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 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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 Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

May 18, 2025
 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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
 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.
 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.

As we continue to give praise and glory to God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we also think of his mother Mary during this month of May. God chose her from among all women before the dawn of time. God loved her with such a love that he bestowed on her a sum of graces more than He granted to his angels and his saints. He preserved her from any stain of sin or imperfection. No creature more beautiful or holy could ever have been conceived. Mary is the one person, next to God our Father, who could say to the divine Son: You are my Son. Our blessed Mother asks God Almighty, the Lord of the angels, her Son, "Son, why have you treated us so?" What angel would dare to say such a thing? But Mary, fully aware of her motherhood, does not hesitate to call the Lord of heaven and earth her Son. God is not offended for being called what he wanted to be. He truly is the Son of Mary.

Mary, the Mother of God, is also our mother. As Jesus hung on the cross, He said, "Woman, behold your son!" As He motioned to John, Mary saw not only John, but also all of us. In us, she recognized her Son, just as He had said, "As you did it for one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for Me." It is also good to remember that, along with these words of Jesus, Mary had always acted as a mother. She became our mother when she gave her 'yes' to the Father as He asked her to become the Mother of Jesus, our Savior. In the story of the wedding at Cana, St. John revealed to us her motherly heart in her attentive concern for others. Mary shows her loving heart in her caring vigilance for the people giving the feast so that they would not be embarrassed by running out of wine. It showed she was concerned about all things human, and nobody is excluded from her tenderness. So our little faults and mistakes, as well as our bigger faults, are the object of her concern. She is interested in everything that can affect our souls. "They have no wine," she says to her Son. Everybody else is concerned with other things. No one is aware of it. And even though it is clearly not the time yet for miracles, as Jesus says to her, she is able to make it arrive sooner. Jesus changes time and does the miracle for her.

Mary knows the heart of her Son, and she knows how to reach it. In heaven her attitude has not changed. Through her intercession, our prayers reach our Lord's presence sooner, more certainly, and better. This is why we use the ancient prayer of our Church saying, "O Virgin Mother of God, you who are always in His presence, speak good things about us. Say something to Him in our favor. We need it so much!"

Indeed we do need it so much. And especially when we are at fault. We have read of many times when God's patience was at an end and Mary spoke up for us, asking for yet another chance. God always keeps saying yes to Mary.

Our asking Mary to pray with us and for us is not a matter of proposing to ourselves yet another devotion. It is learning to talk to Mary with more trust. We approach Mary with the simplicity of little children who run to their mothers at every moment. They don't speak only when there is a great need, but when they are worried about little things that happen to them. Their mothers gladly help them to solve every need, even the smallest of problems. Mary is the same with us. Today we dedicate to her once again all that we are and all that we have. We place in her lap the days that are good and those that are bad. We place especially in her hands our journey to Jesus, that she may help us to stay free from harm and guard us with her tenderness as a mother does.

God bless you!
 Fr. Tom

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

MAY 18, 2025

*He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!*



The Week Ahead...

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-13/Rv 21:1-5/Jn 13:31-35

Saturday, May 17

4:00 p.m. Pat Brockman (Paul & Jean Barker)

Sunday, May 18

8:00 a.m. Sister Phyllis
11:30 a.m. Don Gardner (Patrick & Carol Lewis)
1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, May 19—Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Bertha Meier

Tuesday, May 20—St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31
No Mass or Service
12:00 p.m. Baptism of Ivy Landon McGillis

Wednesday, May 21—St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8
12:10 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

Thursday, May 22—St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
8:00 a.m. Intention of Pope Leo XIV

Friday, May 23—Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-12/Jn 15:12-17
No Mass or Service

Saturday, May 24—Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
1:00 p.m. Quinceañera for Yasmin Graciano
3:00 p.m. Confessions

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

Saturday, May 24

4:00 p.m. Kimberly Goodemoot (Hemenway family)

Sunday, May 25

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of Anna & Harry Homa family
11:30 a.m. Beverly White (Marie White)
1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Sunday, May 18—Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)
10:15 a.m. OCIA Inquiry (PO)
5-7 p.m. Sharing Christ (AH)

Monday, May 19

6:30 p.m. 8th Grade Class Trip
Monday Night Bible Study (PO)

Tuesday, May 20

5:45 p.m. Community Awareness Meeting (AH)

Wednesday, May 21

6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thursday, May 22

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

Friday, May 23

11:00 a.m. Half day of school—dismiss at 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 24

Sunday, May 25—Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Love
one another. As I have
loved
you, so you must
love one another
John 13:34*

OUR PARISH OFFERING: May 10 & 11, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection	\$10,812.69
Electronic Giving	3,785.00
Total	\$14,597.69
-5% Tithe	-729.88
Net Total	\$13,867.81

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69
Surplus for the Week: \$4,790.00

School Support Fund: \$244.00
Cemetery: \$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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

May 8, 2025

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, on the election of Pope Leo XIV:

I join with the faithful around the world in celebrating the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. Today is a historic moment not only for our Universal Church, but particularly for the Church in the United States as we witness an American elected as the Successor of St. Peter for the first time. In a special way, we give thanks and count our blessings for a pope with deep ties to the Midwest.

May 24 & 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. Lector: Kara Griffith
Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin
EMs: Mary Perrien, Phill & Sue Wizorek
Greeters: Mary Lou Mulick

8:00 a.m. Lector: Steve O'Mara
Altar Servers: Claire/Gabe/Anna Cusack
EMs: Julie Bennett, Kevin Heinlein,
Laurie Tjalsma
Greeters: Deb Porter

Please pray for:

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
Randy Tripp	Michelle Richard-Mix	

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.

I ask you to join me in extending heartfelt prayers for Pope Leo XIV as he assumes the Chair of Peter. May we work with him in being a "united Church searching all together for peace and justice, working together as women and men, faithful to Jesus Christ without fear, proclaiming Christ, to be missionaries, faithful to the gospel" (Pope Leo XIV, first address).



11:30 a.m. Lector: Dan Lower
Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe
Barb Mulnix
Greeters: Theresa Scholtens

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	

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF MAY 18

Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

VACUUMING:

Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen



Knights' Corner

In honor of St. Isidore, the patron of farmers and gardeners, and whose feast day was May 15, here is a prayer to bless your own garden:

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Maker of the universe! You have made the sun and moon and stars, the earth and all who live in it. All glory and praise are Yours, O Lord our God!

Come and bless this soil which is to be our garden. All that dies becomes earth, and so it lives again. In your goodness, pour down your blessing on these young shoots and sprouts, and make them grow into mature fruit.

Thank you for our hands and the tools we use to till the soil, to plant the seeds and bulbs, to weed our gardens. May our efforts be to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens of calm in our busy world. Amen.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rice Bowl program this past Lent! We collected a total of \$909.62! Of this, \$682.22 was sent to Catholic Relief Services for their efforts to feed the hungry around the world, and \$227.40 was sent to the Zion Food Pantry, where it will be used right in our own community.

CSA 2025 – Strengthened In Christ, Responding With Joy

Through the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), children in our 11 counties are educated, kids in foster care find permanent homes, migrants are resettled, 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 fifth batch of pledges this week for \$2,850, bringing our total for the year to \$34,120. Pledges can also be made online at grdiocese.org. We have a long way to go, so make your pledge today!

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



Thank you to everyone who celebrated Mother's Day by attending the breakfast. We served about 70 people. A special thank you to Joe and Marilyn Peckins for all their help, and to Paul and Jean Barker for donating the delicious French toast bakes.

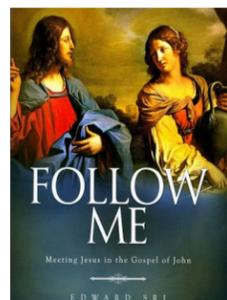
Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for our new pope, Pope Leo XIV. May he be guided by the Holy Spirit and serve the Catholic Church with humility, grace, and integrity.



Celebrating Our Graduates!!

The Saints Peter and Paul Parish family would like to recognize and celebrate our 2025 high school graduates on Sunday, June 1, at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. All 12th grade students of our parish have been mailed a special invitation. In this invitation is a request for a photo of the graduate that we can include in our special graduation section of the bulletin that weekend. Please send a photo, along with your RSVP form, to the parish office by this Friday, May 23. We would also like to include our college graduates' information and photos. If you know of someone from our community who has or will be graduating from college this spring (or last fall), please contact Toni McKay at the parish office as soon as possible.



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

Following Christ takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. *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.



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.



Faith Formation

Classes 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 21 Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Retreat 11 a.m.—3:30 p.m. (Veritas Room)
- August 4,5,6 Vacation Bible School 4—6 p.m. (SSPP School)

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

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.



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

We invite you to donate your gently used and no-longer-needed treasures to our sale. **Donations may be dropped off at the parish garage, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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!

Is God calling you to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy?

Prison and Jail Ministry develops and maintains Catholic religious services, including 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

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.

Different channel for TV Mass on May 25

The regularly scheduled FOX 17 broadcast of the televised Sunday Mass will be moved to Antenna TV on May 25th due to the airing of the Indianapolis 500 on Fox 17. Mass will still air at 10 a.m. Mass will return to FOX 17 the following weekend. You can also watch Mass on the diocesan You Tube channel and website.

To locate Antenna TV on your television, go to: antennatv.tv/channel-finder



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