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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

August 24, 2025 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Canonical Administrator:

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, C.Ss.R. 616-527-3610, ext. 12

Email: freugene@ssppcatholic.com

School Principal: Mrs. Jenny Leik 616-527-3561, ext. 18

Email: ileik@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: 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon in Spanish

Weekday Mass Schedule

Wednesday: 12:10 p.m.; 7 p.m. in Spanish

Thursday: 8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation Schedule

Wednesday 11 a.m.-12 noon Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.

For questions regarding Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, or any other sacrament, please call the parish office: 616-527-3610.

Praver Chain

If you have a prayer request for immediate need, please call 616-522-0279, or 616-527-0438.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

This week marks the beginning of a brand new school year at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School for 2025-2026, and we couldn't be more excited! We give a warm welcome to all our students, both returning and new. Get ready for a year filled with fun, adventure, and a whole lot of learning!

We want to give a huge thank you to our amazing parents for all their support and dedication in making sure the kids receive the best education possible. A big shout-out to our wonderful teachers for all the hard work they've put in to prepare exciting lessons for our students.

Let's take a moment to feel grateful for the blessings we have, and let's come together in prayer to God for a fantastic and blessed school year ahead!

Blessing Prayer for Teachers and Students (Prayer Source: Book of Blessings prepared by International Commission on English in the Liturgy A Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1989)

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. In times long past, you sent us your prophets to teach your laws and to bear witness to your undying love. You sent us your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone.

Send your Spirit upon these students and their teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that during this academic year they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

iBIENVENIDOS AL PRIMER DÍA DE CLASE!

Esta semana marca el comienzo de un nuevo año escolar en la Escuela Católica Saints Peter and Paul para el 2025-2026, jy no podríamos estar más emocionados! Damos una cálida bienvenida a todos nuestros alumnos, tanto a los que regresan como a los nuevos. ¡Prepárense para un año lleno de diversión, aventuras y mucho aprendizaje!

Queremos dar las gracias a nuestros maravillosos padres por todo su apoyo y dedicación para garantizar que los niños reciban la mejor educación posible. También queremos dar las gracias a nuestros maravillosos profesores por todo el esfuerzo que han dedicado a preparar clases emocionantes para nuestros alumnos.

Me gustaría invitar la comunidad hispana para considerar educación católica para sus hijos. Si quiere más información llámame para una cita.

Dediquemos un momento a sentirnos agradecidos por las bendiciones que tenemos y unámonos en oración a Dios para que el año escolar que tenemos por delante sea fantástico y bendecido.

Oración de bendición para profesores y alumnos

Señor, Dios nuestro, en tu sabiduría y amor nos rodeas con los misterios del universo. En tiempos pasados nos enviaste a tus profetas para enseñarnos tus leyes y dar testimonio de tu amor eterno. Nos enviaste a tu Hijo para enseñarnos con palabras y ejemplos que la verdadera sabiduría proviene solo de ti.

Envía tu Espíritu sobre estos alumnos y sus profesores y llénalos de tu sabiduría y tus bendiciones. Concédeles que durante este año académico se dediquen a sus estudios y compartan con los demás lo que han aprendido. Concédelo por Cristo nuestro Señor.

> Fr. Eugene Batungbacal R. Amén.



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL



We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1-2/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Saturday, August 23

4:00 p.m. Intention of Catherine Dietrich

Sunday, August 24

10:00 a.m. Joyce Funkey (Don Funkey & family)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español (People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish)

Monday, August 25—St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Mt 23:13-22

No Mass

Tuesday, August 26—Weekday

1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-6/Mt 23:23-26

No Mass

Wednesday, August 27—St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12/Mt 23:27-32

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Sister Phyllis

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, August 28—St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5, 12-14, 17/Mt 24:42-51

8:00 a.m. Dennis Finkler

Friday, August 29—The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12/Mk 6:17-29 No Mass

Saturday, August 30—Weekday

1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Mt 25:14-30

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

1:00 p.m. Baptism of Valeria Campuzano

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-7, 10-11/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24/

Lk 14:1, 7-14

Saturday, August 30

4:00 p.m. Ernie & Estella Cusack (Luke Cusack)

Sunday, August 31

10:00 a.m. Catherine Verdun

12:00 p.m. Misa en español (People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish)

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS-WEEK OF AUGUST 24

GENERAL CLEANING Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

VACUUMING: Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

AUGUST 24, 2025



AH = Apostles Hall \overline{CR} = Cornerstone Room \overline{SC} = School **BC** = Basement Chapel

CH = Church \overline{PO} = Parish Office VR = Veritas Room

Sunday, August 24-Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)

Birthday Party for Fr. Eugene (AH)

Monday, August 25

1-3:30 p.m.

1st day for DK students

Monday Night Bible Study (VR) 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26

1st day for Preschool students Liturgy Commission Meeting (PO)

Wednesday, August 27

6:30 p.m.

TOPS (VR) 6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 28

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

Friday, August 29

No School—Labor Day Weekend

\$8,989.25

\$10,754.25

\$10,216.54

1,765.00

-537.71

Saturday, August 30

Sunday, August 31-Twenty-Second Sunday-OrdinaryTime OCIA (PO) 8:30 a.m.



OUR PARISH OFFERING: August 15, 16, & 17, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection **Electronic Giving** Total

-5% Tithe Net Total

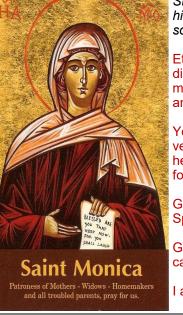
Surplus for the Week: \$658.10 Budgeted YTD: \$80,769.20 Surplus YTD: \$7,102.69

Budgeted Weekly: \$10.096.15

School Support: \$30.00

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.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Monica, who died in 387, obtained the conversion of her pagan husband after praying for him for thirty years. Under the guidance of St. Ambrose, she won the conversion of her oldest son, St. Augustine. Her feast day is August 27.

Eternal and merciful Father, I give you thanks for the gift of your divine Son who suffered, died, and rose for all mankind. I thank you also for my Catholic faith and ask your help that I may grow in fidelity by prayer, by works of charity and penance, by reflection on your Word, and by regular participation in the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

You gave Saint Monica a spirit of selfless love manifested in her constant prayer for the conversion of her son Augustine. Inspired by boundless confidence in your power to move hearts, and by the success of her prayer, I ask the grace to imitate her constancy in my prayer for those who no longer share in the intimate life of your Catholic family.

Grant, through my prayer and witness, that they may be open to the promptings of your Holy Spirit to return to loving union with your people.

Grant also that my prayer be ever hopeful and that I may never judge another, for you alone can read hearts.

I ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

August 23 & 24, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector: Pat Rinker 4:00 p.m.

> Altar Servers: Adah Drown, Micah Mulford EMs: Mary Perrien, Phill & Sue Wizorek

Greeters: Mary Lou Mulick

10:00 a.m. Lector: Paul Meyer

Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein EMs: Julie Bennett, Kevin Heinlein, Theresa Scholtens

Greeters: Dave O'Mara, Deb Porter

August 30 & 31, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector: Sue Wizorek

Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin EMs: Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick, Mary Perrien Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:00 a.m. Lector: Walt Downes

Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein

EMs: Shannon Andrews,

Cheryl & John Hildebrandt

Greeters: Julie Bennett, Theresa Scholtens

Please pray for:

Yolanda(Lewis)Hardison Kirsten Mork Sue & Joe Kleiss Kathy Kranz Theresa Hess Mike & Carol Gallagher Garry Mulick Mike Priest Lisa Pringle Lesley Williams Connie Waterman Dorr Bissell Jim Zook Martha Brooks Denise Ward Shirley Weber Judy Dick Cindy Hardy Diana Kujala Mark Dawson Tony Burns

Lois Walker

Ed Blyth Doug Zeeck Randy Tripp Mike Peckins Glen Alvord Heather Rensi Cherie Flinn Anita Hozeski Scott Karen Miller Pat McKinstry Russinda Rohde Landon Battle Marsha Packer Jack & Sue LaPeer Tamera Pierce Angie Cedillo Jo Wirtz Witney Fockler Becky Wagner Amanda Eveleth Martha Misak Jennifer Durden

Kym Coryell Terri Nurenberg Jessica Fritz Travis Eveleth Larry Lafler Arlene Stanton Pat MacLachlan Jim & Barb Mulnix Ken and Sherry North Nathan Lower Finnly Hunt Jerry & Maribeth Fritz Tom White Pamela Coggan Joe Drysdale Nichole Munsell Jace Peterson Georgia Sibert

Beth Buffey

Jennifer Lewis

Mary O'Connor

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.

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Staff (616) 527-3610 Permanent Deacon Zenon Cardenas 616-527-8942

Cecilia Luke ext. 10 Secretary Office Manager Adam Rewa ext. 11 Pastoral Services Toni McKay ext. 13 Music Director Whitney Crooks 616-527-3610 Faith Formation Vanessa Booth ext. 21 616-527-3610 Maintenance Matt Lang

Aaren Perry

SS. Peter and Paul School (616) 527-3561 www.ssppcatholic.com

616-527-3610

Vanessa Booth

Cemetery Sexton

Tom O'Connor

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

Dave O'Mara 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

The Knights of Council #944 will be involved in many familiar activities this year, such as the Tootsie Roll Drive, Coats for Kids, the Santa

Breakfast, Free Throw Contest, Spelling Bee, supporting a seminarian, our raffle, our parish needs, our family needs, and our community needs. They will also be developing some new plans for the future. Stay tuned.

If you are a male at least 18 years old interested in ioining the Knights of Columbus, you can contact me, or any Knight, or go online and e-file an application. If you are an *inactive* Knight, come on back!

Vivat Jesus! Ron Speckin, Grand Knight

2nd Collection for Gaza & the Middle East August 23 & 24

Archbishop Broglio, president of the USCCB, has asked his brother bishops in the United States to take up a second collection to assist with humanitarian relief efforts and pastoral support in Gaza and the Middle East.

He writes in part, "It is with great pastoral concern for the ongoing crisis in Gaza that I write to you today. Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that 'Gaza is starving."

In response to this growing humanitarian crisis, Bishop Walkowiak is asking the parishes in our diocese to take up a second collection during the weekend of August 23 & 24. Proceeds from the second collection will be split evenly between two Catholic organizations working in the region. The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Appeal for Donations

Our migrant farmers work hard so that the fields produce good crops and bountiful harvests. We would like to invite everyone to consider donating travelsize toiletries, such as shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, etc., as well as adult-size t-shirts or towels, for use by the farmers. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the parish, and we will distribute them accordingly. Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you.

Opportunities for Learning About Our Faith

Our parish offers some great opportunities for learning more about the Catholic faith:

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (for those entering the Catholic Church or completing initiation into the Catholic Church). Sessions are on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the parish office living room.

Monday Night Bible Studies (Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Veritas Room)

NEW! Daytime faith sharing/Scripture study sessions, beginning Wednesdays after Labor Day. We've heard there is interest in having a daytime opportunity for faith sharing/Scripture study. We are seeking out those who are interested in participating. From there, we will set a date to discuss the format, content, and resources for our sessions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact Toni McKav at the parish office. or email tmckay@ssppcatholic.com, about any of these opportunities.



Thank you to all who came out to eat at El Mariachi's on Tuesday. August 12. The restaurant donated 10% of food and beverage revenue to our upcoming Ionia Area CROP Walk. We are so

grateful to Moises and Tony Velasco and the people of El Mariachi's for their generosity and willingness to host this event. We raised \$250.00 and raised awareness regarding our call to feed the hungry in the local and global community.

On the weekend of September 6 & 7, you will have an opportunity to sign up for the walk on October 5. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States. 25% of the funds raised by CROP Walk are given to local food agencies. Zion Food Pantry, Commission on Aging, IM Kids 3rd Meal, and Saranac Area Food Bank all benefit from the Ionia Area CROP Walk. Thank you for your participation.

Love in Jesus, Pat Rinker

Llamamiento para donaciones

Nuestros agricultores migrantes trabajan duro para que los campos produzcan buenas cosechas y abundantes cosechas. Nos gustaría invitar a todos a considerar la posibilidad de donar artículos de aseo personal de tamaño de viaje, como champú, jabón, cepillos de dientes, etc., así como camisetas o toallas de tamaño adulto para uso de los agricultores. Si puede donar alguno de estos artículos, por favor tráigalos a la parroquia y los distribuiremos como corresponda. Gracias por su generosidad. Que Dios los bendiga.

AUGUST 24, 2025

Faith Formation Program

Registration is now open for Seedlings (4 & 5 years old) through High School. Please see the registration forms on the table in the back of church. All regular classes will be held in our school from 9:00-9:55 a.m. on Sunday mornings. For more information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth: 616-527-3610 or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Our Faith Formation program is growing, and we are in need of Sunday School teachers (Catechists). Do you love children AND God? Perhaps God is calling you to serve him in our Faith Formation Program. Please pray about it, and if you think he may be calling you to serve in this (or any other way), I'd love to talk with you!

<u>September</u>

Sept. 14 Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30—6 p.m. (Veritas Rm.) Faith Formation Classes for Seedlings-Confirmation 9:00—9:55 a.m.

> The Ministry of Consolation Our Grief Support Series is Expanding!

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We will soon begin offering a few different opportunities to gather in small groups to talk over coffee/tea. Dates and times will be determined by the response we receive. Each session offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. Please let us walk this journey with you and offer our support. For more information, contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Ministry of Consolation needs volunteers

Called by the healing ministry of Jesus, The Ministry of Consolation continues to reach out to parishioners and community members suffering from any type of a loss, as well as those facing health challenges. For over fifteen years we have been developing various programs to meet the specific bereavement needs of our community. We are looking for volunteers who have a desire to care for grieving people through various means of support. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider this ministry while keeping in mind the following qualities that we are seeking. Volunteers should have a desire to:

Assist people in crisis Be a good listener Be sympathetic Be understanding Have time to dedicate to this ministry

If you are interested in learning more about the Ministry of Consolation, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or 616-527-3610.

Programa de Formación de la Fe

La inscripción ya está abierta para Semilleros (4 y 5 años) hasta la escuela secundaria. Por favor, vea los formularios de inscripción en la mesa en la parte trasera de la iglesia. Todas las clases regulares se llevarán a cabo en nuestra escuela de 9:00 a 9:55 a.m. los domingos por la mañana. Para más información sobre la Formación de Fe, por favor contacte a Vanessa Booth: 616-527-3610 o vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Sesión de Confirmación de Otoño para Candidatos/ Patrocinadores el 14 de septiembre de 4:30 a 6 p.m. (Sala Veritas).

Clases de Formación en la Fe para Plantitas - Confirmación el 21 de septiembre de 9:00 a 9:55 a.m.

Commemoration Service 80th Anniversary—End of World War II

All are invited to a Commemoration Service marking the 80th anniversary of the ending of World War II on Tuesday, September 2, at 6 p.m., at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 215 Sheldon Avenue SE. This hour-long ecumenical time of remembrance and gratitude will be led by Bishop David Walkowiak, Rabbi Albert Lewis, and Pastors Carl Kammeraad and Epke vander Berg. The service is part of a weeklong series of "Greatest Generation" events marking the end of WWII: all are listed at

https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/greatest-generation -celebration-2025.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Together with your families, the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. Bishop Walkowiak is inviting all couples celebrating milestone anniversaries to join him on Sunday, October 5, at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by calling Lauren Vandervort at 616-246-0588.

*************** Misa de Aniversario de Boda

Junto con sus familias, la Diócesis de Grand Rapids honra el testimonio fiel a su vocación del matrimonio y desea celebrar con ustedes. El Obispo Walkowiak está invitando a todas las parejas que celebran aniversarios importantes a unirse a él el domingo 5 de octubre, a las 10 a.m. en la Misa en la Catedral de San Andrés (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) para esta celebración anual. Una recepción simple seguirá inmediatamente. Por favor, confirme su asistencia llamando a Lauren Vandervort al 616-246-0588.