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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)

**September 8, 2024**  
**Twenty-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: [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.

## Beautiful Day???

I hope and pray that you are having a wonderful day. There are many things happening here in your life this day. Can we take a few minutes and think about heaven? To think about the joy and what it would be like for us? Just about all of us think we will be there. We believe we will be there either instantly upon death or very soon after. We think of an enjoyable visit like going to a sports game or a trip to Disneyland or some other really fun time we have had here. Mostly people will think of doing things with other people. Yet none of these events even come close to it. When we do finally close our eyes for the last time in this life and open them in the next, we will see God Himself. The fantastic moment of that event is something so great we can't even begin to describe it. Even a saint in heaven would be speechless trying to come up with words to describe it. St. Paul has given us just a few words, from a vision, trying to describe a foretaste of heaven. All he could say was "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man to see what God has prepared for those who love Him."

Still we can and do try to get a glimpse of what the joy of heaven may be like. If we have been fortunate enough to have experienced joy here, we begin with that as an example. Even though it is inadequate, we look back to that time of exquisite happiness whenever and wherever it was. Think of some major joy here on earth, like our wedding or the placing of a newborn baby in your arms or some other event. Whatever it was, try to multiply the joy by a hundred million and we will still fall far short in our imagination of being in the presence of God. Even our greatest leaps of imagination fall far short. God is infinitely lovable! This means He will be infinitely irresistible. The very sight of Him will siphon love out of us as the heart of a tornado sucks water up out of a lake over which it passes. Up from our very roots, up from our toes, love will rush out of us to God. And that will not be enough. And no matter what it is, we are also certain that our love will be returned. There will be no doubt of that when God catches us up into His love.

God is love. He is infinite love! He made us because of His love for us. When the barrier of earthly life is removed, God will swamp us with His love. It will rock us. It will all but tear us apart with its intensity. Right now, even the most prideful person among us cannot claim to be the most lovable person in all creation. That's because we all secretly recognize that we have some pretty unlovable spots in our past. Thank God for the gift of purgatory. It is God's wash-up station where we will be totally purified. Cleansed of all sin and in the original beauty of the soul with which God endowed us, we shall find we are incredibly lovable. God will prove it to us as His love for us envelops us and carries us to the heights of ecstasy.

One final item: This joy will never end! Have you never exclaimed, "Oh! I wish that this could go on forever! I wish it didn't have to end!" That will be heaven. It is eternal. It has no end.

Let the thought of heaven inspire you.  
 Let the thought of God fill your mind and soul.  
 Let it fill your soul with a prayer of love and thanksgiving to God.

God bless you!  
 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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Is 35:4-7/Ps 146:7-10/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday, September 7**  
 4:00 p.m. Vernon Brown

**Sunday, September 8**  
 8:00 a.m. Aloyse & Theresa Dietrich  
 11:30 a.m. Bob Terpstra (Chris Terpstra)  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**Monday, September 9—St. Peter Claver, Priest**  
 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-7,12/Lk 6:6-11  
 11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Ray Dietrich

**Tuesday, September 10—Weekday**  
 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Lk 6:12-19  
 7:30 a.m. Living & deceased of Patrick & Carol Lewis family

**Wednesday, September 11—Weekday**  
 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-17/Lk 6:20-26  
 12:10 p.m. Dennis Finkler  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

**Thursday, September 12—The Most Holy Name of Mary**  
 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38  
 8:00 a.m. Sister Phyllis

**Friday, September 13—St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor**  
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27/Ps 84:3-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42  
 7:30 a.m. Diane Carlson

**Saturday, September 14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
 Nm 21:4-9/Ps 78:1-2, 34-38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17  
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 11:00 a.m. Funeral for Margaret O'Malley  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Is 50:4-9/Ps 116:1-6, 8-9/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

**Saturday, September 14**  
 4:00 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

**Sunday, September 15**  
 8:00 a.m. Ken Peabody & Bruce Hoeksema (Tom & Julie Bennett)  
 11:30 a.m. Luz Eneida Reyes (Eneida Kenney)  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 8**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

**Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nuñez, Carolina Velasco**

**VACUUMING:**

**Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor**

**Sunday, September 8—Twenty-Third Sunday**  
 9:00 a.m. Food & Fellowship resumes—  
 Birthday of Mary celebration (AH)  
 6:00 p.m. Prep. session for Discovering  
 Christ volunteers (AH)

**Monday, September 9**  
 2:00 p.m. Burial of Harry Gemuend Jr.

**Tuesday, September 10**  
 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Library)

**Wednesday, September 11**  
 6:00 p.m. Virtus Training (SC)  
 6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)

**Thursday, September 12**  
 3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)  
 6-8 p.m. Training for Hispanic Altar Servers  
 (VR)

**Friday, September 13**

**Saturday, September 14—Triumph of the Cross**  
 10:00 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby)

**Sunday, September 15—Twenty-Fourth Sunday**  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes begin for  
 Grades K-9 (SC)  
 2:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner for Fr. Gino (AH)

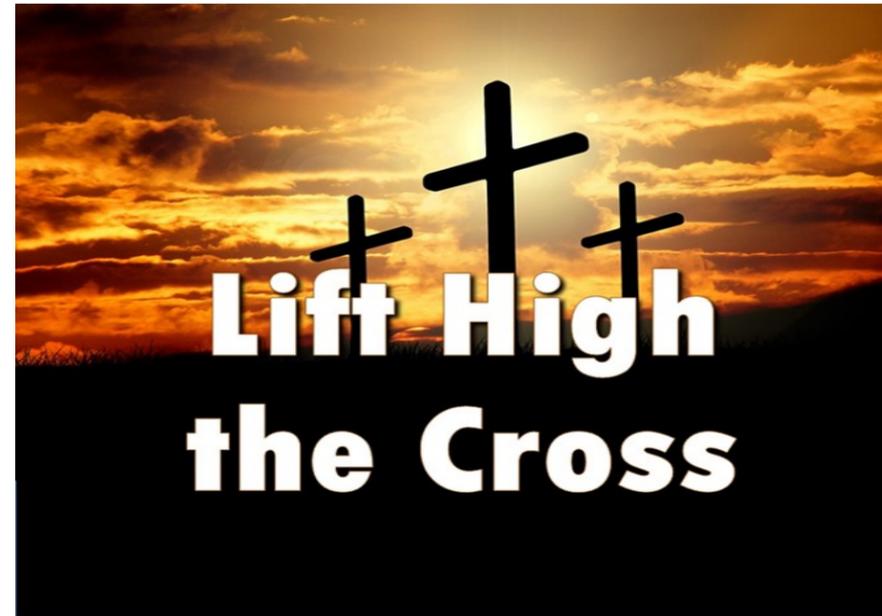


**OUR PARISH OFFERING - Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, 2024**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$6,767.66
Electronic Giving	4,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,267.66</b>
-5% Tithe	-563.38
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$10,704.28</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$1,459.97**

*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.*



O Lord, once lifted  
 On the glorious tree  
 Your death has brought us  
 Life eternally.

Lift high the cross,  
 The love of Christ proclaim  
 Till all the world  
 Adore his sacred name.

**September 14 & 15—Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 p.m. Lector: Volunteer  
 Altar Servers: Jaclyn Rewa  
 EMs: Cecilia Luke, Adam Rewa, Volunteer  
 Greeters: Volunteers

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

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

***Please pray for:***

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

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, our council was named the Diocese of Grand Rapids' Council of the Month. State Deputy Regional Representative Martin Brown was at the meeting and congratulated us for the work we do. It was nice to receive this recognition.

Congratulations to this month's raffle winners: Nancy Wizorek, Molly Dow, John Klein, & Gary Zander.

**Calling all musicians!**

Choir practice will be starting up on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All ability levels are welcome. Grow in your faith, make some new friends, and create some beautiful music with us. Any questions, ask Whitney at [wcrooks@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:wcrooks@ssppcatholic.com).

Children should have the opportunity to learn their faith from a Bible that is at their own level. **You can help us build our Bible library in the Faith Formation Program.** Please consider donating the cost of one Bible (about \$30) to help us reach our goal of raising \$500. If you write a check, please make it payable to SS. Peter & Paul and write "FF Bibles" on the memo line. Thank you for helping us bring Bibles into the hands of our children. Please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) for more details.

**Looking for healing after an abortion?  
Project Rachel Retreat, November 1-3.**

Experience the transformative freedom of forgiveness and healing. During the weekend, trained volunteers will work with you and your unique story, surrounding you with support and encouragement. For more information or to register, call 616-340-1824 or email [projectrachel@ccwestmi.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccwestmi.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.



Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will be offered during the 4 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses again this year, beginning in mid-September. **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 need your help! 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).

**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 for all our new parent volunteers who will be working within the school and attending the VIRTUS Training this week.

**Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk**

Come walk with us in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 6, to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. We'll start and end at First Christian Church on Washington St. We'll meet at 1:45 p.m., collect our money, and begin our walk shortly after 2:00. Contact Pat Rinker at 517-898-5676 for more information and to get your Walker envelope. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP.

**Upcoming Virtus Training Opportunity**

A *Protecting God's Children* (PGC) training session will be held at SS. Peter & Paul School on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. This one-time training session is required for all volunteers who will be working with children at the school or parish. To register for the training session, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to choose SS. Peter & Paul Ionia and choose the September 11<sup>th</sup> session. Seats are limited. For more information about this or other PGC sessions, please contact the school or parish office.

**Exploring Priesthood**

**Discernment Opportunities 2024-2025**

If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet each month with other young men in high school and college to gather and discern God's will for your life. **Meetings are held at St. Luke University Parish, 10144 42nd Ave., Georgetown Twp., MI 49428 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on the dates shown below.** You may RSVP to [preynolds@grdiocese.org](mailto:preynolds@grdiocese.org) to let us know you are coming—or just show up.

If you have questions, you may also contact Fr. Stephen Durkee, Director of Priestly Vocations, at [sdurkee@grdiocese.org](mailto:sdurkee@grdiocese.org), or Fr. Rob Mulderink, Associate Director, at [frrob@lukespot.com](mailto:frrob@lukespot.com)

**2024:** Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Dec. 1

**2025:** Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 23, May 4

Eucharistic



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

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



*Faith Formation*

**Classes are on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:15 for Kindergarten through High School**

It is time to register! Come see us after the Masses on September 7th & 8th and receive a YUMMY cookie as you register for class!

Classes begin on September 15th.

Confirmation is on Sunday, November 3rd, at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids.

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

**Ministry of Consolation**

**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 will be on Saturdays from 9:30—10:30 a.m. every other week in the parish office living room, beginning on September 21.

**Health Support Group**

Are you or a family member struggling with cancer or another serious health issue? Team members of the Ministry of Consolation invite you to join them for their monthly Health Support gatherings. Their next session will be held on Saturday, September 14, at 10 a.m. at Biggby Coffee in Ionia. All are welcome!

For more information about either of these Ministry of Consolation opportunities, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com)

**Wedding Anniversary Mass**

Together with your families, the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. 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.



**Who is Discovering Christ for?**

Discovering Christ is for anyone 18 years or older who is longing for greater joy, searching for meaning and a sense of purpose in life. People can come from all backgrounds, religions, and viewpoints. They come to investigate questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, what happens after death, the teachings of Jesus, and more. Some guests may have never been to church; others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Catholic Christian faith; others attend church regularly.

**Who will benefit from this program?**

Active Catholics, as well as nominal and inactive Catholics, non-Catholics, the unbaptized. Participants in this program move from just knowing about Jesus to actually encountering Him in a life changing way. Everyone is welcome.

**Register Today! 3 ways:**

1. Scan the QR code and complete the online registration form.
2. Access the online registration form at the link provided on our parish website ([www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org](http://www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org)), My-Parish App (SS. Peter & Paul), or Facebook page (Saints Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church), and complete the form.
3. Complete a paper registration form, available in the church, and deposit in the basket provided on the Discovering Christ info table or the collection basket, or drop it off/mail to the parish office (434 High St., Ionia, MI 48846). You can also email a scanned copy to [tmckay@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:tmckay@ssppcatholic.com).



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**

**Participant Testimony: A New Path**

*This course started me down a path that has changed my life in every way. A path that brought me to the greatest blessing in my life: a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. This relationship has given me peace and has deepened my relationships with my wife and my kids. My life has changed from one of self-reliance to Christian community; from what can I accomplish, to asking God to use me and bless me each day.*