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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
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

June 15, 2025
The Most Holy Trinity

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: 10 a.m.; and 12 noon in Spanish

Weekday Mass Schedule
 Monday: Mass at 12:10 p.m.
 Tuesday: No Mass or Service
 Wednesday: Mass at 12:10 p.m.
 Thursday: Mass at 8:00 a.m.
 Friday: No Mass or Service

Reconciliation Schedule
 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.

The Sacrament of Confession

A week from today we will be celebrating Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, but today we need to look at the Sacrament of Confession. Confession is, for many of us, something we'd rather not think about. Yes, it is a gift from God, but confessing to another human being, a priest, is especially difficult for us. Many of us choose not to go. But this means we are missing out on one of God's greatest gifts. Confession can be scary, but it is always worth going to, no matter how we feel about it beforehand. The graces and mercy that flow from this Sacrament always surpass the fear and anxiety that we might feel. People will find a million reasons to avoid this gift, but it may help to hear a few stories of those who have gone before us. These stories of Confession may help to uplift you and lead you to the Confession line. They are real stories, but many details have been left out to keep everything anonymous.

"I once went to Confession and I was so nervous that I didn't know how to begin. So I told the priest how I was feeling and he prayed with me. His prayer was so understanding and compassionate that I then had the courage to start making my confession."

"During parish missions in the diocese, priests often hold Confessions face to face. You can imagine the horror at the thought of confessing your sins while looking someone in the eyes. It's always easier to confess behind a division, but for a while I've challenged myself to confess face to face. However, I suddenly realized with one catch: Confession had to be with a priest I didn't know. Talk about confessing behind a division or wall! This Lent, a priest who is a family friend was giving the Lenten Mission at a local parish. Time for Confessions came. The Holy Spirit was obviously looking to pour His mercy out in this moment, because I would have never considered Confession with him, but I got up, stood in line, and when it was my turn he listened intently to everything I had to say, allowing me to vent. When he finally decided to speak, he did so in a way that I never expected. He reminded me that life can be tough and it can take a toll on any of us, but there is always, always someone by our side willing to help us with our cross. There was no judgment or scolding, just mercy and love."

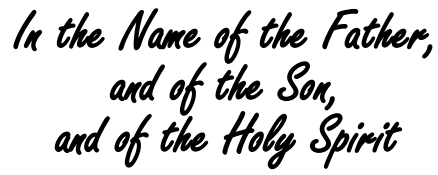
"I found Confession hard when I was little and I still do. I always feel like the fat mouse from Cinderella trying to juggle all the corn, which for me is how I see all the rubbish I tend to carry, sometimes without realizing it. The hurt and pain in my heart just gets worse when the load is too much. So on this particular occasion I shared it in Confession, chatting to the priest and explaining it with the fat mouse analogy. There was praise and worship music on in the background during this time of Confession, and I heard the line of a song which was "lay it all down." At that moment, something inside me said, 'Enough is enough, just unpack your heart, I'm here.' So I did. The priest said to me, "You belong to God, don't let anyone put you down or try to tell you what you are not. He has made you for heaven!"

There are many other stories, but in the end it is always the same. They end up going to Confession and coming away with God's forgiveness and mercy. Isn't it time for you to reconsider going to Confession?

May God richly bless you!

Fr. Tom

JUNE 15, 2025



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



**God,
Bless all the fathers in the
world. Father, we ask that You
guide them to be good role
models and loving to their
children. We also ask that You
help them to be a father like
You are. Give them grace and
patience to handle situations
in a loving way.
Amen**

Cara Brownell	Nik Discher	Rachel Wilson
Andrew Bucholtz	Kevin Heinlein	Allen Wizorek
Lauren Christensen	Anna Johnson	



Knights' Corner

In our world today it can be hard to find positive models of fatherhood. At the same time, the isolation that many men feel is a real problem. A fraternal organization like the Knights of Columbus can be a great way to help fill this need. Spending time together, working on projects, praying, and learning with other Catholic gentlemen is a wonderful blessing. If you're not already a Knight, why not join? Talk to a Knight today!

Open House in Honor of Our Pastor, Father Thomas J. Brown

We will soon be saying good-bye to Fr. Tom as he retires from active ministry on June 30, 2025. He has served the Church as a priest since his ordination on June 5, 1999, and he has been Pastor of Saints Peter & Paul and Saint Edward's Parishes since July 1, 2016. (Twenty-six years of faithful service as a priest, over 1/3 of those years right here among us!) We will mark this bittersweet occasion with a simple celebration in Apostles Hall on Saturday, June 28, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The open house will begin around 5 p.m. All are welcome!

Zion Food Pantry Director

After fourteen years of 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 and 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 8:30 a.m. in the parish office living room. Contact Toni McKay at the parish office for more information or to register.

"Through our prayers and through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of fathers, may fathers come to know the irreplaceable role they hold in the lives of their children, and the responsibility they share in welcoming God's gift of new life!"

--Bishop Shelton J. Fabre

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences Coming Up!

Nurture your Sacrament of Marriage at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences are being held 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.

Michigan Catholic Women's Conference Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lansing Center,
333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing

The conference focuses on the theme, "Living the Promise" (cf. Proverbs 3:5-6). The day will feature talks from wonderful Catholic speakers and diocesan priests, praise and worship music, a time of Eucharistic Adoration. The day culminates with Mass celebrated by bishops from Michigan. The messages will center around God's unlimited faithfulness to our story and the incredible grace that comes from putting our trust in Him.

Register today—

Early bird pricing ends June 15!

mcwc.ticketspice.com/2025-mcwc

Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage for Families

Sunday, June 29, 3:00 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Andrew
301 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids

During this Jubilee year, the Diocese of Grand Rapids is hosting several local pilgrimages. Join other families from throughout the diocese to celebrate the domestic church. ALL are welcome: children, youth, young adults, parents, and grandparents.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words of Jesus in today's gospel, "I have many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now," could have been said by any parent. It can be frustrating because our desire to guide is often misinterpreted or poorly received. We cannot program our children. We can only teach, lead, and trust the Spirit of truth will guide them.

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

Rescheduled Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Retreat—will be in late August

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 Grade. Older students and adults are encouraged to sign up as helpers!



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

It's Parish Festival Season!

Celebrate the sights and sounds of summer by visiting a parish festival near you. These gatherings offer a chance to worship and celebrate our local Church.

Find a parish festival this weekend by visiting: grdiocese.org/parish-festivals-guide-2025/



**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!

Join Bishop Walkowiak for a Holy Hour for our priests.

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (also the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests) offers us the perfect opportunity to lift up our spiritual fathers in prayer. Join Bishop Walkowiak and the faithful of the diocese for a Holy Hour on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to pray for the sanctification of our priests.

Thursday, June 26, 6-7 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Andrew

Encountering the Saints of Divine Mercy in Poland

November 3 – 11, 2025

Join Father Lam Le, pastor of St. John Paul II in Cedar Springs and Mary Queen of Apostles in Sand Lake, and Catholics from the Diocese of Grand Rapids as they embark on a special pilgrimage during this Jubilee Year to the homeland of St. John Paul II.

Highlights include:

- Mass celebrated by Fr. Lam Le at St. James Church in Warsaw
- Explore Old Town in the center of Warsaw City.
- Visit the beautiful hilltop Jasna Gora Monastery, where Saint John Paul II made frequent visits throughout his life.
- Take a cable car ride to the breathtaking village of Zakopane and then head to the Jaszczurówka Chapel, which was visited many times by the young Karol Wojtyla (St. John Paul II).
- Explore Wawel Hill in Krakow. This hill is home to the Cathedral and Coronation Chapel, one of the most the most important sites in Poland.
- Spend time in prayer and reflection at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Visit the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Visits to many other popular and devotional sites

For more information and to register contact Pattie Reynolds at preynolds@grdiocese.org or <https://www.206tours.com/cms/grdiocese/poland/>. Don't delay, seats are limited!



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