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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.

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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)

**March 23, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

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. en español

Weekday Mass Schedule  
 English: Mon & Wed, Mass at 12:10 p.m.  
 Tues, No Mass or Service  
 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.



DIocese of GRAND RAPIDS  
 Office of the Bishop

March 22/23, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Jubilee Year, we are called to bring Christ's love to those in desperate need. As we approach the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection, March 29/30, I ask for your prayerful consideration and generous support of this collection which supports six Catholic agencies that strive to bring about positive change for those who live on the margins.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Mt. 5:9). The cry for peace and justice in our world is loud and urgent. From the victims of war to displaced families fleeing violence and poverty, the need for compassionate action has never been greater.

One example of the collection's far-reaching impact can be found in Colombia, a country plagued by more than 60 years of guerilla warfare. The USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace, which receives funding through this collection, provided crucial support and powerful connections as the bishops of Colombia lobbied in Washington, D.C., and in their own nation to promote a peace process that has made significant strides. You can answer the call to be a peacemaker and ensure this process continues. Together, we can help build a more just and peaceful world where the cry for justice is heard, and the light of peace shines brightly.

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection. I encourage you to give generously. To learn more about how your gift will make an impact, please visit [usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*David J. Walkowiak*

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
 Bishop of Grand Rapids

*Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*



**The Week Ahead...**

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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15/Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

**Saturday, March 22**

4:00 p.m. Keith Morley (Hemenway family)

**Sunday, March 23**

8:00 a.m. Herb Cusack (Luke Cusack)  
 11:30 a.m. Bertha Meier  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español  
 3-5 p.m. Confessions

**Monday, March 24—Lenten Weekday**

2 Kgs 5:1-15/Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Daniel Brown

**Tuesday, March 25—The Annunciation of the Lord**

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
 No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, March 26—Lenten Weekday**

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Intention of Jessica Fritz (Gerald & Maribeth Fritz)  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

**Thursday, March 27—Lenten Weekday**

Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23

8:00 a.m. Donald Gardner (Christine Bewell)

**Friday, March 28—Lenten Weekday**

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34

7:30 a.m. Pamela Pontius (Tom & Julie Bennett)  
 2:00 p.m. School Stations of the Cross  
 6/7 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English/in Spanish

**Saturday, March 29—Lenten Weekday**

Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14

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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Jos 5:9-12/Ps 34:2-7/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Saturday, March 29**

4:00 p.m. Pat Brockman (Jo Wirtz)

**Sunday, March 30**

8:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)  
 11:30 a.m. Catherine Verdun  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español  
 3:30 p.m. Taizé Prayer

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF MARCH 23**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**  
 Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

**VACUUMING:**  
 Bruce Sibert, Joe Peckins

**Sunday, March 23—Third Sunday of Lent**

9:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 10:00 a.m. Family School Council Mtg. (Biggby)  
 10:15 a.m. OCIA Inquiry (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes  
 2:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion prep. (VR)

**Monday, March 24**

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper & Presentation (AH)

**Tuesday, March 25**

**Wednesday, March 26**

2:45 & 5:30-6:30 No Lenten Soup & Bread Luncheon  
 Meet the Teacher for new PS,DK,Kdg.  
 6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

**Thursday, March 27**

3:45 p.m. School Accreditation Team  
 Life Fit (VR)

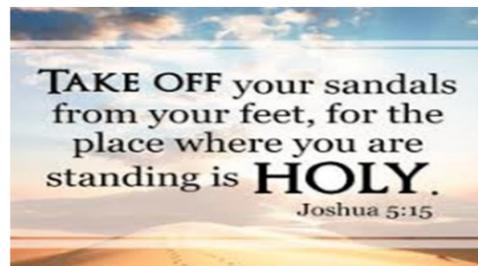
**Friday, March 28**

5-7 p.m. School Accreditation Team  
 Fish Dinner (AH)

**Saturday, March 29**

**Sunday, March 30—Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes  
 2:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion Prep. (VR)  
 5-7 p.m. Sharing Christ (AH)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING: March 15 & 16 2025**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$7,675.63
Electronic Giving	3,535.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,210.63</b>
-5% Tithe	-560.53
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$10,650.10</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$1,402.94**

School Support Fund: \$115.00  
 Catholic Relief Services: \$20.00  
 School Annual Appeal: \$200.00

*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.*

**Lenten Opportunities**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation—Confession**

Monday, 11 a.m.-12 noon: March 24 & 31  
 April 7 & 14

Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12 noon: March 26  
 April 2, 9, 16

Thursday, April 3, 5-8 p.m.: **The Light Is On for You**  
 (Confessions available here, and at many other parishes in the Diocese as well.)

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 p.m.: March 22 & 29  
 April 5 & 12

Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: March 23  
 April 6

**Stations of the Cross** are celebrated on the Fridays of Lent (March 21 & 28; April 4 & 11)  
 English at 6:00 p.m. Spanish at 7:00 p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration** is offered **in the church** from 6 to 7 p.m. on these Wednesdays of Lent:  
 March 26; April 2 & 9

**Lenten Soup & Bread Luncheons** will be held in the parish office living room following the Wednesday 12:10 p.m. Mass on April 2 & 9.  
 Call Toni McKay at 616-527-3610 if you can donate soup or bread.

**The Knights of Columbus are offering Fish Dinners** in Apostles Hall on the last 2 Fridays of March.  
 (March 21 & 28), 5-7 p.m.

**March 29 & 30, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

4:00 p.m. Lector: Sue Wizorek  
 Altar Servers: Jaclyn Rewa  
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Phill Wizorek  
 Greeters: Volunteers

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

8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer  
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein  
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

**Please pray for:**

Patricia Anwar	Randy Tripp	Michelle Richard-Mix
Marilyn Nash	Mike Peckins	Jennifer Lewis
Patricia Klein	Glen Alvord	Mary O'Connor
Connie Waterman	Heather Rensi	Kym Coryell
Dorr Bissell	Cherie Flinn	Terri Nurenberg
Colson Skilling	Anita Hozeski Scott	Jessica Fritz
Jim Zook	Karen Miller	Travis Eveleth
Roy Shaw	Pat McKinstry	Charles Timm
Martha Brooks	Russinda Rohde	Larry Lafler
Denise Ward	Landon Battle	Arlene Stanton
Shirley Weber	Marsha Packer	Pat MacLachlan
Judy Dick	Jack & Sue LaPeer	Jim & Barb Mulnix
Cindy Hardy	Tamera Pierce	Ken and Sherry North
Diana Kujala	Angie Cedillo	Nathan Lower
Mark Dawson	Jo Wirtz	Finnly Hunt
Tony Burns	Witney Fockler	Jerry & Maribeth Fritz
Lesley Williams	Becky Wagner	Tom White
Lois Walker	Amanda Eveleth	Pamela Coggan
Gert Bennett	Martha Misak	Joe Drysdale
Ed Blyth	Jennifer Durden	Nichole Munsell
Jim & Sue Huver	Beth Buffey	Jace Peterson
Doug Zeeck	Renee Wagner	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	Matt Lang	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

**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	Rachel Wilson
Andrew Bucholtz	Kevin Heinlein	Allen Wizorek
Lauren Christensen	Anna Johnson	



**Knights' Corner**

Thank you to all the Knights and family members who helped make pies last Saturday in Pewamo! It was a big job but an enjoyable one, and it is an excellent fundraiser for our council. If you missed out on ordering pies, we have a few left. Call the parish office to get yours before they're gone!

Also, a big thank you to all the Knights and parishioners who have worked on our Lenten fish dinners over the past few weeks. We've had a very good response so far. It takes many people to put them together, and we really appreciate everyone who has helped out!

**Evening of Worship with the Opportunity for Confession**

Holy Spirit Parish, Grand Rapids, invites you to an Evening of Worship with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance on Saturday, March 29, from 6:45-8 p.m. In addition to reflective music, the following priests will be available to hear your confession: Fr. Mark Peacock, Fr. Nick Baker, Fr. David Sacha, Fr. Larry King, Msgr. Lou Stasker, and Fr. David Jameson. Please contact MacKenzie at [mco-ble@hsparish.org](mailto:mco-ble@hsparish.org) with any questions.

**St. Mary Parish Lenten Mission**

402 Amity St., Lowell, MI

**"The Mystery of Friendship"**

**Part 1 – Sunday, March 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**"Why Christian Friendship?"**

*(Dinner included)*

**Part 2 – Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**"How to form lasting Christian friendships"**

*(Dinner included)*

Presenters: Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist

**Please RSVP for food planning purposes**

by emailing or calling the parish:

[office@stmarylowell.org](mailto:office@stmarylowell.org) or 616-897-9820

**Bibles for SS. Peter & Paul School Students**

As our students have begun their Lenten journey, they are trying to focus on God's Word through daily scripture reading. The school staff would like to give children their very own Bibles to continue their growth in faith. The Bibles that we like to use are published by Saint Mary's Press and run about \$30. If you are interested in donating to this cause, please send your donation, labeled "Bibles", to the school office. We appreciate your consideration and continued support.

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that all members of the Saints Peter & Paul community will continue to seek a clean and humble heart. May we all use Lent as a time of true repentance and seeking God daily in prayer.

**Becoming Catholic: An Invitation to Come & See**

No matter where you are in your journey of faith, there is a place for you here with us. Come see for yourself what we're all about. Inquiry sessions are on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in the parish office living room. Contact Toni McKay at the parish office for more information and to register.



**Pilgrimage for the Hispanic Community: Sunday, April 6**

**1 p.m.** – Procession leaves St. Francis Xavier & Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Brown St.

**3 p.m.** – Procession arrives and Mass begins at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

During the Jubilee Year, the Diocese of Grand Rapids is hosting several local pilgrimages. Join the Hispanic community in West Michigan for a lively procession to the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, or join us for Mass at the Cathedral beginning at 3 p.m. Local pilgrimages like this one seek to draw together certain groups of pilgrims under a theme, but **all are welcome!**

**Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit March 22-28**

March 22: 5-8 p.m.; March 23: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.;

March 24-28: 5-8 p.m.

**Our Lady of Consolation Parish**

4865 11 Mile Rd, Rockford

Come and learn about 70 Church-approved Eucharistic Miracles through a self-guided exhibit, and deepen your love for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist! This amazing opportunity showcases miracles from around the world, designed by the soon-to-be *Saint* Carlo Acutis. Check our website for times and more information: [olcparishrockford.com/parish/miracles/](http://olcparishrockford.com/parish/miracles/)



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

*Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. in the Church*



*Faith Formation*

**Classes are held on Sunday mornings in the school from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. for Kindergarten through high school. It's never too late to register. Join us today!**

- March 23 Faith Formation Classes for all grades
- March 30 Faith Formation Classes for all grades
- April 6 No Faith Formation Classes—Spring Break
- April 13 Faith Formation Classes for all grades
- April 20 No Faith Formation Classes—Easter
- April 27 Faith Formation—Last Class!

**Grief Support Group**

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We invite you to join our Grief Support Group series, which meets every other Saturday in the parish office living room from 9 to 11 a.m. Our next 2 sessions are on March 22 and April 5. Each of the sessions offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. We want you to know that are not alone and we are here to walk the journey with you. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

**Health 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 is reaching out to invite anyone who is facing a serious health challenge. Team members of the Ministry of Consolation are offering Health Support gatherings, usually on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at Biggby Coffee. (Next date to be determined.) For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

**Please join us for Taizé prayer on Sunday, March 30, at 3:30 p.m. in the church.**

Taizé prayer is an ecumenical form of prayer that focuses on meditation, simple songs, scripture and silence. The church will be simply lit to provide a calming environment. Come be with us for a short time! See you on 3/30 at 3:30. — *Whitney*

**End of Year Statements**

Would you like a copy of your parish contribution statement for 2024? Please call the parish office (616-527-3610) and we will mail it to you.

**Lenten Soup Supper and Presentation Monday, March 24, 6:00 p.m., Apostles Hall "Lord, Change Our Hearts: The Spiritual Practice of Almsgiving"**

with

*Dr. Tim Gray, The Augustine Institute Show: An Interview with Dr. Gary Anderson on Catholic Almsgiving (video)*

and

*Rebekah Kevic, SS. Peter & Paul Parishioner Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Presentation*

Soup Makers and Bread Bakers Needed! If you are able to donate soup and/or bread, scan the QR Code, or contact Toni at the parish office.



*PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be gathering for a Lenten Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, March 26, in light of offering this Lenten Soup Supper.*

Don't Miss Our **Lenten Fish Dinners** on the Last Two Fridays of March

**March 21 & 28 5:00—7:00 p.m.**



\$12.00 for Adults  
\$10.00 for Seniors  
\$6.00 for Children, ages 6-12

Maximum price of \$35 for families with minor children

Fried fish, roasted potatoes, macaroni & cheese, vegetables, french fries, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert

Take outs available!

Proceeds to benefit SS. Peter & Paul Church and School



**Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 944**



**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.