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 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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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

April 7, 2024 Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

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

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.

Jesus is alive! He is alive! He is risen!

It has been a week since we celebrated that Jesus Christ is risen and alive. He appears to his Apostles, who at first don't believe. They think they are seeing a ghost. But they are not. He really is alive. They see him, touch him, watch him eat, and then, finally convinced, they rejoice in talking with him. But there was one missing. Thomas was not there. So, a week later, Jesus comes again and has to convince Thomas that he is real, that he is alive. Thomas replies, "My Lord and My God!" This faith of ours is real. It is not subjective, but objective. It is a real, deep, and practical relationship with our living Lord who died and then rose for us.

The Apostles had gone to Galilee, where Jesus would meet with them. They were excited to see Jesus, but also fearful. Peter was afraid because he had denied knowing Jesus. The others were afraid because they had run away when Jesus was arrested. It is much the same for us. We have done things in our lives that greatly offend Jesus. We love him, but we are also embarrassed. We want to see him, yet we stay at a distance. We wonder what his first words to us will be.

This is why we have the feast day of Divine Mercy Sunday. Coming on the very first Sunday after Easter, it proclaims that the mercy of Jesus is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners. He invites us to trust him. He taught us, through Sister Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, "Jesus, I trust in you!" Our Lord said, "Do you think you have written enough about my divine mercy? What you have written is but a drop in the ocean. I am Love and Mercy itself. There is no misery that could be a match for my mercy; neither will misery exhaust it, because it is being granted. It even increases. The soul which will trust in my mercy is most fortunate because I myself take care of it."

So Jesus' love for us is infinite. But He does not force himself on us. He invites. He pleads. He even begs us to come and seek his mercy. But he does not force it. "Today I am sending you with my mercy to the whole world," says our Lord. "I do not want to punish mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart. I use punishment when they themselves force me to do so. My hand is reluctant to take hold of the sword of justice. Before the day of justice I am sending the day of mercy."

Jesus sends us his mercy. Remember the story in the Bible about the prodigal son? How the youngest son went off wasting his inheritance and then, broke and penniless, decides to return home? He did not yet have mercy. First he had to return home. We return home when we come to the sacrament of Confession. Second, the prodigal son spoke of being treated as a slave, saying he no longer deserved to be treated as a son, and asked for forgiveness. We come into the confessional and acknowledge our sins. "Forgive me for I have sinned. My sins are. . ." It was then that the father extended forgiveness. Jesus grants us forgiveness. He proclaims us to be a child of heaven and pours out grace on us. Let us proclaim his love and mercy, saying "Jesus, I trust in 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

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Saturday, April 6

4:00 p.m. Intention of Jessica Fritz (Jerry & Maribeth Fritz)

Sunday, April 7

8:00 a.m. Dennis Spitzley (Tom & Julie Bennett)
 11:30 a.m. Dilly Kay Perpich (Philip Thelen)
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

Monday, April 8—The Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 11:00 a.m. Confessions
 12:10 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

Tuesday, April 9—Easter Weekday

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Jn 3:7-15
 7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, April 10—Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21
 12:10 p.m. Sr. Phyllis
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

Thursday, April 11—St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36
 8:00 a.m. Bertha Meier

Friday, April 12—Easter Weekday

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
 7:30 a.m. Ray Dietrich

Saturday, April 13—St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9

Saturday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Philip Fox (Carol Fox)

Sunday, April 14

8:00 a.m. Deceased of William & Katherine Spitzley family
 11:30 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF APRIL 7

GENERAL CLEANING:

Beth Alberda, Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

VACUUMING:

Beth Alberda, Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

Sunday, April 7

9-10:30 a.m. No Faith Formation Classes
 9:15 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)
 9:15 a.m. "Into the Breach" session (VR)
 RCIA (PO)

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, April 10

5-6:30 p.m. Hispanic Faith Formation (AH, VR, CR)
 5:30-7 p.m. Cancer Support Session (PO)
 6:00 p.m. Family School Council Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (AH)

Thursday, April 11

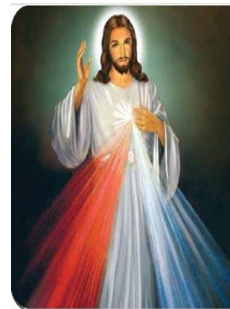
Friday, April 12

SSPP Kindergarten Round-up

Saturday, April 13

Sunday, April 14

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 PreK-High School
 6:00 p.m. ICT Board Meeting (VR)



**Jesus,
I Trust In You!**

OUR PARISH OFFERING - March 30 & 31, 2024

Regular Offertory Collection	\$8,411.00
Electronic Giving	4,965.00
Total	\$13,376.00
-5% Tithe	-668.80
Net Total	\$12,707.20

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,519.23

Surplus for the Week: \$3,856.77

School Support Fund: \$20.00

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.

Message of Divine Mercy

In the 1920s and 1930s, Jesus frequently appeared to a young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, speaking to her of his Divine Mercy. He asked her to proclaim his mercy everywhere by means of devotions he revealed to her: the image of Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the Feast of Divine Mercy, and the novena in preparation for the feast. In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina and proclaimed that the Sunday after Easter would henceforth be celebrated as the Feast of the Divine Mercy. In 2002, the Church announced that a plenary indulgence would be granted to the faithful who, under the usual conditions of Confession, Communion, and prayers for the Holy Father, "would observe this day with intense devotion."

The image of Divine Mercy is one of the risen Christ clothed in a white garment, with his right hand raised in blessing. His left hand is touching his garment near his heart, from which two large rays come forth, one red and the other pale. The two rays denote the blood and water which came forth from Jesus' side when it was pierced by a lance, signifying the cleansing and life-giving sacraments made available to us through Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross. Under the image are inscribed these words: **Jesus, I Trust in You.**

April 13 & 14, Third Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. Lector: Bill Trueblood
 Altar Servers: Autumn/Kendall/Kyle Cusack
 EMs: Cecilia Luke, Phill & Sue Wizorek
 Greeters: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick

11:30 a.m. Lector: Kevin Kenney
 Altar Servers: Shyla Johnson, Lillian Mabe
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Vanessa Booth, Monica Mabe
 Greeters: Pamela Pontius

8:00 a.m. Lector: Walt Downes
 Altar Servers: Claire/Gabe/Anna Cusack
 EMs: Veronica Meyer, Denise Peabody, Laurie Tjalsma
 Greeters: Julie Bennett

Please pray for:

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

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

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

At our meeting this week, we reported a net profit of \$5,300 from our Lenten fish dinners and \$2,300 from our pie sales. This will allow us to support many requests from worthy organizations in our community. We approved \$340 for the school to provide "Time for Kids" subscriptions to our lower elementary students, and \$1,200 to the parish to install a handrail near the ambo in church.

We plan to hold an exemplification ceremony in the near future for men joining the Knights. If you have been thinking about joining us, this is a great opportunity!

Congratulations to our April raffle winners—Molly Dow, Tom and Carol O'Connor, Tom Cusack, and Tim Wizorek.



If you were saving money in a Rice Bowl this past Lent, now is the time to turn it in! Please count your money and write a check for the amount to SS. Peter & Paul, with "Rice Bowl" on the memo line.

You may place your check (or cash or coin) in the basket near Mary's altar. The funds will be sent to Catholic Relief Services and used to feed people both locally and around the world. Thank you for supporting this important work!

Exploring Priesthood Discernment Meetings

Considering the priesthood? The Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet with other young men (ages 16+) to gather and discern God's will for your life. The last meeting for the 2023-24 school year will take place on Sunday, April 21, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish, 750 Gladstone Dr. S.E., East Grand Rapids. Just show up, or email Pattie Reynolds at preynolds@grdiocese.org, to R.S.V.P. Questions? Contact Fr. Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations, at sdurkee@grdiocese.org.

Will you offer your loving home to a child?

Catholic Charities West Michigan, through a federal grant, will be serving unaccompanied children in response to the crisis at the border. These children need a temporary, safe place to sleep, warm meals, and somewhere they can feel the security of a family. If you are interested in joining Catholic Charities in caring for these vulnerable children for a short time (less than a month), they will be holding a **bilin-gual virtual informational meeting on April 24 at 6 p.m.** To register, contact Mandi Thome at mthome@ccwestmi.org / 616-287-3068, or Arianna Velazquez-Amado at avamado@ccwestmi.org / (616) 644-2844.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray with us as we return to the classroom. May we put our faith into action by reaching out to those in need, particularly those isolated and lonely.



**STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST,
RESPONDING WITH JOY.**

Diocese of Grand Rapids
Catholic Services Appeal

We are continuing to make progress on our Catholic Services Appeal. We sent in another batch this week, bringing our total to 62 pledges for \$25,146.75. To those who have responded so far, thank you! To those who have not, please make yours this week! If you prefer, pledges can be made online at grdiocese.org.

The annual Saints Peter & Paul Auction

is coming up soon! The Luau themed event will be held on Saturday, April 20th, at the Ionia Armory. Tickets are available in the school and parish offices and from auction committee members. The \$30 tickets include entry to the event, dinner, and draft beer. Mark your calendar for this awesome event!

Women's Day of Reflection

Join women from throughout the diocese for a day of reflection as we enter spring. The event will be held at St. Mary Parish, Spring Lake, on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please join us as we welcome our special guest, Kathryn Mulderink, for this special day of prayer, reflection, and confession. Registration fee is \$15 and includes morning reception and lunch. Tickets are available at stmarysl.org or on the parish Facebook page.

**Grand Rapids & Kalamazoo Dioceses
Knights of Columbus
Food Packing Event**

Provide nutritious meals for children and families in developing countries.

Share God's love by putting your faith into action.

Come and pack 60,000 meals with us!

Saturday, April 20, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Holy Redeemer Parish Gym
2700 Baldwin St., Jenison MI 49428

For more information or to sign up today, please contact:

Paul Kwiatkowski at 616-581-3157
or gk7487@mikofc.org

This event is facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach.

Faith Formation

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

April 7—Spring Break. No classes.

April 14—Classes PreK-High School

April 21—Classes PreK-High School

April 26—1st Communion Retreat in the school
7:40 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

April 27—1st Communion at 4 p.m. Mass

April 28—Hispanic 1st Communion at 1 p.m. Mass

April 28—Last Faith Formation Classes for the year

If you have a child or other family member who would like to catch up on their sacraments, please email Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or call the parish office at 616-527-3610. We are currently working with a few families and would love for you to join us.

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 series will begin on April 20.

Cancer Support Sessions

All those touched by cancer in any way are invited to join our new discussion series on love, grace, and gratitude. Our next Cancer Support Session is on Wednesday, April 10, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the parish office living room.

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

Eucharistic



Adoration

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

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Transform your marriage and your faith at a World-wide Marriage Encounter experience. Retreat weekends are scheduled for April 12-14 at St. Francis Retreat Center-DeWitt; and June 11-13 at Maryville in Holly. Apply at wwme.org or call Chris and Darla Vinton at 517-667-0433.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Sharing Group**

If you have ever attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience in the past, we invite you to join our sharing group. We meet at St. Edward's on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7 p.m. in the parish basement. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris and Darla Vinton at 410-487-5226.

Our Monday Night Study Group invites you to attend **Fearless: a 7-week Video Series with Chris Stefanick.** On Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Living Room, we will view and discuss **Lesson 6—Fear of Being Canceled with Paul J. Kim, Evangelist.** All are welcome!

The Second Sunday of Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The **Chaplet of the Divine Mercy** is a beautiful prayer form that invokes God's mercy on ourselves and others. It is prayed using traditional rosary beads in the following manner:

1. Begin by praying 3 times: **O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.**
2. Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
3. On the single "Our Father" beads before each decade, pray: **Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.**
4. On the ten "Hail Mary" beads of each decade, pray: **For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**
5. End the chaplet by praying three times: **Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

You may pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at any time. Some people pray it as part of a Novena from Good Friday through the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday. Others pray it daily at the 3:00 p.m. "Hour of Mercy", when Jesus died on the cross.