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Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Veritas Room  
 Rosary at 7:00 p.m.  
 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Grand Knight: Tom O'Connor

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# SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846  
 Phone: 616-527-3610  
 Website: [www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org](http://www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org)  
 Email: [parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com)

April 28, 2024  
 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

School Principal: Mrs. Jenny Leik  
 616-527-3561, ext. 18  
 Email: [jleik@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:jleik@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.

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

"On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples and said, 'Take and eat, this is My Body.' Then He took the cup, gave thanks and said, 'Take and drink, this is My Blood.'"

Since Christ Himself has declared the bread to be His Body, who can have any further doubt? Since He Himself has said, quite categorically, *this is My Blood*, who would dare to question it and say it is not His Blood? Therefore, it is with complete assurance that we receive the Bread and the Wine as the Body and the Blood of Christ. His Body is given to us under the appearance of bread, and His Blood is given to us under the appearance of wine, in order to make us, by receiving them, one Body and Blood with Him. Having His Body and Blood in ourselves, we become bearers of Christ. As St. Peter says, we are sharers in the divine nature.

This is important to remember. Normally when we eat food, it becomes part of us. The consumed food becomes our muscle and our bone. It is now part of our body. When we consume the Body and Blood of Jesus, that does not happen! Instead we become part of Him. We, our body and soul, become part of the Body of Christ. Jesus focused on this. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 6, He insisted, "Unless you eat My Flesh and drink My Blood you shall have no life in you." This horrified many of His followers. They thought He was encouraging them to practice cannibalism. So they left Him. Jesus let them leave! He didn't call them back! He didn't explain that He didn't really mean it, that it was just a symbol! Instead, He turned to His Apostles and asked them if they also wanted to leave. They didn't understand either. But they stayed. As St. Peter said, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that You are the Holy One of God."

Do not, then, regard the Eucharist as ordinary bread and wine. They are, in fact, the Body and Blood of the Lord, as He Himself declared. Whatever your senses may tell you, be strong in the faith. You have been taught, and you are firmly convinced, that what looks and tastes like bread and wine is not bread and wine, but the Body and Blood of Christ.

This is of great importance. Sometimes, someone will get upset with something the priest says or does. Or the music minister. Or the secretary. Or someone else in the parish. So they leave the parish. Think about this! Are you really ready to leave behind the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ because of something a human being has said or done?

Many years ago I did this. But I came back. I came back because I missed the Body and Blood of Jesus. What about you?

May God bless you!  
 Fr. Tom

*He is Risen!  
Alleluia!*



*The Week Ahead...*

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-28, 30-32/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

**Saturday, April 27**

4:00 p.m. First Communicants & their families

**Sunday, April 28**

8:00 a.m. Peter & Edith Brown  
 11:30 a.m. Melvin Finkler  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass—Hispanic First Communicants

**Monday, April 29—St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor**

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Elizabeth Bennett

**Tuesday, April 30—St. Pius V, Pope**

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Wednesday, May 1—St. Joseph the Worker**

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8

12:10 p.m. Earl Allen (Johanna Allen)  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

**Thursday, May 2—St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

8:00 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish (May Crowning)

**Friday, May 3—Saints Philip & James, Apostles**

1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14

7:30 a.m. Dennis Finkler

**Saturday, May 4—Easter Weekday**

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

**Saturday, May 4**

4:00 p.m. Greg Miller (Mike & Joan Boog)

**Sunday, May 5**

8:00 a.m. Jerry & Maribeth Fritz—61st Wedding Anniversary  
 11:30 a.m. Michelle Walsh (Susan Meyers)  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass  
 3:00 p.m. Marian Concert (CH)

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF APRIL 28**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

**Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen**

**VACUUMING:**

**Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen**

**Sunday, April 28**

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)  
 9:15 a.m. "Into the Breach" session (VR)  
 9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes PreK-HS  
 2:00 p.m. Cardoso 1st Communion Party (AH)  
 6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ (AH)

**Monday, April 29**

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

**Tuesday, April 30**

**Wednesday, May 1**

5-6:30 p.m. Hispanic Faith Formation (AH, VR, CR)  
 6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (AH)

**Thursday, May 2**

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

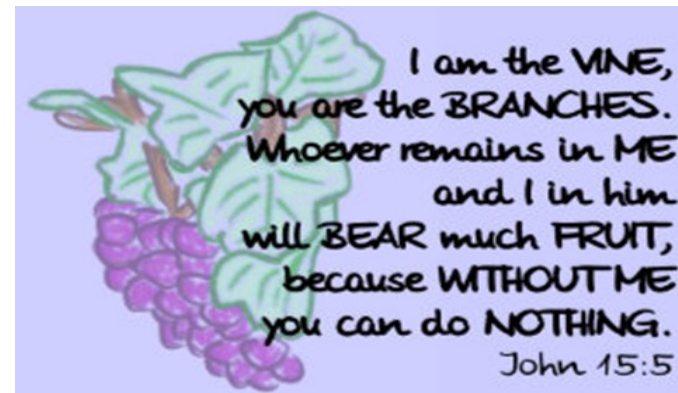
**Friday, May 3**

**Saturday, May 4**

9:30-11 a.m. Grief Support Group (PO)

**Sunday, May 5**

9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)  
 3:00 p.m. Marian Concert & Social (CH, AH)  
 6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ (AH)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING - April 20 & 21, 2024**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$6,537.73
Electronic Giving	1,310.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,847.73</b>
-5% Tithe	-392.39
Net Total	\$7,455.34

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,519.23  
**Deficit for the Week: \$1,671.50**

School Support Fund: \$155.00

*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.*



*We welcome to the table  
 these children who receive Jesus for  
 the first time  
 in Holy Communion  
 on Saturday, April 27, 2024  
 or Sunday, April 28, 2024*

- Cash Daniel Benavidez*
- Allison Ximena Benitez*
- Allison Aurora Cardoso-Saldana*
- Joaquin Pete Castillo*
- Rhett James Christensen*
- Reagan Catherine Crooks*
- Kendall Ray Flanigan*
- Anna Marie Fletcher*
- Mateo Garcia-Duran*
- Hans Karl Heinlein*
- Angelin Hernandez-Maldonado*
- David Hernandez-Maldonado*
- William Clark Reeder*
- Louise Lillian Rowley*

**May 4 & 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter**

4:00 p.m. Lector: Cecilia Luke  
 Altar Servers: Emma & Isaac Fletcher,  
 Jaclyn Rewa  
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Sue Wizorek  
 Greeters: Pat Brockman

11:30 a.m. Lector: Shannon Andrews  
 Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey  
 EMs: Vanessa Booth, Monica Mabe,  
 Theresa Scholtens  
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer  
 Altar Servers: Paul & Sam Meyer  
 EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Veronica Meyer  
 Greeters: Judy Hamblin

***Please pray for:***

- |                       |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Glen Alvord           | Becky Wagner         | Larry McKaig           |
| Julie McClintock      | Phill Wizorek        | Cole LeBarre           |
| Lindsay Shellenbarger | Amanda Eveleth       | Travis Eveleth         |
| Heather Rensi         | Martha Misak         | Charles Timm           |
| Cherie Flinn          | Todd Cooper          | Kathy Kranz            |
| Pamela Pontius        | Jennifer Durden      | Larry Lafler           |
| Anita Hozeski Scott   | Beth Buffey          | Arlene Stanton         |
| Karen Miller          | Tom McClintock       | Pat MacLachlan         |
| Pat Brockman          | Chuck Tarpey         | Jim & Barb Mulnix      |
| Pat McKinstry         | Renee Wagner         | Ken and Sherry North   |
| Russinda Rohde        | Michelle Richard-Mix | Rueger Eveleth         |
| Landon Battle         | Sue Huver            | Nathan Lower           |
| Marsha Packer         | Margaret O'Malley    | Debbie Flinn           |
| Fr. Mark Mitchell     | Sheila Jobbitt       | Finnly Hunt            |
| Jack & Sue LaPeer     | Jennifer Lewis       | Isaac Fletcher         |
| Elizabeth Voet        | Jamison Crynes       | Jerry & Maribeth Fritz |
| Linda Jasman          | Mary O'Connor        | Tom White              |
| Marv Kogelmann        | Pam Garragon-Goss    | Pamela Coggan          |
| Tamera Pierce         | Kym Coryell          | Joe Drysdale           |
| Angie Cedillo         | Carol Ardis          | Nichole Munsell        |
| Jo Wirtz              | Terri Nurenberg      | Jace Peterson          |
| Witney Fockler        | Jessica Fritz        | 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.*

**SS. Peter & Paul Parish Staff (616) 527-3610**

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
Faith Formation	Vanessa Booth	ext. 21
Maintenance	Rod Bergeron	616-527-3610
Cemetery Sexton	Aaren Perry	616-527-3610

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

[www.ssppcatholic.com](http://www.ssppcatholic.com)

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

**SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Pastoral Council**

Shannon Andrews	Deb Campbell	Deb Trierweiler
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**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, May 1st, is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. St. Joseph is our best example of the kind of men that the Knights of Columbus try to be. We have no words of his recorded in the gospels, but we see his faithfulness, his care for his family, and his work, all of which speak volumes. He was a good man, chosen to be the earthly father of our Lord, and he clearly did a good job! May we take our example from him and call upon him for help in our lives as husbands, fathers, workers, and men of faith.

This Sunday is our final *Into the Breach* meeting. Our topic is "The Cornerstone," and we would love to have any man in the parish join us. We will be in the Veritas Room at 9:15 a.m.

**Catholic Schools Art Show**

Student artwork from 20 of our Catholic schools (including SS. Peter & Paul-Ionia) will be on display at Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids, on Friday, May 3, from 3:30 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking is available in the parking garage next to the building. We hope you will join us!

Save the date—May 5, 2024

**Saints Peter & Paul Annual Marian Concert**  
3:00 p.m. in the church

**Mass Intention Requests**

Offering a Mass for a special intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. Masses are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory; in remembrance of someone who is deceased; for someone who is ill; for someone celebrating a special occasion. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention, please call the parish office. The typical offering is \$10.

**Foster Parents Needed!**

Catholic Charities West Michigan is in desperate need of caring individuals to open their home to a foster child and show children the love they deserve. For more information, please contact Alix Wanlass at [awanlass@ccwestmi.org](mailto:awanlass@ccwestmi.org).

**Discerning the Diaconate Meetings**

Is God calling you to discern a vocation to become a deacon? The Office of Diaconate Formation invites men with interest or questions about discernment and formation to an informational session on Monday, May 6, at Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. To RSVP or learn more, contact Deacon Jerry Roersma, director of diaconate formation, at 616-288-0913 or [jroersma@grdiocese.org](mailto:jroersma@grdiocese.org)

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray with us for our children receiving the Eucharist for the first time this weekend. May they always follow the way of truth and light.

**Monday Night Study Group**  
begins new study adventure!

**What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?**  
**An Interactive Bible Study**  
beginning this Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.  
in the parish office living room

Our "Fearless" video series was an amazing spiritual enrichment exercise! As this series concludes, we are looking forward to beginning our new Scripture study adventure with "The Chosen" TV series. Our weekly study will parallel each episode and connect participants to the Bible in an engaging way. All are welcome to join in! To reserve your study materials (\$12) contact Toni at the parish office.

**What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?**

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far reaching implications—although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.

**Life-Giving Wounds**, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to the spiritual healing of adult children of divorce or separation, is offering a retreat May 17-19 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI. The cost is \$225 and includes lodging, all meals, and materials for the weekend. The retreat includes presentations, guided small group discussions, Mass, Adoration, and opportunities for Confession. Come for a greater understanding of the wounds left by your parents' divorce or separation, for advice concerning love and trust of others, and for an experience of Christ and community that will lead to deeper self-understanding and healing. Register here: <http://bit.ly/3VKRvwo>

**Project Rachel**

The grief over an abortion experience is often so deep that it remains silent. Women and men may bear this burden for years, thinking that there is no hope for peace or forgiveness. Project Rachel offers private and compassionate support, at no charge, for anyone who is suffering after an abortion experience. Contact Project Rachel at 616-340-1824 or [projectrachel@ccwestmi.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccwestmi.org).

Faith Formation

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

- April 26—1st Communion Retreat 7:40—2:30
- April 27—1st Communion at 4 p.m. Mass
- April 28—Last Faith Formation Classes for the year
- April 28—Hispanic 1st Communion at 1 p.m. Mass
- May 4—1st Communion Retreat for 2nd group 11 a.m.–12 noon in the Veritas Room
- June 1—1st Communion for 2nd group at 4 p.m. Mass

For information about registering for fall classes or becoming a classroom helper, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or call the parish office at 616-527-3610.

**The Ministry of Consolation is now offering:**

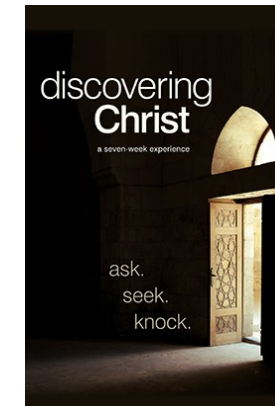
**Grief Support Series**

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We 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. Sessions are held in the parish office living room on Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Our next session will be on Saturday, May 4.

**Health Support Group**  
**(formerly known as Cancer Support Group)**

Are you or a family member struggling with cancer or another serious health issue? No matter where you are in your health journey, we are here for you. Our support group, formerly known as the Cancer Support Group, is now reaching out to invite anyone who is facing a serious health challenge. Team members of the Ministry of Consolation will be offering Health Support gatherings on a monthly basis. Our first session under the new name will be on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Parish Office living room. All are welcome to attend.

For more information about any of these Ministry of Consolation opportunities, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or call the parish office at 616-527-3610.



**Training for DISCOVERING CHRIST volunteers** continues this Sunday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. in Apostles Hall, and will conclude with the final training session on Sunday, May 5, same time and place. Dinner will not be served for the training sessions, but hospitality, snacks, and drinks will be available. It's not too late for you to "come and see"! You are personally invited to

join us as we explore the various opportunities available, in the areas of small group facilitator, small group helper, greeter, hospitality/dinner crew, intercessory prayer, evangelization/marketing, registration, and technology support. We hope to see you there!

**DISCOVERING CHRIST** program sessions will begin in the fall on Sunday, September 22, 2024, and will continue every Sunday from then on through November 10. Sessions will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Apostles Hall, our school cafeteria. The October 27 session will occur in the form of a retreat, scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Edward Parish in Lake Odessa.

*Please pray for our "Discovering Christ" program, and for its leaders and participants.*

Heavenly Father, You formed us and You know us.  
Teach us how to pray.  
Come to our aid in our weakness.

You who love all and sustain all, probe the hearts of those farthest from you and lead them to an encounter with You.

Use us Jesus, as Your messengers.

Guide us, Father to speak Your truth with compassion and clarity.

Fill us, Holy Spirit, so we may know and act according to the will of God.

Mother Mary, pray for us as we strive to serve as ambassadors for your Son.

All holy men and women, pray for us as we respond to the Lord's invitation to proclaim the Good News.

Holy Father, we are Your children, but we know that there are many people in our communities who don't know they have a Heavenly Father.

We pray You would guide them to come to these Discovering Christ sessions, and that You would soften their hearts to receive the truth of Your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



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

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