

**CATHY HOPPOUGH GROUP**  
**KW RIVERTOWN HOPPOUGH**  
**KELLERWILLIAMS.**  
**REAL ESTATE**

**Cathy Hoppough**  
 REALTOR® | License #6502365936

Mobile: 616-915-2890  
 119 N Dexter Street, Ionia MI 48846  
 choppough@kw.com  
 cathyhoppough.kw.com  
 Download My App: app.kw.com/KW2WNZK60

**Basler Chiropractic Center**  
 527-6300  
 351 W MAIN  
 CLAUDE J. BASLER, D.C.

**RICK ROGUSKY**  
**STATE FARM INSURANCE**

2300 S State Rd.  
 Off: 527-0440  
 24 Hour Service

*Lehman Funeral Homes*

Michael A. Lehman  
 Elle Lehman-Lay

Ionia Chapel 220 Rich St. Ionia, MI 48846  
 Portland Chapel 210 E. Bridge St. Portland, MI 48875

[www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com)  
 Phone: 616-527-2250

**GIVE your HEART ~**  
**BE an ORGAN DONOR**

**FRED HAIGHT INSURANCE AGENCY**

989-855-3341

**Wilson Heating, Cooling & Plumbing**  
 616-527-0391

**24-HOUR SERVICE**

Serving Ionia County Since 1965



**CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER**  
 301 W. Washington Street, Ionia  
 616-527-1530  
 Tuesday 9 am to noon & 1 to 4 pm  
 Wednesday 9 am to noon & 1 to 3 pm  
 Saturday 9 am to noon

**Lake Funeral Homes, Inc.**  
*A Third Generation Funeral Home*  
 Robert B. Lake, II - Director - Manager  
 Robert B. Lake - Director  
 Robert Lake, III

3521 S. State Road 527-0099  
[www.lakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com)

**SS. Peter & Paul School**  
 Preschool through Grade 8  
 317 Baldie Street, Ionia 616-527-3561

Open enrollment Pre-K through 8.  
 Come and see what we have to offer!

**Blundy-Hoppes Tire & Auto Clinic**  
 Voted Ionia County's #1 Tire & Exhaust Shop

Hours:  
 Mon.-Th. 8:00-5:30  
 Friday 8:00-5:00

3765 S. M66 in Ionia  
 616-527-0670  
[www.blundyhoppes.com](http://www.blundyhoppes.com)

We Participate in the SCRIP Program!

**Geldhof**

**COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE!**  
 280 South Deder • Ionia, MI 48848  
 Ph. 616-527-1101 • Fax: 616-527-5435

"SERVING IONIA COUNTY SINCE 1978"

**HORIZON DAYCARE**

269-838-2786

QUALITY RATED FREE MEALS  
 QUALIFIED TEACHERS

• We Sell & Service ALL Major Brand Tires  
 • Auto, Farm, & Industrial Tires  
 • Complete Under Car Care

**BFGoodrich TAKE CONTROL** **MICHELIN** **UNIROYAL FOR EVERYTHING YOU VALUE**

**Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Supplies**  
 Mon. & Sat. • 9:30-3:00  
 Tues. • 9:30-4:00  
 Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-5:30  
 989-593-2609  
 108 S. Main Street, Fowler


This Space Sponsored by an **Anonymous Parish Family**

**Ionia County Commission on Aging**  
 115 Hudson St.  
 616-527-5365

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Father Fierle Council #944**

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



This space sponsored by an **ANONYMOUS DONOR**

**Stephen O'Mara, AAMS®, CRPC®**  
 Financial Advisor

431 Swartz Ct Ste 100  
 Ionia, MI 48846  
 Bus. 616-522-0544 TF. 866-522-0544  
 Fax 866-749-0752  
 steve.o'mara@edwardjones.com  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**CARR AGENCY, INC.**  
 115 W MAIN ST, IONIA  
 616.527.1200

The "No Problem" People... [www.carrinsuranceagency.com](http://www.carrinsuranceagency.com)

**Auto-Owners Insurance**

**Endvi**  
**Complete Collision Repair**  
 3653 S. State Rd., Ionia  
 616-775-5290  
 AUTO BODY  
[www.endviautobodyionia.com](http://www.endviautobodyionia.com)

**OMARA**  
**PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING**  
 24 Hr. Emergency Service  
 616-527-9368

**JAMES S. KLEIN, DDS**  
**JESSICA FERRIS, RDH**  
**Family Dentistry**  
 502 Skyview Dr, Ionia  
 616-527-3866

**H.S.V. Haskin**  
 Redi Mix Inc.

Owners: Allen & David Haskin  
 7775 N. Clark Rd  
 Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
 ph# 616-374-8851

Call us for all of your ready mix concrete, aggregate and construction needs!

Open Mon-Fri, 8 am to 5 pm  
 Sat, 8 am to 12 pm (seasonal)

**Olivera's**  
**Pizzeria & Sports Pub**

119 N. Dexter St. (M-66) - Downtown Ionia 616.522.3000  
[www.oliverassportspub.com](http://www.oliverassportspub.com)

**LIVE LOCAL REALTY**  
 LIVE LOCAL. SELL LOCAL. GIVE LOCAL.

616.527.3500 [www.livelocal-realty.com](http://www.livelocal-realty.com)  
 3% of Commissions Can Go Back to SSPPI!

**Ionia Theatre**

205 W. Main St, Ionia  
 Movies ~ Rentals  
 616-527-3350



# 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)

**April 13, 2025**  
**Palm Sunday of the Passion 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. 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.

**We are all made in the image of God.** This means that we should follow his example and try to be as much like him as we can. In his great love, before he came here, our Lord gave us St. John the Baptist to preach forgiveness of sins. St. John was preceded by many prophets who said the same thing. And when Jesus came, He repeatedly told people to "Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus would heal, both physically and spiritually. He readily and eagerly forgave them of their sins. He told them parables illustrating his focus on forgiveness. From those who left deliberately, as in the Prodigal Son, to those who were simply lost, as in the man with a hundred sheep, Jesus not only called for their return, but he went in search of them. Even just one. When he still had 99, he left them in search of the one. He crossed valleys and thickets, climbed mountains, and spent hours and hours looking for the lost. When he finally found it, he didn't chastise it. He didn't drive it back with rough blows. He gently picked it up, placed it on his own shoulders, and carried it back to the flock with great joy.

Let us look carefully at this. The sheep is more than just a sheep. The shepherd is more than just a shepherd. They speak to us of our lives. We should not look on the lost, deliberately or accidentally, as beyond hope. We should not abandon them when they are in danger or be slow to come to their aid. When they turn away from the right path, we must search them out and bring them back. Rejoice at their return and welcome them back into the family. Help them to change, to become holy, to lead good and productive lives.

Brotherly love, which Jesus calls us to live, lies in love of friends and enemies. Especially enemies. We are called to be like our Lord, always gentle, meek and full of peace. Jesus was "led like a sheep to the slaughter, and like a lamb before the shearers, he kept silent. Even more, he prayed for them saying, "Father, forgive them." Is there any gentleness, any love, lacking in this prayer? Even more, Jesus made excuses for them. "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing!" They are sinners who are attacking Him, but they have little judgment; therefore, forgive them. They are nailing Him to the cross but they don't know who it is they are nailing; therefore, forgive them. They think he is an imposter claiming to be God. They don't recognize him, so forgive them.

If one seeks to love himself, he must not allow himself to be corrupted by indulging his sinful nature. If he wishes to overcome his sinfulness, he must enlarge the whole horizon of his love to contemplate the loving gentleness of our Lord. To savor brotherly love, he must extend it even to his enemies.

Let us keep the eyes of our souls always fixed on the serene patience and love of Jesus Christ.

God bless you!  
 Fr. Tom

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



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

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56*

**Saturday, April 12**

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

**Sunday, April 13**

8:00 a.m. Ken Peabody (Gary & Janice Ferguson)  
 11:30 a.m. Margaret O'Malley (Mary O'Connor)  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**Monday, April 14—Monday of Holy Week**

*Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11*

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Bruce Hoeksema (Denise Peabody)

**Tuesday, April 15—Tuesday of Holy Week**

*Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38*

No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, April 16—Wednesday of Holy Week**

*Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26:14-25*

12:10 p.m. Intention of Christine Bailey  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

**Thursday, April 17—Holy Thursday**

*Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15*

8:00 a.m. Living Stations of the Cross by 7th & 8th graders  
 7:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)  
 followed by Eucharistic Adoration (CH) until 11 p.m.

**Friday, April 18—Good Friday**

*Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42*

11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross in English  
 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy in English  
 7:00 p.m. Stations & Good Friday Liturgy in Spanish

**Saturday, April 19—Holy Saturday—The Easter Vigil**

*Gn 1:1, 26-31/Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 55:1-11/Ez 36:16-28/Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12*

No Rosary, Confessions, or 4:00 p.m. Mass

10:00 a.m. OCIA Preparation Rites  
 9:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil (bilingual)

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

*Acts 10:34, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4/Lk 24:1-12*

**Sunday, April 20**

8:00 a.m. All who are ill or homebound  
 11:30 a.m. All who were baptized or confirmed this past year  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF APRIL 13**

Pat Duffy, Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter

**VACUUMING:**

Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

**Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday**

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

**Monday, April 14—Monday of Holy Week**

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

**Tuesday, April 15—Tuesday of Holy Week**

10:30 a.m. Triduum Planning Mtg. (PO)  
 5:45 p.m. Community Awareness Mtg. (AH)  
 6:00 p.m. School Board Mtg. (Library)  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CH)

**Wednesday, April 16—Wednesday of Holy Week**

9:00 a.m. Easter Basket Preparations (PO)  
 6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)

**Thursday, April 17—Holy Thursday**

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

**Friday, April 18—Good Friday**

10:00 a.m. Easter flowers delivered by 10 a.m.

**Saturday, April 19—Holy Saturday**

**Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday**

No OCIA or OCIA Inquiry  
 No Faith Formation classes



**Holy Week**

**OUR PARISH OFFERING: April 5 & 6, 2025**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$8,429.25
Electronic Giving	1,390.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,819.25</b>
-5% Tithe	-490.96
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$9,328.29</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$11.56**

School Support Fund: \$70.00  
 Catholic Relief Services: \$215.00

*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.*

**Easter Triduum Schedule at SS. Peter & Paul**

**Holy Thursday, April 17**

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)  
 Silent Adoration follows until 11 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 18**

11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross (English)  
 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (English)  
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (Spanish)

**Holy Saturday, April 19**

(No Rosary, Confessions, or 4:00 p.m. Mass)  
 9:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil (bilingual)

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

8:00 a.m. Mass in English  
 11:30 a.m. Mass in English  
 1:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

**Holy Week with Bishop Walkowiak at the Cathedral of St. Andrew**

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m.

Chrism Mass, April 15, 7 p.m. (by ticket only)

Holy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 19, 9:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m.

All liturgies except the Easter Vigil will be live streamed on the diocesan website and YouTube.

Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday will also be televised on Fox 17.

**April 17, Holy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Lectors: Sue Wizorek & 1 Spanish  
 Altar Servers: Lillian Mabe & 1 Spanish  
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick & 1 Spanish  
 Greeters: Theresa Scholtens & 1 Spanish

**April 18, Good Friday**

12:00 p.m. Lector: Toni McKay  
 Passion Reader: Pete Fox  
 Altar Servers: Lillian Mabe  
 EMs: 1 for Choir—Theresa Scholtens  
 Greeters: Mary Lou Mulick

**April 19, Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil**

9:00 p.m. Lectors: Pat Rinker, Shannon Andrews, Mary Lou Mulick, & 2 Spanish  
 Altar Servers: Lillian Mabe, Jaclyn Rewa, & 1 Spanish  
 EMs: Barb Mulnix, Sue Wizorek, & 1 Spanish  
 Greeters: Theresa Scholtens & 1 Spanish

**April 20, Easter Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer  
 Altar Servers: Kaylynn/Kenna/Kinleigh Wizorek  
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Veronica Meyer, Laurie Tjalsma  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

11:30 a.m.

Lector: Monica Mabe  
 Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe  
 EMs: Vanessa Booth & 2 Volunteers  
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

**Please pray for:**

Russell Fletcher	Randy Tripp	Michelle Richard-Mix
Patricia Anwar	Mike Peckins	Jennifer Lewis
Marilyn Nash	Glen Alvord	Mary O'Connor
Patricia Klein	Heather Rensi	Kym Coryell
Connie Waterman	Cherie Flinn	Terri Nurenberg
Dorr Bissell	Anita Hozeski Scott	Jessica Fritz
Colson Skilling	Karen Miller	Travis Eveleth
Jim Zook	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**

Permanent Deacon	Zenon Cardenas	(616) 527-3610
Secretary	Cecilia Luke	616-527-8942 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**

As we head into Holy Week, let us be mindful of the special character of this holiest week of the Christian year. It really shouldn't be just another week of ordinary activities, and this is especially true of the Paschal Triduum ("Three Days"). If you can attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening, the Good Friday Liturgy, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, you will truly be ready to sing the Easter Alleluia! This is the heart and soul of our faith. Don't miss out!

**New Weekday Mass Schedules**

Starting April 21, the day after Easter, weekday Mass schedules at SS. Peter & Paul and St. Edward's will be changed to the following:

**SS. Peter & Paul: Monday & Wednesday 12:10 pm  
Thursday 8:00 am**

**St. Edward's: Tuesday & Friday 9:00 am**



If you have been saving money in a Rice Bowl this 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 can place your check in the basket near Mary's Altar beginning on Holy Thursday. 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!

**CSA 2025 – Strengthened In Christ,  
Responding With Joy**

The Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) supports the many good works done by the Church in west Michigan. With the CSA, the hungry are fed, prisoners are visited, those in difficult situations receive counsel, and countless other good works are performed. Your support makes this happen!

Our parish assessment for this year is \$78,253. We sent in our second batch of 19 pledges this week for \$7,375, bringing our total for the year to \$20,880. Thank you to all those who have responded already! If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, blank cards are available on the table in the back of church. Pledges can also be made online at [grdiocesese.org](http://grdiocesese.org), and you can view the short video about CSA there. While the idea of responding with joy to a request for money may seem unrealistic, giving generously to a good cause is a proven way of finding a sense of joy in our lives. Make your pledge today!

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we may also remember the path that lay before Him. Fill our hearts with faithfulness in following Jesus.

**Catholic Answers  
to Holy Week Questions**

with Dr. Edward Sri, Augustine Institute  
Monday of Holy Week, April 14, in Apostles Hall  
Gather at 6 p.m., Welcome & Prayer at 6:15 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Presentation & Discussion at 7:15 p.m.

How do we prepare for the most solemn days in the Church's calendar? Dr. Sri walks us through each day of Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to Good Friday, he offers prayerful insights on the events leading up to The Passion of Our Lord. The most important week for Christians, Holy Week is a sacred time to give our hearts entirely to God in prayer and in the liturgy.

We hope you will join us for this special time of community. Please share this invitation with your family members and friends!

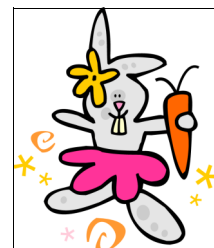
**Youth Group Night**

Our next Youth Group Night is scheduled for Sunday evening, April 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Students in Grades 8-12 are welcome. Bring a friend! —Kevin Heinlein

**Join us for a pilgrimage  
to the Solanus Casey Center**

Searching for peace? On May 14, join Catholic Charities West Michigan as we embark on a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Inspired by the life and example of Blessed Solanus Casey, the center serves as a place of pilgrimage, healing, reconciliation, and peace, a perfect opportunity to draw closer to God in this Jubilee Year.

Participate in Mass, tour the center, and more. Tickets are \$70, which includes your bus ride to and from the center, along with lunch. For more information or to register, visit [ccwestmi.org/jubilee-year](http://ccwestmi.org/jubilee-year). Questions? Please reach out to Sarah Stechschulte at [sstechschulte@ccwestmi.org](mailto:sstechschulte@ccwestmi.org).



Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on the parish grounds on Saturday, **April 26th**, at 10:00 a.m. (Note the new date.) We will (still) be preparing the baskets this Wednesday, April 16, at 9:00 a.m. in the parish office, and we can use many helping hands!



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

- April 13 Faith Formation Classes
- April 20 No Faith Formation Classes—Easter
- April 27 Faith Formation—Last Class!
- May 2 First Eucharist Retreat Day  
7:40 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the school
- May 3 First Communion at 4:00 p.m. Mass  
Vacation Bible School—Dates to be announced.

For our First Eucharist Retreat Day on May 2, we need parent/grandparent/Godparent volunteers to help our day be successful! Please contact Vanessa Booth if you're able to help with our special day.

**Grief Support Group**

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We would like to walk this journey with you. We are on a short pause, but we will begin a new support group series in late May. If you need to talk before the next group session, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of our team members. For more information, please contact Vanessa at 616-527-3610, or at [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. Our next session is on Saturday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the parish office living room. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or 616-527-3610.

**SSPP Auction – Tickets now available!**

The Saints Peter and Paul Auction will be held on Saturday, May 10, at the Ionia Armory. The theme is *Casino Royale*. Tickets are \$30 per person and include dinner and drinks. Tickets can be purchased at the school and parish offices, Wilson Heating and Cooling, or from any auction committee member. We'd love to see you there!

**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.*

**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 with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the Our Father beads, say the following: 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.
3. On the 10 Hail Mary beads, say the following: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.  
*(Repeat steps 2 & 3 for all five decades.)*
4. Conclude with (three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy can be prayed anytime, but it is especially recommended during the Novena in preparation for the Feast of the Divine Mercy, which runs from Good Friday through the Feast of the Divine Mercy (April 18-25, 2025).

*Jesus, I trust in you!*