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Phone: 616-527-3610
Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

June 1, 2025

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

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule (starting June 7 & 8)
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.; and 12 noon in Spanish

Weekday Mass Schedule
English: Mon & Wed, Mass at 12:10 p.m.
Tues, No Mass or Service
Thurs, Mass at 8:00 a.m.
Fri, No Mass or Service

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.

Imagine this scene with me: you're standing on a hillside outside Jerusalem. The wind stirs lightly. The sun is beginning to set, casting a golden glow over the hills. You are with Jesus—the one you saw crucified, the one who rose from the dead. For forty days, He has been teaching you, walking beside you, sharing meals with you again. And now, you watch as He lifts His hands in blessing—and slowly, miraculously, He is taken up before your eyes into the clouds.

You stand there frozen. Silent. Stunned. What now? That's the question the disciples must have felt deep in their bones. What now?

And then, suddenly—angels appear and ask, "Why are you standing here looking up to the sky?" It's as if they're saying: "Don't just stand there. You've got work to do."

This moment is so important, not because Jesus is leaving, but because He's commissioning. He's handing the mission over—not to angels, not to scholars, not to politicians—but to fishermen, tax collectors, everyday people. People like you and me.

Here's the practical truth of the Ascension: Jesus doesn't want us to keep staring at the heavens, waiting for Him to return. He wants us to bring heaven to earth—through our actions, our words, our witness.

The disciples could have gone home and said, "Well, Jesus is gone. I guess that's the end of the story." But they didn't. Scripture says they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. Why? Because they understood something essential: Jesus had not left them. He had been lifted up so He could be with-in them—through the Holy Spirit.

And this is where it meets our daily lives. When you're at home caring for a sick relative...When you're working hard at your job, trying to provide for your family...When you're the only one in your group who seems to be holding on to faith...When you feel small in a world full of noise and conflict...Jesus says: You will be my witnesses. Not when everything is easy. Not when you're perfect. Right now.

Just as the disciples had to go back and wait for the Holy Spirit, so must we. We need to pray, to listen, and to prepare. The power to witness doesn't come from ourselves—it comes from God. But we do have to show up. We have to say yes. That might mean taking time each morning for prayer. It might mean forgiving someone who hurt you. It might mean offering a kind word at work, or standing up for what's right when it's uncomfortable.

Jesus has ascended, yes—but He has not retired. He reigns in glory and acts through us. The world still needs His voice—and He has chosen yours.

So don't just stand there, staring at the clouds. Look around. Who needs to hear the Gospel from you? Who needs your love, your compassion, your courage? Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and say, "Lord, I'm ready. Use me."

And may we live with the joy and boldness of people who know that Christ is not far away—He is with us always, even to the end of the age.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

JUNE 1, 2025

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



AH = Apostles Hall
CR = Cornerstone Room
SC = School
BC = Basement Chapel

CH = Church
PO = Parish Office
VR = Veritas Room

The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Eph 1:17-23/Lk 24:46-53

Saturday, May 31
4:00 p.m. Marvin, Gwen, & David Kuieck (Diane Grummet)

Sunday, June 1
8:00 a.m. Margaret Tyler
11:30 a.m. Intention of our High School Graduates
1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, June 2—Saints Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs
Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/Jn 16:29-33
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Hunter Reed (Sherry Conley)

Tuesday, June 3—St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11
No Mass or Service

Wednesday, June 4—Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36/Jn 17:11-19
12:10 p.m. Intention of Ken
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

Thursday, June 5—St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26
8:00 a.m. Intention of our Saints Peter & Paul School Family
(Closing School Mass & Awards)

Friday, June 6—St. Norbert, Bishop
Acts 25:13-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19
No Mass or Service

Sunday, June 1 —The Ascension of the Lord		
9:15 a.m.	OCIA (PO)	
10:00 a.m.	Catechist Appreciation Brunch(VR)	
10:15 a.m.	OCIA Inquiry (PO)	
1—8 p.m.	Sharing Christ Retreat (AH)	
6—8 p.m.	Youth Group Night (CR)	
Monday, June 2		
6:30 p.m.	Monday Night Bible Study (PO)	
Tuesday, June 3		
Afternoon	Fun Day for Dev. Kdg.—Grade 8	
7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)	
Wednesday, June 4		
6-7:30 p.m.	TOPS (VR)	
7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (CH)	
Thursday, June 5		
9:30 a.m.	Last Day of School for Kdg.—Grade 7	
3:45 p.m.	School dismissal after Mass & awards	
	Life Fit (VR)	
Friday, June 6		
Saturday, June 7		
9:30 a.m.	Health Support Group (Biggby Coffee)	
Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday		
8:30 a.m.	OCIA (PO)	
New Mass Schedule begins:		
Saturday, 4 p.m.,		
Sunday, 10 a.m.		
Sunday, 12 noon in Spanish		

God mounts his throne
to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets
for the Lord.

OUR PARISH OFFERING: May 24 & 25, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection	\$5,507.02
Electronic Giving	1,760.00
Total	\$7,267.02
-5% Tithe	-363.35
Net Total	\$6,903.67
Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69	
Deficit for the Week: \$2,540.67	

School Support Fund: \$20.00
Cemetery: \$205.00

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.

We would like to share some important news with our parish communities. After 26 years of service as a priest in the diocese of Grand Rapids and nine years of faithful and devoted service as Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish and Saint Edward Parish, Father Tom Brown will be retiring effective June 30th.

During his time with us, Father Tom has shown tremendous care for the people of our parishes, guiding our families in faith, supporting us in times of joy and sorrow, and helping us grow as a community centered in Christ. His dedication and spiritual leadership have been a blessing to us all, and he will be deeply missed.

As he enters senior priest status, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Father Tom and offer our prayers for his continued health and peace in retirement.

The Diocese has also announced that, effective July 1st, Father Eugene Batungbacal will be appointed as Canonical Administrator of both Saints Peter and Paul and Saint Edward Parishes. We look forward to welcoming Father Eugene and walking together in faith as he begins this new role in our communities.

Please keep both Father Tom and Father Eugene in your prayers during this time of transition.

June 7 & 8, Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m.	Lector: Phill Wizorek Altar Servers: Autumn/Kendall/Kyle Cusack EMs: Cecilia Luke, Mary Perrien, Sue Wizorek Greeters: Volunteers
10:00 a.m.	Lector: Pete Fox Altar Servers: Shyla & Stephen Johnson EMs: Julie Bennett, Monica Mabe, Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Deb Porter, Theresa Scholtens

Happy Birthday to the Universal Church!
(next weekend)

Pentecost (this year, June 7 & 8) is commonly referred to as the "birthday of the Church." It marks the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, empowering them to share the message of Jesus and initiating the public ministry of the Church in building up the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Please join us for cake and ice cream in Apostles Hall after the 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Masses to celebrate our birthday and socialize with our fellow parishioners as we embrace our new Mass times together!

Saturday, June 7—Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4-5, 7/Jn 21:20-25
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
3:00 p.m. Confessions

Pentecost Sunday—New Mass Schedule begins
Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34/1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13/ Jn 20: 19-23

Saturday, June 7
4:00 p.m. Vernon Brown

Sunday, June 8
10:00 a.m. Marilyn Nash (Tom & Julie Bennett)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español

GOD’S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF JUNE 1

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

VACUUMING:

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

Please pray for:

Mike Priest	Randy Tripp	Michelle Richard-Mix
Lisa Pringle	Mike Peckins	Jennifer Lewis
Lesley Williams	Glen Alvord	Mary O’Connor
Patricia Anwar	Heather Rensi	Kym Coryell
Patricia Klein	Cherie Flinn	Terri Nurenberg
Connie Waterman	Anita Hozeski Scott	Jessica Fritz
Dorr Bissell	Karen Miller	Travis Eveleth
Colson Skilling	Pat McKinstry	Charles Timm
Jim Zook	Russinda Rohde	Larry Lafler
Martha Brooks	Landon Battle	Arlene Stanton
Denise Ward	Marsha Packer	Pat MacLachlan
Shirley Weber	Jack & Sue LaPeer	Jim & Barb Mulnix
Judy Dick	Tamera Pierce	Ken and Sherry North
Cindy Hardy	Angie Cedillo	Nathan Lower
Diana Kujala	Jo Wirtz	Finnly Hunt
Mark Dawson	Witney Fockler	Jerry & Maribeth Fritz
Tony Burns	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		
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

This Tuesday, June 3rd, is our monthly meeting. Please join us in the Veritas Room at 7:00 p.m. for the rosary, followed by the meeting at 7:30.

One item on the agenda is to elect the slate of officers for the coming year. The men who agree to accept an officer position provide a real service to our council. They make it possible for us to do the good work we are called to do. Thank you, brother Knights!



Get the Scoop on Mary!

Join the music ministry for a Marian Concert and Ice Cream Sundae Bar on Saturday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.



Our final Youth Group Night for this school year will be on Sunday, June 1, from 6-8 p.m. By special request, there will be ice cream floats!

--Kevin Heinlein

Zion Food Pantry Director

After fourteen years of faithful service, Deb and Elwin Hall will be stepping down from directing the Zion Food Pantry. The search for a new director is beginning. This is a part-time position which requires a compassionate heart, a healthy body, and strong organizational abilities. Duties include coordinating volunteers, ordering supplies, overseeing the budget, keeping track of donations and services provided, and working with Feeding America. If you are interested, please contact Deb Hall at 989-400-2121 or email ioniazion@gmail.com.

The Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, offers the **True Adventure Series for children ages 6 – 12 this summer**. These technology-free weeklong experiences will help children develop life skills and enhance critical thinking and creative artistic exploration through a variety of activities. Join us for *The Wild West*, July 21 – July 25; *In the Footsteps of St. Francis*, July 28-August 1; and *Campfire Storytellers*, August 4–August 8. Sessions run Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$300. Go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org to learn more.

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 or to register.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for the staff and students as they enter the last week of school. May they remember all of the lessons that they have learned and use their knowledge to help others grow in their faith and academic ventures.

Prison & Jail Ministry—Volunteers needed

We offer Catholic Masses, Communion services, OCIA, and Bible studies within six state prisons in our diocese. In addition to these weekly services, we offer resources and programming in 11 county jails and three juvenile detention centers as needed.

Will you join us in bringing Christ to our incarcerated brothers and sisters? We are looking for new volunteers to help lead Communion services. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the work we do to serve the incarcerated and about potential volunteer opportunities, consider attending our next information session.

Wednesday, June 25, 6 - 9 p.m.

Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids, MI

Register at

rebrand.ly/PJMVolunteerJune2025



We'll be starting a new Monday Night Bible Study adventure on June 2, 6:30 p.m.

**Follow Me:
Meeting Jesus in the
Gospel of John**

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us. *Follow Me* invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. In this study you will learn what it takes to follow Christ and discover the joy of divine friendship. You will see how God, and only God, can satisfy the deepest desires of your heart.

To reserve your study materials (\$23), contact Toni at the parish office.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus tells us today, "You are my witnesses" and guarantees the "promise of the Father" to "clothe us with the power to accomplish this mission." It is not worldly power which dominates and manipulates. It is the power of the Kingdom of God to live in peace, forgiveness, compassion, service to others, love of enemies, and care for the poor and defenseless.

Faith Formation Classes for Kindergarten through High School have concluded for this school year, but they will resume in the fall. For information about our program, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or 616-527-3610.

- June 1 Catechist Appreciation Brunch
10 a.m. in the Veritas Room
- June 21 Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor
Retreat 11 a.m.—3:30 p.m. in the Veritas Room
- August 4,5,6 Vacation Bible School 4—6 p.m.
(SSPP School). Join us for a *True North* Vacation Bible School experience. Learn to trust Jesus In a wild world.



Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open for Pre-K through 6th Graders. All older students and adults are encouraged to sign up as helpers!

<https://vbspro.events/p/64f219>



**Saints Peter & Paul
Annual Garage Sale
Friday and Saturday,
July 18 & 19, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

You may drop off your gently used and no-longer-needed treasures at the parish garage M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but please call (616-527-3610) to let us know you are coming. **(Please: No box-style televisions, or outdated computer equipment/printers.)** All proceeds will benefit our parish ministries. Thank you for your generosity!

HELPERS NEEDED! Do you have a few free hours this summer? Do you like to be outside? Do you have the knack for organizing, merchandising, and maximizing space? Do you like to have FUN? Join our garage sale team! Any time you can give is appreciated. Please contact Toni at the parish office if you can help!

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, June 7, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Biggby Coffee in Ionia. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610, or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com

A Change to our Sunday Mass Schedule

The Sunday Mass schedule at SS. Peter and Paul, Ionia, and St. Edward, Lake Odessa, will be changing, **starting on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th**. The Saturday evening schedule will remain the same, but the Sunday Mass times will change. The new schedule is as follows:

SS. Peter and Paul – Saturday at 4:00 p.m., Sunday at 10:00 a.m., and Sunday at 12:00 Noon (in Spanish)

St. Edward – Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

For many years we have had two Sunday morning Masses in English at SS. Peter and Paul. This has been true even though it has meant that our pastor was usually presiding at six Masses per weekend. Church law says that priests should celebrate no more than three, except in extreme situations. Our bishop has been patient in letting this go on for the past few years, but the time has come to make the change. Thank you for your understanding and patience as **we begin this new schedule on June 8th**.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences Coming Up!

Nurture your Sacrament of Marriage at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences are being held June 16-18 (midweek) at Center for Ministry in Saginaw; August 1-3 and October 3-5 at Augustine Center in Petoskey; and November 21-23 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit. Apply today at wwme.org or contact Amy and Joe Kopacz at 517-667-0433 for more information.



*Come rest awhile
in the Lord's presence.
Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.
in the Church*