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# 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)

**September 14, 2025**

**The Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross**

Canonical Administrator:  
Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, C.Ss.R.  
616-527-3610, ext. 12  
Email: [freugene@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:freugene@ssppcatholic.com)

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: 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.

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

**The Call to Sainthood**  
On September 7, 2025, the Catholic Church celebrated a significant moment in its history by canonizing two remarkable individuals: Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. Their elevation to Sainthood was a testament to their extraordinary lives of faith, dedication, and love for God.

Carlo Acutis, a young Italian boy who lived in the late 20th century, exemplified his devotion through his enthusiastic embrace of the Eucharist and his deep understanding of technology, using it to spread the Gospel message to young people. He demonstrated that holiness can be achieved in our modern world, serving as a beacon of faith for many.

Pier Giorgio Frassati, known for his adventurous spirit and commitment to social justice, dedicated his life to serving those in need. He embodied the teachings of Christ through his compassionate actions and tireless advocacy for the marginalized and the poor. His joyful demeanor and active participation in the Church's mission were an inspiration to all.

Both saints embody what it means to say "yes" to God daily, striving to follow the path laid out by Jesus Christ. They serve as role models, demonstrating how to fully surrender oneself to God's will and mission. Saints play a crucial role in our spiritual lives, interceding on our behalf and guiding us through their lived examples and teachings. Through their stories, we are reminded of the call to holiness and the joy of living a life devoted to God and others.

**La Llamada A La Santidad**  
El 7 de septiembre de 2025, la Iglesia católica celebró un momento significativo en su historia al canonizar a dos personas extraordinarias: Carlo Acutis y Pier Giorgio Frassati. Su elevación a la santidad fue un testimonio de sus extraordinarias vidas de fe, dedicación y amor a Dios.

Carlo Acutis, un joven italiano que vivió a finales del siglo XX, ejemplificó su devoción a través de su entusiasta aceptación de la Eucaristía y su profundo conocimiento de la tecnología, que utilizó para difundir el mensaje del Evangelio entre los jóvenes. Demostró que la santidad se puede alcanzar en nuestro mundo moderno, sirviendo de faro de fe para muchos.

Pier Giorgio Frassati, conocido por su espíritu aventurero y su compromiso con la justicia social, dedicó su vida a servir a los necesitados. Encarnó las enseñanzas de Cristo a través de sus acciones compasivas y su incansable defensa de los marginados y los pobres. Su actitud alegre y su participación activa en la misión de la Iglesia fueron una inspiración para todos.


Ambos santos encarnan lo que significa decir «sí» a Dios cada día, esforzándose por seguir el camino trazado por Jesucristo. Son modelos a seguir, que demuestran cómo entregarse plenamente a la voluntad y la misión de Dios. Los santos desempeñan un papel crucial en nuestra vida espiritual, intercediendo por nosotros y guiándonos a través de sus ejemplos y enseñanzas. A través de sus historias, se nos recuerda la llamada a la santidad y la alegría de vivir una vida dedicada a Dios y a los demás.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS





AH = Apostles Hall

CR = Cornerstone Room

SC = School

BC = Basement Chapel

CH = Church

PO = Parish Office

VR = Veritas Room

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
Nm 21:4-9/Ps 78:1-2, 34-38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

**Saturday, September 13**  
4:00 p.m. Bernard & Bertha Ardis (Ardis family)

**Sunday, September 14**  
10:00 a.m. Jerry & Barb Gibson (family)  
12:00 p.m. Misa en español (*for the people of the parish*)

**Monday, September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows**  
1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Jn 19:25-27  
No Mass

**Tuesday, September 16—Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**  
1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1-3, 5-6/Lk 7:11-17  
No Mass

**Wednesday, September 17—St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church**  
1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35  
11:00 a.m. Confessions  
12:10 p.m. Intention of Peter & Linda Foy (Mary Foy)  
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour  
7:00 p.m. Misa en español

**Thursday, September 18—Weekday**  
1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-10/Lk 7:36-50  
8:00 a.m. Intention of Lorna Weitzel (Neil Bauer)

**Friday, September 19—St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**  
1 Tm 6:2-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3  
No Mass

**Sunday, September 14**—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
Fall Confirmation session cancelled

**Monday, September 15**  
6:30 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study (VR)  
6:30 p.m. Blessing of Musicians (Cathedral)

**Tuesday, September 16**

**Wednesday, September 17**  
5:30-6:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (VR)

**Thursday, September 18**  
9:00 a.m. Daytime Faith Sharing (PO)  
3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)  
5:45 p.m. Ionia Community Awareness (AH)

**Friday, September 19**  
Field Trip to Binder Park Zoo

**Saturday, September 20**

**Sunday, September 21**—Twenty-fifth Sunday-Ordinary Time  
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
9-9:55 a.m. Faith Formation classes begin (SC)  
5:00 p.m. Discovering Christ Reunion and Come & See Event Potluck (AH)



OUR PARISH OFFERING: September 6 & 7, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection	\$8,545.59
Electronic Giving	1,395.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,940.59</b>
-5% Tithe	-497.03
Net Total	\$9,443.56
Budgeted Weekly: \$10,096.15	
<b>Deficit for the Week: \$155.56</b>	
Budgeted YTD: \$111,057.65	
<b>Surplus YTD: \$5,243.41</b>	
School Support: \$75.00	

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.

WHAT IS DISCOVERING CHRIST?

Discovering Christ is a seven-week program helping individuals encounter Jesus Christ through shared meals, prayer, video teachings, and small group discussions, focusing on establishing or renewing a personal relationship with Christ and experiencing God's love.

DISCOVERING CHRIST SCHEDULE

Sundays, October 5-December 7, 2025, 5-7 p.m.  
(No session on October 19 or November 30)  
Retreat Day, Sunday, November 16, 2025  
1:30-7:30 p.m. SS. Peter & Paul Parish,  
434 High St., Ionia (SSPP School Cafeteria)

September 13 & 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:00 p.m. Lector: Cecilia Luke  
Altar Servers: Jace Perry, Jaclyn Rewa  
EMs: Julie Bennett, Monica Mabe,  
Mary Perrien  
Greeters: Volunteers

10:00 a.m. Lector: Sam Meyer  
Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein  
EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Theresa Scholtens,  
Laurie Tjalsma  
Greeters: Dave O'Mara, Deb Porter


REGISTER TODAY!

Here's how:

1. Scan the QR code and complete the online registration form.

2. Access the online registration form at the link provided on our parish website (www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org), MyParish App (SS. Peter & Pau), or Facebook page (Saints Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church), and complete the form

3. Complete a paper registration form, available in the church, and submit it by depositing in the basket provided on the Discovering Christ info table, or drop it off/mail to the parish office (434 High St., Ionia, MI 488486). You can also email a scanned copy to tmckay@ssppcatholic.com



September 20 & 21, Twenty-fifth Sunday—Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Phill Wizorek  
Altar Servers: Kaylynn/Kenna/Kinleigh Wizorek  
EMs: Julie Bennett, Monica Mabe,  
Sue Wizorek  
Greeters: Volunteers

10:00 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson  
Altar Servers: Shyla & Stephen Johnson  
EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt,  
Theresa Scholtens  
Greeters: Dave O'Mara, Deb Porter

**Saturday, September 20—Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs**  
1Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 8:4-15  
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
11:00 a.m. Hispanic Baptism  
3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Amos 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-8/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13

**Saturday, September 20**  
4:00 p.m. Jim Hayden (family)

**Sunday, September 21**  
10:00 a.m. Luz Reyes (Kevin & Ibeth Kenney)  
(Faith Formation Rite of Enrollment at 10 a.m. Mass)  
12:00 p.m. Misa en español (*for the people of the parish*)

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 14**

**GENERAL CLEANING**  
Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nuñez, Carolina Velasco

**VACUUMING:**  
Bruce Sibert, Joe Peckins

Please pray for:

Sharon Baer	Tony Burns	Michelle Richard-Mix
Jackie Franz	Lois Walker	Jennifer Lewis
Yolanda(Lewis)Hardison	Ed Blyth	Mary O'Connor
Kirsten Mork	Doug Zeeck	Kym Coryell
Sue & Joe Kleiss	Randy Tripp	Terri Nurenberg
Kathy Kranz	Mike Peckins	Jessica Fritz
Theresa Hess	Glen Alvord	Travis Eveleth
Mike & Carol Gallagher	Heather Rensi	Larry Lafler
Garry Mulick	Cherie Flinn	Arlene Stanton
Mike Priest	Anita Hozeski Scott	Pat MacLachlan
Lisa Pringle	Karen Miller	Jim & Barb Mulnix
Lesley Williams	Russinda Rohde	Ken and Sherry North
Connie Waterman	Landon Battle	Nathan Lower
Dorr Bissell	Marsha Packer	Finnly Hunt
Jim Zook	Jack & Sue LaPeer	Jerry & Maribeth Fritz
Martha Brooks	Angie Cedillo	Tom White
Denise Ward	Jo Wirtz	Pamela Coggan
Shirley Weber	Witney Fockler	Joe Drysdale
Judy Dick	Amanda Eveleth	Nichole Munsell
Cindy Hardy	Martha Misak	Jace Peterson
Diana Kujala	Jennifer Durden	Georgia Sibert
Mark Dawson	Beth Buffey	

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.

<b>SS. Peter &amp; Paul Parish Staff</b>		<b>(616) 527-3610</b>
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
<b>SS. Peter and Paul School</b>		<b>(616) 527-3561</b>
<b>www.ssppcatholic.com</b>		
Principal	Jenny Leik	ext. 18
Secretaries	Joann Johnson & Amie Heinlein	ext. 23
<b>SS. Peter &amp; Paul Parish - Pastoral Council</b>		
Shannon Andrews	Deb Campbell	
<b>SS. Peter &amp; Paul Parish - Finance Council</b>		
Chris Christensen	Kip Geldhof	Denise Peabody
Tom O'Connor	Dave O'Mara	Vanessa Booth
<b>SS. Peter &amp; Paul School - Board of Education</b>		
Allen Wizorek (Chair), Samantha Crawford (Vice-Chair) Cara Brownell (Secretary), Kara Dipzinski, Nik Discher, Diane Grummet, Kevin Heinlein, Sharon VanEtt, Rachel Wilson		



Knights' Corner

Have you ever dreamed of taking a ride in a small plane and seeing the beautiful fall colors in a whole new way? Saturday, September 27th, could be your lucky day! Come to the Ionia County Airport, 468 Sprague Road, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For \$25 per person, you can have 15 minutes up in the air. Two adults or one adult and two children can ride at the same time. All proceeds will support our local Knights of Columbus Council 944. Don't miss your chance to **Fly for the Knights!**

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to our donation campaign for the migrant farmers.** Your generosity is a source of inspiration and is deeply appreciated. May God bless you for the kindness you have shown.

**Gracias a todos los que contribuyeron a nuestra campaña de donaciones para los agricultores migrantes.** Su generosidad es una fuente de inspiración y se agradece profundamente. Que Dios los bendiga por la bondad que han demostrado.



**Youth Group** will meet on Sunday, September 28, at 6 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Students in Grades 8-12 are welcome! —Kevin Heinlein

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.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for all of those around the world who seek Christ. May they receive the blessings of the Lord and open their hearts to God's Word.

Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk

You can help make a difference in local AND global hunger by walking in our CROP Hunger Walk this year on October 5. Our parish already has a number of walkers participating. Won't you join them? To sign up to be a Walker and receive your Donation Envelope, please contact Pat Rinker at 517-898-5676. If you're unable to walk with us this year, please consider sponsoring a Walker. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**  
**for St. Edward and SS. Peter and Paul**  
Saturday, September 20, 7:45 p.m.  
at St. Edward Parish  
**After Mass Pizza Night**

Deepen your faith as a Catholic Young Adult, ages 21-35. Join us for engaging social gatherings where you can connect with peers while reflecting on and enriching your Catholic beliefs.

**Singles Late 50s & Above:** Looking for a deeper relationship with God and a renewed sense of purpose for your journey through life's transitions? **Connect with others and recharge your spiritual batteries on a RENEW retreat!** The next weekend is on October 31-November 2 at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing). Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. For more information, go to [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), email [renewretreat.mi@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.mi@gmail.com), or call (517) 323-7012.

Attention, Musicians:

Choir Practice is now being held on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Veritas Room.  
See you there!  
*Whitney*

Blessing of Musicians

Mass with Bishop Walkowiak  
Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.  
at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids  
A light reception will follow.

Bendición de Músicos

Misa con el Obispo Walkowiak  
Lunes, 15 de Septiembre, 6:30 p.m.  
en la Catedral de San Andrés en Grand Rapids  
A continuación habrá una recepción ligera.

Faith Formation Program

There will be an opportunity to preregister for Faith Formation classes for Seedlings (ages 4-5) through high school this weekend, September 13 & 14, after the 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Masses. (You may pick up a registration form from 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 beginning on September 21.** For more information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth: 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

Our Faith Formation program is growing, and we are in need of more Catechists. Please pray about it, and if you think God may be calling you to serve in this way, I'd love to talk with you!

September

- Sept. 14 **Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session has been cancelled** in lieu of attending *Triumph of the Heart* on September 13 at Ionia Theatre
- Sept. 21 Faith Formation Classes for Seedlings through Confirmation 9:00—9:55 a.m.
- Sept. 28 Faith Formation Classes 9—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 via email [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

Local moms and babies need our help!

Beginning this weekend and going until Respect Life Sunday, October 5th, we will be collecting donations for Pregnancy Services of Ionia County (PSIC). The items most urgently needed are as follows:

- Diapers- sizes Newborn, 4, 5, & 6
- Baby wipes
- Formula (all types)
- Baby shampoo and soap
- Baby food/snacks/pouches
- Baby and kids' toothbrushes
- Fall outfits for boys & girls

You may place your donations in the back of church. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting life!

Discovering Christ  
Reunion and Come & See Event  
(Potluck Dinner)

**Sunday, September 21, 5 p.m., Apostles Hall**  
*Bring a dish to pass, if you can.*

Join the SSPP Evangelization Team and last year's ChristLife participants as we gather again in celebration of the blessings received through this incredible spiritual experience, *and* to prepare for this year's program, which begins Sunday, October 5th.

**Fellow ChristLife attendees**, please come and reunion, and share your testimony with program inquirers! **Inquirers, Come and See!** Ask questions, listen to parishioners' testimonies of their experience of the ChristLife program.

Daytime Faith &Scripture Sharing Sessions

We now meet on Thursdays at 9 a.m.  
in the Parish Office living room  
(No session on the first Thursday of each month, when Eucharistic Adoration is scheduled.)  
All are welcome!

Ladies Social Group Event:  
Pumpkin Craft with Joyce Essich

Wednesday, October 8, 4-6 p.m., Veritas Room  
Please bring:  
—old t-shirts (plain, any color; no graphics or writing on the fabric to be cut; designs & patterns are fine)  
—Poly-fil (fiberfil) or pillow stuffing (if you have it) to share  
—your favorite PUMPKIN treat for all to sample  
—a beverage of your choice (bottled water is provided)  
Come & enjoy an afternoon of conversation, crafting, and pumpkin confections. Questions: Call Kip Geldhof at 517-983-8241.

Join Us on an Incredible Journey of Faith!

Are you ready to deepen your relationship with God? We're excited to invite you to an amazing opportunity starting this October! Our parish team on evangelization is hosting the first segment of the **Christ Life** program, **Discovering Christ**, designed to help you encounter the living God in a profound way.

Through captivating studies of Scripture, reflective discussions, and meaningful sharing, you will discover the beauty of Christ in the Sacraments and the teachings of the Church. You'll be inspired to follow Christ in your daily life and empowered to share your faith boldly with others.

Don't miss out on this chance to grow spiritually and connect with a community that values faith and fellowship. Come join us and embark on this transformative journey to discover, follow, and share God's love.

Contact Toni McKay for more details at 616-527-3610, ext. 13, or [tmckay@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:tmckay@ssppcatholic.com)