, Colleen Pierce

VACUUMING: Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

Sunday, January 21

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

9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes PreK-HS K of C Free Throw Contest (Gym)

Monday, January 22

6:30 p.m. Monday Night Study Group (PO)

Tuesday, January 23

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

Wednesday, January 24

5-6:30 p.m. Hisp. Faith Formation (AH,VR,CR)

6:30-8 p.m. T.O.P.S. Session (VR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (AH)

Thursday, January 25

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

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

9:30-10:30 a.m. Grief Support Group (PO)

Sunday, January 28—Catholic Schools Week begins

9-10:30 a.m. CSW Breakfast (AH) 9:15 a.m. "Into the Breach" (VR)

9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation PreK-Gr 6 & H.S. Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor

Session (VR)

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

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. — Mark 1:15

OUR PARISH OFFERING - January 13 &14, 2024

 Regular Offertory Collection
 \$3,253.00

 Electronic Giving
 3,240.00

 Total
 \$6,493.00

 -5% Tithe
 -324.65

 Net Total
 \$6,168.35

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,519.23

Deficit for the Week: \$3,026.23

School Annual Appeal: \$250.00 School Support Fund: \$165.00

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Catholic Schools throughout the nation will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2024 from January 28-February 3. The theme is "United in Faith and Community." These are some of the ways that Saints Peter & Paul School will be celebrating the week.

Sunday, January 28: Celebrate Your Parish

Families attend Mass at SS. Peter & Paul at 8 a.m. CSW Breakfast hosted by the Family School Council Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

Monday, January 29: Celebrate Community

Cards will be made and delivered to local businesses that are anchors in our community.

Tuesday, January 30: Celebrate Students

Students watch live-stream of Mass from the Cathedral. 8th Graders attend the Mass in person.

Students view "Dolphin Tale" at the Ionia Theatre.
Students receive new Catholic Schools Week t-shirts.

Wednesday, January 31: Celebrate the Nation

Students wear red, white, and blue.

Service project for the Commission on Aging

Thursday, February 1: Celebrate Vocations

Students attend 8 a.m. CSW Mass at SS. Peter & Paul Students make cards for Fr. Tom and Deacon Cardenas.

Friday, February 2: Celebrate Faculty, Staff, & Volunteers

Students bring in thank-you notes or small tokens of appreciation for their teacher or a staff member.

Saturday, February 3: Celebrate Families

Euchre Tournament at Ionia Moose Lodge for adults

January 27 & 28, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Bill Trueblood Altar Servers: Jaclyn Rewa

EMs: Cecilia Luke, Garry & Mary Lou Mulick

Greeters: Volunteers

8:00 a.m. Lector: Steve O'Mara

Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Veronica Meyer,

Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Deb Porter 11:30 a.m. Lector: Monica Mabe Altar Servers: Lillian Mabe

EMs: Shannon Andrews, Theresa Scholtens,

Volunteer Greeters: Volunteers

Please pray for:

Amanda Eveleth

Martha Misak

Pat Brockman Todd Cooper Michelle Montgomery Charles Timm Pat McKinstry Jennifer Durden Russinda Rohde Beth Buffey Kathy Kranz Larry Lafler Landon Battle Tom McClintock Chuck Tarpey Marsha Packer Arlene Stanton Fr. Mark Mitchell Pat MacLachlan Renee Wagner Brittany Denker Michelle Richard-Mix Jim & Barb Mulnix Terri McClure Sue Huver Ken and Sherry North Jack & Sue LaPeer Rueger Eveleth Dave Erbes Margaret O'Malley Elizabeth Voet Nathan Lower Linda Jasman Sheila Jobbitt Debbie Flinn Jennifer Lewis Finnly Hunt Marv Kogelmann Isaac Fletcher Tamera Pierce Jamison Crynes Jerry & Maribeth Fritz Mary O'Connor Angie Cedillo Bruce Hoeksema Pam Garragon-Goss Tom White Pamela Coggan Gert Bennett Kym Coryell Joe Drysdale Jo Wirtz Carol Ardis Witney Fockler Terri Nurenberg Nichole Munsell Becky Wagner Jessica Fritz Jace Peterson Phill Wizorek Larry McKaig Georgia Sibert

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.

Cole LeBarre

Travis Eveleth

(616) 527-361
616-527-8942
ext. 10
ext. 11
ext. 13
616-527-3610
ext. 21
616-527-3610
616-527-3610

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

Tracey Bergeron Kevin Heinlein Ryan Walter
Cara Brownell Anna Johnson Rachel Wilson
Lauren Christensen Deb Trierweiler Allen Wizorek
Nik Discher



Knights' Corner

This Wednesday, January 24th, is the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales. He was the Bishop of Geneva during the time of the Protestant Reformation and was named a Doctor of the Church for

his wisdom and teaching. Here are a few samples of his advice:

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew."

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly."

"God takes pleasure to see you take your little steps; and like a good father who holds his child by the hand, He will accommodate His steps to yours and will be content to go no faster than you. Why do you worry?"

Free Throw Contest

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the 2024 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest this weekend.



The competition will be held on Sunday, January 21st, in the school gym. Enter through Door A, the main entrance on Baldie Street. Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m. and the competition starts at 1:00 p.m. Prizes include a brand new K of C basketball!

Exploring Priesthood Discernment Meetings

Discernment is a time of obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet with other young men (ages 16 and up) to gather and discern God's will for your life.

Meetings will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish, 750 Gladstone Dr. SE, East Grand Rapids, and are offered on the following Sundays in 2024: January 28, February 18, March 10, and April 21. Just show up, or email Pattie Reynolds at preynolds@grdiocese.org to register.

Questions? Contact Fr. Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations at sdurkee@grdiocese.org.

Our next two **Youth Group Nights** will be on Sundays, January 28 and February 11, 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

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray with us for the continued safety and comfort of our school families and staff as we navigate through the winter weather.

Join Bishop Walkowiak for the Mass for Life Monday, January 22, at 7 p.m. Cathedral of Saint Andrew

All are invited to join Bishop Walkowiak to pray for the legal protection of unborn children. Those attending Mass are invited to bring a donation for baby pantries in Grand Rapids and Muskegon run by Catholic Charities West Michigan.

Catholics also are encouraged to pray for an end to abortion during the Nine Days for Life novena beginning Thursday, January 16. Find the daily intentions in English and Spanish at usccb.org/resources/9-days-life-novena.

Resources to support moms and families may be found at GRdiocese.org/walking-with-moms

Middle School Youth Rally

All young disciples are invited to join other diocesan youth at the 2024 SHINE YOUTH RALLY at the 3 Mile Project on Sunday, March 24, 2024, from 1:00 to 6:30 p.m. This transformative event will bring you into a personal relationship with Jesus through inspiring talks, prayerful worship music, and dedicated times of prayer. The Eucharist will center our day as we place ourselves before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, inviting Jesus to speak to our hearts. Featuring former NFL QB David DenBraber and the John Trabbic Band.

To register, please call Deb Trierweiler at 616-902-3473. The early bird registration rate of \$30 ends on February 16.

Soup's On For All January 29, 6:30 p.m. – The B.O.B.

Don't miss out on delicious soups from local restaurants, live entertainment, homemade desserts and one fun night! All proceeds benefit Gods' Kitchen food programs. These programs gave out more than 70,000 free meals last year alone. Tickets are \$50 presale and \$60 at the door. Visit ccwestmi.org/soupson, or contact Karol Maurer at 616-356-6207 or kmaurer@ccwestmi.org to purchase tickets now!



Come rest awhile in the Lord's presence.

Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. in the Basement Chapel

Faith Formation

Open enrollment continues. Registration forms are on the table in the back of church. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com, or call the parish office at 616-527-3610. Please sign up for the REMIND APP to receive any class cancellations and updates: Faith Formation @adgedc.

All Faith Formation classes are held in the school on Sundays from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

January 21—Classes for PreK-High School

January 28—Classes for PreK-Gr.6 & High School January 28—Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30-6 p.m. (Apostles Hall)

February 4—Classes PreK-High School

Reminder: First Reconciliation Retreat is Saturday, February 24.



We invite you to help with our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) program during the 4 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses. No experience needed; we will train you! We need volunteers of all ages. For more information, please contact Barb Montgomery: lkydog67@yahoo.com, or Vanessa Booth: vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

The Ministry of Consolation is now offering:

Grief Support Series

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We are here to walk the journey with you. Sessions are held in the parish office living room on Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The next session will be held on January 27.

Cancer Support Sessions

Our next Cancer Support Session will be held on Wednesday, February 7, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Parish Office living room.

Email Vanessa Booth at wbooth@ssppcatholic.com for more information about either of these Ministry of Consolation opportunities, or if you are interested in private sessions.

SAVE THE DATE! Friday, February 9, 2024

10th Appual Winter Blues Party!



A STAR WARS themed fun evening for family & friends of all ages!

This year our theme sends us into the STARS to focus on the Divine Gift of the Power of the Holy Spirit!

Come dressed as your favorite STAR WARS character!

Fun Theme ~ White Elephant BINGO ~ Food ~ Snow Cones ~ Hot Chocolate Bar ~ Music ~ Piñata

Bring a dish or snack to share!

To participate in Bingo, please bring a prize valued at no more than \$5 for each elementary, junior high, or high school aged youth or adult person who plays. Place each prize in a paper lunch sack or wrapping paper, and indicate if it is for a male/female child or adult (indicate age category of each child). This is a perfect time to re-gift items you may have been given that would better suit someone else!

BE SURE TO WRAP YOUR PRIZE, AS WE ARE ADDING A "WHITE ELEPHANT" ELEMENT TO BINGO THIS YEAR!

A free-will offering will be accepted and appreciated to cover expenses of the event.



Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure is the active expression of our gratitude for the gifts God has given us. Our community will thrive and grow only when everyone participates in the mission.

The Saints Peter & Paul Parish Evangelization Team invites all our families to complete a Stewardship Commitment Pledge Form (found in each pew and at the entrances to church), and return it to the parish next weekend. Simply drop your form into the basket at the entrance to the church.