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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)

**September 22, 2024**  
**Twenty-Fifth 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: [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.

**Angels and Satan**

How much do you think about the angels? Not very much, if any? For some people, angels are not much more than a childhood memory similar to the tooth fairy or the Easter bunny. For others, the word pulls up an image of Clarence, the harmless, slightly bumbling elderly angel from *It's a Wonderful Life* who has not yet managed to earn his wings. And some people think of them as spirits who are limited to the halls of heaven where they worship God night and day.

Angels do worship God, but they also do much, much more. They are God's faithful servants, always ready to do anything for Him. Next Sunday, September 29, is normally the feast day for the archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, but because it is a Sunday, they will be skipped in favor of the 26th Sunday of the year. Pope Gregory the Great talked about the angels in a homily saying, "The word angel denotes a function, not a nature. Those holy spirits of heaven have always been spirits. We call them angels when they are sent on a mission by God. Those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels, and those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels." So it was that it was an archangel Gabriel who was sent to the Virgin Mary to ask if she would be willing to become the mother of Jesus. It was fitting that this great message would be brought by an archangel!

The names given to the angels denote their ministry when they are sent to us. Gabriel is called the "Strength of God", Raphael is "God's Remedy", and Michael means "Who is like God?" Gabriel, who is called God's Strength, is always present as the bearer of good news. In addition to his message to Our Mother Mary, he also announced to Zechariah that he and his wife would be the parents of a child they were to name John. There is no greater delight in a family than the birth of a child. But Zechariah didn't believe and was struck dumb until after the child was born and named John. And the best announcement, of course, was the upcoming birth of our Savior! Thus God's Strength spoke of the mighty power of our Lord. Raphael, God's Remedy, brings messages and actions of healing. He touched the eyes of Tobit to cure him, banishing the darkness of his being blind. When some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name makes it clear that no one can do what God does. Michael the archangel appeared in the Old Testament several times. He defended the chosen people on God's behalf. He also appeared in the Book of Revelation in a final battle with the devil, Satan.

This battle with the forces of evil is not limited to the pages of Scripture but is ongoing in our lives. Pope John Paul II taught, "*The continuous struggle with the devil that characterizes Michael the archangel is still going on since the devil, who seeks to take advantage of every situation, is still living and operative in the world...We have the impression today that people do not want to see the problem. Everything possible is done to remove from public awareness the existence of the 'cunning attacks of the devil' who holds dominion over the underworld as spoken in Ephesians.* St. Peter encouraged the early Christians to be vigilant. "Be sober and watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking souls to devour (1 Peter 5:7-8). Perhaps the greatest triumph of Satan and his followers is that today many question his existence. They say the belief in angels was a mistaken belief of culturally backward people. Let us not forget. Their action in the life of the world and their influence on people is real and effective. May we frequently seek the help of angels and archangels. *St. Michael the archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil...*

Fr. Tom

*We are one body in Christ!*



**The Week Ahead...**

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

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-8/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

**Saturday, September 21**

4:00 p.m. Bessie Cadwell (Hemenway family)

**Sunday, September 22**

8:00 a.m. Dennis Spitzley (Liz Currie & family)  
 11:30 a.m. Earl Allen (Johanna Allen)  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

**Monday, September 23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest**

Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-5/Lk 8:16-18

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Rick Hager (Gary & Janice Ferguson)

**Tuesday, September 24—Weekday**

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44/Lk 8:19-21  
 7:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Wednesday, September 25—Weekday**

Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6  
 12:10 p.m. Intention of the priests of our diocese  
 6:00 p.m. Special Holy Hour for our priests (CH)

**Thursday, September 26—Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs**

Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Lk 9:7-9  
 8:00 a.m. School Prayer Service

**Friday, September 27—St. Vincent de Paul, Priest**

Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1-4/Lk 9:18-22  
 7:30 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

**Saturday, September 28—St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs**

Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Lk 9:43-45  
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**Saturday, September 28**

4:00 p.m. Henry & Josephine (Tyo) Beaulieu (Lillian Overbeck)

**Sunday, September 29**

8:00 a.m. Bill Miller (Karen Miller & sons)  
 11:30 a.m. Kim Giazzon (Mike & Diana Verdun)  
*Confirmation Rite of Enrollment at Mass*  
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 22**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**  
 Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

**VACUUMING:**  
 Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

**Sunday, September 22—Twenty-Fifth Sunday**

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)  
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes for K-8  
 4:30-6 p.m. Fall Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Session (VR)  
 6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ begins (AH)

**Monday, September 23**

6:30 p.m. Convocation of Priests (Sept. 23-26)  
 Monday Night Group (PO)

**Tuesday, September 24**

**Wednesday, September 25**

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

**Thursday, September 26**

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

**Friday, September 27**

**Saturday, September 28**

**Sunday, September 29—Twenty-Sixth Sunday**

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes for K-9  
 6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ (AH)  
 6-8 p.m. Youth Group (CR)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING - September 14 & 15, 2024**

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Offertory Collection | \$9,316.25         |
| Electronic Giving            | 3,290.00           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$12,606.25</b> |
| -5% Tithe                    | -630.31            |
| <b>Net Total</b>             | <b>\$11,975.94</b> |

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$2,798.56**

School Support Fund: \$60.00  
 Propagation of the Faith: \$45.00  
 Campaign for Human Development: \$25.00  
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$25.00  
 Christmas Baskets: \$25.00

*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.*



**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.

**September 28 & 29—Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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

8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer  
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein  
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Veronica Meyer,  
 Laurie Tjalsma  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

**Please pray for:**

- |                     |                      |                        |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Tony Burns          | Pat McKinstry        | Kym Coryell            |
| Lesley Williams     | Russinda Rohde       | Terri Nurenberg        |
| Lois Walker         | Landon Battle        | Jessica Fritz          |
| Tom Repik           | Marsha Packer        | Cole LeBarre           |
| Gert Bennett        | Jack & Sue LaPeer    | Travis Eveleth         |
| Steve Barber        | Elizabeth Voet       | Charles Timm           |
| Reagan Crooks       | Tamera Pierce        | Larry Lafler           |
| Amanda Baer         | Angie Cedillo        | Arlene Stanton         |
| Ed Blyth            | Jo Wirtz             | Pat MacLachlan         |
| Nancy Betz          | Witney Fockler       | Jim & Barb Mulnix      |
| Jim & Sue Huver     | Becky Wagner         | Ken and Sherry North   |
| Doug Zeeck          | Amanda Eveleth       | Nathan Lower           |
| Randy Tripp         | Martha Misak         | Finnly Hunt            |
| Mike Peckins        | Jennifer Durden      | Jerry & Maribeth Fritz |
| Glen Alvord         | Beth Buffy           | Tom White              |
| Julie McClintock    | Tom McClintock       | Pamela Coggan          |
| Heather Rensi       | Chuck Tarpey         | Joe Drysdale           |
| Cherie Flinn        | Renee Wagner         | Nichole Munsell        |
| Pamela Pontius      | Michelle Richard-Mix | Jace Peterson          |
| Anita Hozeski Scott | Sheila Jobbitt       | Georgia Sibert         |
| Karen Miller        | Jennifer Lewis       |                        |
| Pat Brockman        | Mary O'Connor        |                        |

*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.*

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.

**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

**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**

Cara Brownell    Nik Discher    Deb Trierweiler  
 Andrew Bucholtz    Kevin Heinlein    Rachel Wilson  
 Lauren Christensen    Anna Johnson    Allen Wizorek



**Knights' Corner**

A prayer for our bishop and the priests of our diocese as they gather this week for their annual conference.

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.*

*Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.*

*Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.*

*Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.*

*Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.*

**Night of Prayer for Priests**

From September 23 to 26, the priests of our diocese will gather for their annual convocation. The Diocese is asking all the parishes to have an hour of prayer specifically for them, and one of the suggested times is **Wednesday, September 25, from 6 to 7 p.m.** This, of course, is when our parish has Eucharistic Adoration each week. We would like to encourage everyone to make a special effort to attend Adoration that night and lift up our priests and our bishop in prayer. Theirs is a special vocation, a life in service for us all, and they can certainly use our prayers. We will have Adoration in the church that night, rather than the chapel, so we'll have plenty of room.



**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

(CLOW) is being offered during the 4 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses. **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 existing volunteers to contact Barb Montgomery at [lkydog67@yahoo.com](mailto:lkydog67@yahoo.com) or Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) for more information.

**Michigan Catholic Women's Conference**

Saturday, October 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing Register at: [www.michigancwc.org](http://www.michigancwc.org)

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that, with the help of their parents, peers, and our staff, our students will become future leaders, productive citizens, and active, faith-filled Christian men and women.

\*\*\*Please take one or more cards from the tree found in the back of our church. Each card has the name of one of our school families. Pray for that family—that they may flourish throughout this school year.\*\*\*

**Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk**

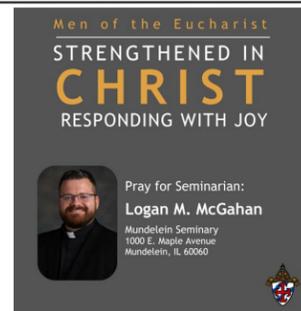
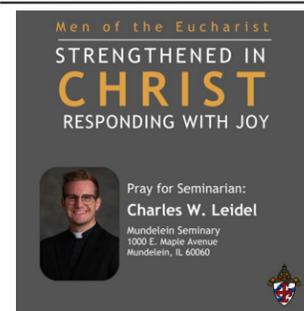
You can help make a difference in local AND global hunger by walking in our Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk this year on October 6. Our parish already has a number of walkers participating, and we invite you to join them. To sign up to be a walker and get a donation envelope, please contact Pat Rinker at 517-898-5676. If you're unable to walk with us, consider sponsoring a walker. Make your check payable to CWS/CROP and mail or bring it to the parish office. For more information, visit: [Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk](http://Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk).

**Are you ready for Youth Group?**

We will be starting the year off with a fun-filled Sunday evening on September 29th at 6 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Come and have fun learning about Christ in your life. Students from 8th through 12th grade are invited. See you there!! —Kevin Heinlein

**Curious about the Catholic faith?**

OCIA, the ministry of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) has begun its weekly sessions on **Sundays at 8:00 a.m.** We meet in the parish office living room, which can be entered through the stairway entrance off the parish office driveway. We invite you to come and see what Catholic Christians believe, what we do in striving to live our faith, and how we journey into becoming missionary disciples of Christ. If you've wondered about the Catholic faith, have questions, are feeling called to become Catholic, or are simply curious, we invite you to join us! No need to RSVP. Simply come and see what God has in store for all who turn toward him. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our Catholic faith with you!



*Faith Formation*

**Classes are on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:15 for Kindergarten through High School. Classes started last week, but it is never too late to register. Join us today!**

- Sept. 22 Classes for Kdg.— Grade 8
- Sept. 22 Fall Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Session 4:30— 6 p.m.
- Sept 29 Classes for all grades
- Sept 29 Confirmation Rite of Enrollment during 11:30 a.m. Mass
- Nov.3 Confirmation at 3 p.m. at Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids

For more information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610, or email [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

**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. We are here to walk the journey with you. Sessions are on Saturdays from 9:30—10:30 a.m. every other week in the parish office living room. Our first 2 sessions are on September 21 and October 5. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or 616-527-3610.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass**

Bishop Walkowiak invites all couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries to join him on **Sunday, October 20, at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or calling Paloma Olvera at 616-288-0908.



**When Did We See You Hungry?**

We recently received word that the Zion Food Pantry is running perilously low on funds. For many years our parish has helped support the pantry in the wonderful work they do in feeding the hungry in our community. Recent changes in the Meijer Simply Give program and the increased use of the pantry have put a great strain on their resources. If you can help, please make your check to "Zion Food Pantry" and mail it to 130 E. Washington Street, Ionia. You can also donate money at the parish office and we will make sure that it gets to them. Thank you!



**DISCOVERING CHRIST begins Sunday, September 22! Register today!**

**Who will benefit from Discovering Christ?**

Active Catholics, as well as nominal and inactive Catholics, non-Catholics, the unbaptized. Generally, anyone who is longing for greater joy, meaning, or a sense of purpose in life. Participants in this program move from just knowing about Jesus to actually encountering Him in a life changing way.

**It's not too late to register!**

Scan the QR code and complete the online registration form, or pickup a paper form in the church and deposit it in the display basket.



SCAN ME

**Discovering Christ Schedule:**

**Sunday Evenings, September 22—November 10 SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 434 High St., Ionia (SSPP School Cafeteria)**

**Retreat Day, Sunday, October 27, 2-8 p.m. St. Edward's Parish, 531 Jordan Lake St., Lake Odessa**

**Seven Sisters Apostolate**

The Seven Sisters Apostolate ensures that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the intention of a specific priest or bishop. Here at SS. Peter and Paul, we have had seven women who have committed to spending one hour in prayer one day a week for the intentions of Fr. Tom Brown for the past year. One of the sisters has had to step down from her commitment, so we are looking for another to step into her place. If you feel the call to spend an hour in devoted prayer one day a week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday), please contact Deborah Trierweiler at 616-902-3473. For more information about the Apostolate, please visit [www.sevensistersapostolate.org](http://www.sevensistersapostolate.org).

**Mass of Christ the Healer**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' annual Mass of Christ the Healer will be celebrated on **Sunday, October 27, at the 10 a.m. Mass** at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. All who work in health care, including physicians, nurses, dietary staff, administrative staff, maintenance staff, etc., are invited to join Bishop Walkowiak for this celebration in gratitude for their service. Please wear your white coat or uniform so we may recognize your service. A light reception in the Cathedral Parish Center will follow Mass. For those unable to attend in person, Mass will be televised on FOX 17, and livestreamed on the diocesan website, [grdiocese.org](http://grdiocese.org), and YouTube (@GRDiocese).