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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)

**May 12, 2024**  
**The Ascension**  
**of the Lord**

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.

According to the Gospel of St. Luke, the last gesture of Jesus during his life here on earth was to give a blessing. The Eleven disciples had gone, as Jesus told them to, from Galilee to the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. On seeing the risen Lord once more, they fell down before him as their Master and their God and worshipped him. Now they are much more conscious of what they had believed in their hearts and confessed with their lips: that their Master was the promised Messiah. They were delighted and full of joy at having their Lord and God so near. After the forty days spent in his company, they could be witnesses to what they had seen and heard. The Holy Spirit would confirm in them the teachings of Jesus and would lead them to the complete truth.

Jesus spoke to them as only God could. "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus confirmed the faith of those who worshipped him and taught them that the power they were receiving was a sharing in his own divine power. The power to forgive sins. The power to bring about a rebirth through Baptism. This is the power of Christ himself, and now he is giving it to his Church. The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Christ, to teach people divine truths, to make known the demands these truths impose, and to help people follow God's way through the grace of the sacraments.

Jesus said the them, "You shall receive power from on high when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When He had said this, as they were looking on, He was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. St. Luke describes this to us in the Acts of the Apostles. He withdrew from their sight little by little. The Apostles stayed there for a long while, looking up as Jesus ascended majestically until a cloud took Him out of their presence. It was the cloud that signified the presence of God. St. John Chrysostom says the cloud was a sign that Jesus had entered heaven.

Jesus' life on earth finished, not with his death on the cross, but with his Ascension into Heaven. It is the last of the Rosary mysteries of his life here on earth. It is a redemptive mystery which, together with his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, makes up the Paschal mystery. It was fitting that those who saw Christ die amid insults, scoffing, and mockery on the Cross should see Him now exalted. They see fulfilled now the words Jesus had spoken to them: "I am ascending now to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." He has gone to send to them, and to us, the Holy Spirit!

Jesus has gone to the Father. Two angels in white approach and say, "Why do you stand looking up to heaven?" Peter and the others return to Jerusalem with great joy. It is fitting that Jesus should receive the homage and praise of all in heaven! Let us here on earth join in with them!

May God richly 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

**The Ascension of the Lord**

*Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mk 16:15-20*

**Saturday, May 11**

4:00 p.m. Fr. John Ardis—34th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

**Sunday, May 12**

8:00 a.m. Ed Mileski (K of C Council 944)  
 11:30 a.m. Bertha Meijer  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

**Monday, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima**

*Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/Jn 16:29-33*  
 11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Ray Dietrich

**Tuesday, May 14—St. Matthias, Apostle**

*Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17*  
 7:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Wednesday, May 15—St. Isidore**

*Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36/Jn 17:11-19*  
 12:10 p.m. Sam Barnett  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

**Thursday, May 16—Easter Weekday**

*Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26*  
 8:00 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

**Friday, May 17—Easter Weekday**

*Acts 25:13-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19*  
 7:30 a.m. Daniel Brown

**Saturday, May 18—St. John I, Pope & Martyr**

*Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4-5, 7/Jn 21:20-25*  
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 1:00 p.m. Baptisms of Isaias & Ismael Duran  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Pentecost Sunday**

*Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1,24, 29-31, 34/1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23*

**Saturday, May 18**

4:00 p.m. Dick Bigelow (Hemenway family)

**Sunday, May 19**

8:00 a.m. Bruce Hoeksema (Kurt & Laurie Tjalsma)  
 11:30 a.m. Intention of our High School Graduates  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF MAY 12**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

Pat Duffy, Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter

**VACUUMING:**

Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

**Sunday, May 12—The Ascension of the Lord**

9-10:30 a.m. Mother's Day Breakfast (AH)  
 9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)

**Monday, May 13**

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

**Tuesday, May 14**

5:00 p.m. Finance Council (VR)  
 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

**Wednesday, May 15**

6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (AH)

**Thursday, May 16**

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

**Friday, May 17**

11:00 a.m. 1st Grade Manners Luncheon (VR)

**Saturday, May 18**

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

**Sunday, May 19—Pentecost Sunday**

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)  
 9:15 a.m. RCIA (PO)  
 11:30 a.m. High School Graduates at 11:30 Mass  
 6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)



*Ascension*  
OF THE LORD

**OUR PARISH OFFERING - May 4 & 5, 2024**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$7,434.00
Electronic Giving	1,310.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,744.00</b>
-5% Tithe	-437.20
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$8,306.80</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,519.23

**Deficit for the Week: \$775.23**

School Support Fund: \$150.00  
 Cemetery: \$295.00

*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.*

**Mother's Day Blessing**

Holy God,  
 you compared your own love for your people to the love of a mother for her children.

Look with kindness on our mother who has shared in your creating love by the gift of her children.

We thank you for the joys and sorrows of her life, the giving and sharing, and, especially for your love that has formed us in your image.

Listen to our prayers and bless the mother who has nurtured and sustained us.

Give her patience in abundance and let her find joy and satisfaction in all her work.

Glory and praise to you, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, and who reigns with you in the glory of heaven, for ever and ever. Amen.

*—Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*



**May 18 & 19, Pentecost Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Lector: Kara Griffith  
 Altar Servers: Jaclyn Rewa  
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Mary Perrien  
 Greeters: Volunteers

11:30 a.m. Lector: Monica Mabe  
 Altar Servers: Shyla Johnson, Lillian Mabe  
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Theresa Scholtens, Volunteer  
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

8:00 a.m. Lector: Denise Peabody  
 Altar Servers: Claire/Gabe/Anna Cusack  
 EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Laurie Tjalsma  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

*Please pray for:*

Glen Alvord	Phill Wizorek	Cole LeBarre
Julie McClintock	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
Becky Wagner	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](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**

At our meeting this week, we approved a donation to the Mid-Michigan Coalition for Life, which will have two booths at the Free Fair this summer. We also approved a donation to the Fire Safety program that Public Safety offers to area schools, and one to IM Safe which helps vulnerable children in our area.

Congratulations to our May raffle winners: Jenny Werner, Sue Kessler, Karen Huhn, and Colleen Pierce.

**Youth Group Night**

Our last Youth Group Night of the current school year will be on Sunday, May 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. It will be a special night for our seniors as we wish them the best as they graduate from high school. As always, students in grades 8 through 12 are welcome. Bring a friend!

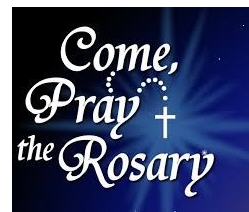
--Kevin Heinlein



Come have breakfast with us!

All are welcome!

Sunday, May 12th  
9-10:30 a.m.  
in Apostles Hall



We invite you to join us as we pray the Rosary together, beginning 30 minutes before the start of the 4 p.m., 8 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses in May. **Volunteers are needed to lead the Rosary.** If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of church or call Yolanda Preston at 616-560-3945.

**A Flower Shower for Mary at Masses on Mother's Day Weekend**

On Mother's Day we honor all mothers, including the Blessed Virgin Mary. You are invited to bring an offering of flowers to Mass in honor of our Blessed Mother on the weekend of May 11 & 12. Before Mass begins, you may present the flowers at Mary's altar. If you'd like and are able, bring extra flowers to share! Let us shower all mothers with love and thanksgiving on their special day.

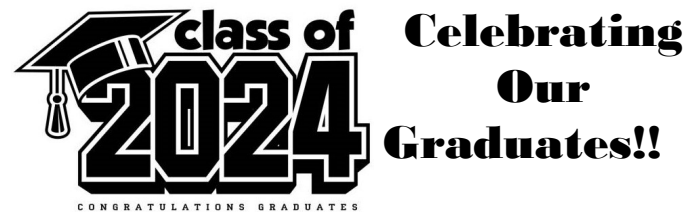
**Panther Prayer Corner**

As we draw closer to the end of the school year, please pray with us that our students and staff will maintain their focus on learning and growing closer to the Lord.

**Monday Night Study Group  
6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Living Room**

**What Does It Mean to be Chosen?  
An Interactive Bible Study**

We have begun our new Scripture study adventure with "The Chosen" TV series. Our weekly study parallels each episode and connects 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.



The Saints Peter and Paul Parish family would like to recognize and celebrate our 2024 high school graduates on Sunday, May 19, at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. All 12<sup>th</sup> grade students registered with our parish have been mailed a special invitation. Included in this invitation is a request for a photo of the graduate that we can include in our special graduation section of the bulletin on that weekend. Please send photos, along with your RSVP form, to the parish office by Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to include our college graduates' information and photos. If you know of someone from our community who has or will be graduating from college this spring (or last fall), please contact Toni McKay at the parish office as soon as possible.



**Saints Peter & Paul  
Annual Garage Sale  
Friday and Saturday, July 26-27  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

We invite you to donate your gently used and no-longer-needed treasures to our sale. You may drop them off at the parish garage, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but please call (616-527-3610) and let us know you are coming. All proceeds from the sale will benefit our parish ministries. Thank you for your generosity!

**Helpers are needed!** Any time you can give is appreciated, even if just a couple of hours! Contact Toni at the parish office if you can help.

Faith Formation

June 1—1st Communion for 2nd group at 4 p.m. Mass

June 2—Catechist Appreciation Brunch 9-11 a.m. in the parish office living room

TBA—Summer Confirmation Retreat

Regular classes will start up again in mid-September. For information about registering or becoming a classroom helper, please contact Vanessa: [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 2 sessions will be on May 18 and June 1.

**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 next session will be on Wednesday, June 12 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.

**Summer Opportunities for Children**

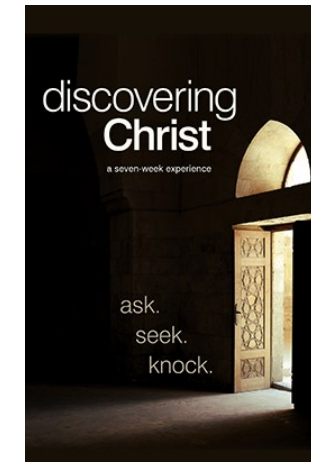
This summer, bring your children to the Franciscan Life Process Center, Lowell Campus, 11650 Downes St. NE, for Genres & Jammin', June 10-12, July 8 - 10, or August 5-7; Pioneer Days, June 17-20, June 24-27 or August 5 - 8; and Summer Art Experience, July 29-31.

Go to [www.lifeprocesscenter.org](http://www.lifeprocesscenter.org) to learn more.



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

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



Our final training for **Discovering Christ** volunteers was on May 5.

**DISCOVERING CHRIST** program sessions will begin in the fall on Sunday, September 22, 2024, and will continue every Sunday through November 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Apostles Hall. The October 27 session will be in the form of a retreat scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. in Lake Odessa.

**Magnificat Magazine Subscriptions**

Magnificat is a monthly Catholic magazine that provides daily readings, reflections, and prayers for personal use. You can see a sample copy on their website, [www.magnificat.com](http://www.magnificat.com). The cost of an individual annual subscription, which includes both the magazines and online access to them, sent directly to your home, is \$49. Bulk subscriptions of 10 or more sent to the same address cost \$39 per subscription, but there is no online access. A parishioner, Deb Trierweiler, has asked if our parish might offer a bulk subscription to Magnificat magazine. Deb will notify subscribers when she receives the magazines each month and place them in the back of church for subscribers to pick up. If you are interested in going in on the plan for a bulk subscription, please call the parish office (616-527-3610) by May 20. \*\*\*Please note that current individual subscribers who join our bulk subscription may get duplicate magazines until their current subscriptions expire.

**PSIC Baby Bottle Drive**

You are invited to participate in the *Baby Bottle Drive* sponsored by *Pregnancy Services of Ionia County (PSIC)*. In the words of *Matthew Haskins, Executive Director of PSIC*:

"Our Baby Bottle Drive is a simple yet powerful way to engage your congregation in supporting women and families in need. **Here's how it works:**

**Bottle Distribution:** We will deliver empty baby bottles to your church **on Mother's Day.**

**Collection:** Congregation members take a bottle home and fill it with coins (or bills and checks) over the course of the drive.

**Bottle Pickup:** We will arrange to pick up the filled bottles from your church **on Father's Day.**

The funds collected will directly support the essential services we provide at PSIC to women and families, helping to meet their immediate needs and introduce them to the transformative love of Christ."