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Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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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

September 7, 2025

Twenty-Third 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: 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 Sacraments: Making Visible What Is Invisible

The seven sacraments, these divine mysteries, touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life. They are not mere rituals, but Sacraments give birth and growth, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith. Through the Sacraments, Jesus gathers us (Baptism), feeds us (Eucharist), forgives us (Reconciliation), sends us (Confirmation), heals us (Anointing of the Sick), joins us (Marriage) and appoints us (Holy Orders).

The late Pope Francis emphasized the profound significance of the Sacraments, describing them as the very presence of Jesus Christ within us. This profound spiritual reality is embodied within the Church, which he established. The USCCB further elaborates on this, highlighting that through the Sacraments, God graciously imparts his holiness to us, empowering us to contribute to the sanctification of the world. In essence, the Sacraments not only signify but also call us to actively embrace our individual vocations, enabling us to serve and uplift our fellow human beings.

I invite you all to recognize the presence of God in the Sacraments. They make visible for us what the eyes cannot see. They make tangible for us the living power of God's grace. If you are in need of any of the Sacraments, please call our office. Reach out to our Faith Formation coordinators so that you may have the fullness of the Catholic Faith found in receiving the Sacraments.

Los Sacramentos: Haciendo visible lo que es invisible

Los siete sacramentos, estos misterios divinos, tocan todas las etapas y todos los momentos importantes de la vida cristiana. (diapositiva 2). No son meros rituales, sino que los sacramentos dan a luz y crecimiento, curación y misión a la vida de fe del cristiano. A través de los Sacramentos, Jesús nos reúne (Bautismo), nos alimenta (Eucaristía), nos perdona (Reconciliación), nos envía (Confirmación), nos sana (Unción de los Enfermos), se une a nosotros (Matrimonio) y nos nombra (Órdenes Sagradas).

El difunto Papa Francisco enfatizó la profunda importancia de los Sacramentos, describiéndolos como la presencia misma de Jesucristo dentro de nosotros. Esta profunda realidad espiritual está encarnada dentro de la Iglesia, que él estableció. La USCCB profundiza en esto, destacando que a través de los Sacramentos, Dios nos imparte amablemente su santidad, empoderándonos para contribuir a la santificación del mundo. En esencia, los Sacramentos no solo significan, sino que también nos llaman a abrazar activamente nuestras vocaciones individuales, permitiéndonos servir y elevar a nuestros semejantes.

Los invito a todos a reconocer la presencia de Dios en los Sacramentos. Hacen visible para nosotros lo que los ojos no pueden ver. Hacen tangible para nosotros el poder vivo de la gracia de Dios. Si necesita alguno de los Sacramentos, llame a nuestra oficina. Comuníquese con nuestros coordinadores de Formación de Fe para que pueda tener la plenitud de la Fe Católica que se encuentra en la recepción de los Sacramentos.

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

CH = Church
PO = Parish Office
VR = Veritas Room

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 9:13-18/Ps 90:3-6, 12-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
Saturday, September 6
4:00 p.m. Robert O’Connor (Paul & Jean Barker)

Sunday, September 7
10:00 a.m. Mike Nelson (Gary & Janice Ferguson)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español (*for the people of the parish*)

Monday, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1-4/Ps 13:6/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
No Mass

Tuesday, September 9—St. Peter Claver, Priest
Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1-2, 8-11/Lk 6:12-19
No Mass

Wednesday, September 10—Weekday
Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-13/Lk 6:20-26
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Roman Stoj (Margaret Stoj)
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour
7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, September 11—Weekday
Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1-6/Lk 6:27-38
8:00 a.m. Don Gardner

Friday, September 12—The Most Holy Name of Mary
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42
No Mass
4:00 p.m. Wedding of Mike Rockafellow & Brittany Adams

Saturday, September 13—St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1-7/Lk 6:43-49
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
12:00 p.m. Several Hispanic Baptisms
3:00 p.m. Confessions

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*)

GOD’S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 7

GENERAL CLEANING
Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

VACUUMING:
Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

Sunday, September 7—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)

Monday, September 8
6:30 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study (PO)

Tuesday, September 9
6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

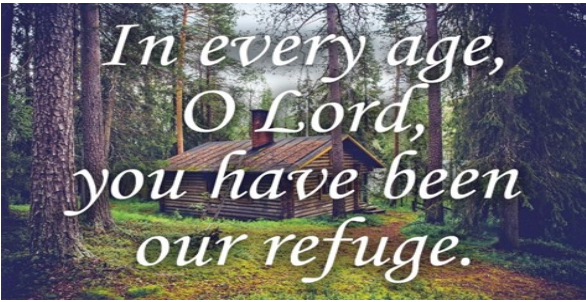
Wednesday, September 10
4:00-6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Group—Bingo (VR)
5:30-6:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (VR)

Thursday, September 11
9:00 a.m. Daytime Faith Sharing (PO)
3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

Friday, September 12

Saturday, September 13
9:30 a.m. Ministry of Consolation Brunch (PO)

Sunday, September 14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)
4:30-6 p.m. Fall Confirmation Candidate/
Sponsor Session (VR)



OUR PARISH OFFERING: August 30 & 31, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection	\$6,473.58
Electronic Giving	4,620.00
Total	\$11,093.58
-5% Tithe	-554.68
Net Total	\$10,538.90

Budgeted Weekly: \$10,096.15
Surplus for the Week: \$997.43

Budgeted YTD: \$100,961.50
Surplus YTD: \$5,398.97

School Support: \$20.00

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.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Discovering Christ is open to everyone, including:

- Those with little or no church experience
- Non-practicing Catholics
- Regular Catholic attendees
- Anyone seeking to understand the meaning of life and explore the foundations of Christian teachings

September 6 & 7, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. Lector: Monica Mabe
Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe
EMs: Julie Bennett, Mary Lou Mulick, Mary Perrien
Greeters: Volunteers

10:00 a.m.. Lector: Madeline Desrochers
Altar Servers: Shyla & Stephen Johnson
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt
Greeters: Judy Hamblin, Theresa Scholtens

REGISTER TODAY!

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 48846). You can also email a scanned copy to tmckay@ssppcatholic.com. **An online registration option will be coming!**

DISCOVERING CHRIST SCHEDULE

Sundays, October 5-December 7, 2025, 5-7 p.m.
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: Reagan Crooks, Jace Perry
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

Please pray for:

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

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	
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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 parish has been blessed with many strong and active Catholic individuals and families. Their legacies of involvement have often been an example for others. They appeared out of the shadows, performed their spiritual and faith based responsibilities without complaint, and disappeared until called upon again and again, to exercise their time and talent. This attitude was one of the determining factors many years ago that brought me to the Knights of Columbus. Though the body has aged, the spirit is fresh when working on the needs of the family, parish, and community. Being a Catholic Gentleman is not difficult when you work at it.

Congratulations to our September raffle winners: Adam Rewa, Phil Desrochers, Mary Walsh, and Pam Spitzley

Vivat Jesus!
Ron Speckin, Grand Knight

Ladies' Social Group Event: BINGO

Ladies of the parish, you are invited to play BINGO on Wednesday, September 10, from 4-6 p.m. in the Veritas Room. Bring a white elephant prize.

Mark your calendar for upcoming 2025 dates:

October 8th—Pumpkin Craft – (4-6 p.m.)
save old t-shirts, any color
November 12th – Euchre Card Party
– cost: \$5.00 to play
December 1st – Advent by Candlelight

Appeal for Donations—through Sept. 13

Our migrant farmers work hard so that the fields produce good crops and bountiful harvests. We would like to invite everyone to consider donating travel-size 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.

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.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray that all of our children are kept safe from harm and anxiety. May they feel surrounded by the perfect love and protection of our Lord.

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life New Monday Night Study

Begins Monday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Veritas Room. Contact Toni at the parish office to obtain study resources (\$28)

The marvelous treasures of the Catholic Faith—the Eucharist, Mary, the saints, and the Creed—are all centered on a single figure: Jesus Christ. Jesus is more than a historical or theological figure. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. While many of us already know a lot about him, how well can we say we really know him? Filmed on location in the Holy Land, **Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life** is a new and fresh look at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. This encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life on him as you come to know and love him in an ever-deeper and more intimate way.

CROP Hunger Walk

What are you doing on Sunday October 5? Would you like a way to visit with friends, make new friends, enjoy the outdoors, get exercise AND help change the world? Come walk with us in the CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. We'll start and end at Zion Church on Washington St. We'll meet at 1:45 p.m., collect our money, and begin our walk shortly after 2:00 p.m. Contact Pat Rinker for more information and to get your Walker envelope, 517-898-5676. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP. **Sign up with Pat Rinker for the walk after the Saturday or Sunday Masses on September 6 & 7.**

Attention, Musicians:

Choir Practice will resume 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 next weekend, September 13 & 14, after the 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Masses. (Or 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**. 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 more Catechists. Please pray about it, and if you think God may be calling you to serve in this (or any other way), I'd love to talk with you!

September

Sept. 14 Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30—6 p.m. (Veritas Rm.)
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.

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.

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

There is a crib set up in the back of church where you may place donations. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting life!

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