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Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Veritas Room Rosary at 7:00 p.m. 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

# November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent

# Canonical Administrator:

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal 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: 10:15 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.

# **Gratitude in Joyful Waiting**

Having recently celebrated Thanksgiving, we carry that spirit of gratitude into the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. As we enter the season of Advent, we are gently called to wait with hopeful hearts and deep gratitude for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, embracing both anticipation and compassion.

St. Therese of Lisieux once shared with her sister Celine that gratitude is what most invites blessings from our dear Lord. She explained that when we thank Him for a gift, He is moved to bless us with ten more. And if we sincerely thank Him again, the abundance of graces multiplies beyond measure!

God blesses us each day, and we should open our hearts to recognize these precious blessings. Every sunrise, each breath we take, our good health, our meals, the love of family and friends, our talents and opportunities, as well as the spiritual gifts of grace, forgiveness, redemption, and salvation, are all gracious gifts from God. We must cherish and be grateful for these blessings because they are signs of divine love and care.

As the season of Advent begins, let gratitude inspire our prayers and reflections. While we await the birth of the Messiah, our witness can be reflected in our daily acts of thankfulness. The Blessed Virgin Mary herself was filled with gratitude during her anticipation of her Son's arrival, proclaiming, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

# Gratitud en la Espera Gozosa

Al celebrar recientemente el Día de Acción de Gracias, llevamos ese espíritu de gratitud al comienzo del nuevo Año Litúrgico. Al entrar en el tiempo de Adviento, estamos llamados a esperar con esperanza y profunda gratitud la venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, con anticipación y compa-

Santa Teresita de Lisieux compartió una vez con su hermana Celina que la gratitud es lo que más atrae las bendiciones de nuestro querido Señor. Explicó que cuando le agradecemos un regalo. Él se siente impulsado a bendecirnos con diez más. Y si le agradecemos sinceramente de nuevo, ila abundancia de gracias se multiplica sin medida!

Dios nos bendice cada día, y debemos abrir nuestro corazón para reconocer estas preciosas bendiciones. Cada amanecer, cada respiro, nuestra buena salud, nuestras comidas, el amor de la familia y los amigos, nuestros talentos y oportunidades, así como los dones espirituales de la gracia, el perdón, la redención y la salvación, son todos dones de Dios. Debemos apreciar y agradecer estas bendiciones, pues son signos del amor y el cuidado divinos.

Al comenzar el Adviento, dejemos que la gratitud inspire nuestras oraciones y reflexiones. Mientras esperamos el nacimiento del Mesías, nuestro testimonio puede reflejarse en nuestros actos diarios de agradecimiento. La misma Santísima Virgen María se llenó de gratitud mientras esperaba la llegada de su Hijo, proclamando: «¡Mi alma engrandece al Señor, y mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi Salva-

# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL



# Prepare the way of the Lord!

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Saturday, November 29

4:00 p.m. Mass for Ron Wilson Sr. (Hemenway family)

Sunday, November 30

9:40 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal (choir loft) 10:15 a.m. Mass for Robert O'Connor (Joan Nummer) 12:00 p.m. Misa en español (for the people of the parish)

Monday, December 1—Advent Weekday

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-9/Mt 8:5-11 No Mass

Tuesday, December 2—Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

No Mass

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37

No morning Confessions or noon Mass 12:30-2:30 School Christmas Program Rehearsal

6-8 p.m. Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 4—St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1. 8-9. 19-21. 25-27/Mt 7:21. 24-27

8:00 a.m. Mass for Barbara Howe (Gayle Gardner) 9-11 a.m. Children's Penance Service

Friday, December 5—Advent Weekday

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31 No Mass

Saturday, December 6—St. Nicholas, Bishop

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5-8

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Second Sunday of Advent** 

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Saturday, December 6

4:00 p.m. Mass for living & deceased of Freund & Stoj families

Sunday, December 7

9:40 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal (choir loft)

10:15 a.m. Mass for Paget Seymour (Theresa Giacalone)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español (for the people of the parish)

(Our Lady of Guadalupe novena during Mass)

2:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols

# GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS-WEEK OF NOV. 30

**General Cleaning** 

Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

# NOVEMBER 30, 2025



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

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

Sunday, November 30—First Sunday of Advent

No OCIA, No Faith Formation No Discovering Christ

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2 7 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)

Wednesday, December 3

Priests' Day of Recollection (GR)

Thursday, December 4

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

Friday, December 5

8:30 a.m. K of C Spelling Bee (AH) 2:30-4 p.m. Cookie Pre-sale (SC) Christmas Parade (Main St. Ionia) 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6

9 a.m.-3p.m. Mrs. Clause Bazaar (Ionia M.S.) 9:30 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby)

Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent

8-9:45 a.m. Breakfast with Santa (AH) OCIA (PO)

8:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation classes (SC) Discovering Christ (AH) 5-7 p.m.



# OUR PARISH OFFERING: November 22 & 23, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection \$5,891.00 Electronic Giving 1,765.00 \$7,656.00 Total -5% Tithe -382.80 \$7,273.20 **Net Total** 

Budgeted Weekly: \$10,096.15 Deficit for the Week: \$2,440.15

Budgeted YTD: \$222,115.30 Deficit YTD: \$2,978.06

School Support Fund: \$50.00 \$83.00 Christmas Baskets \$50.00 Mission Sunday Campaign for Human Development \$560.00

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.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Special Liturgies at SS. Peter & Paul Church

**Advent Penance Services** 

Wed, Dec. 3 6-8 p.m.

9-11 a.m. for SSPP School Thurs, Dec. 4

**Immaculate Conception Holy Day** 

Mon, Dec. 8 12:10 p.m. Mass 7 p.m. Mass (bilingual)

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** 

Fri. Dec. 12 6 a.m. Mañanitas (Spanish) 7 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

**Christmas Holy Day** 

Wed. Dec. 24 4 p.m. Mass

10 p.m. Mass (bilingual)

Thurs, Dec. 25 10 a.m. Mass

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Wed, Dec. 31 5 p.m. Mass

Thurs, Jan. 1 10 a.m. Mass

# Special Liturgies at St. Edward's Church

**Advent Penance Service** 

Thurs, Dec. 4 6-8 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Holy Day** 

Mon, Dec. 8 9 a.m. Mass & 6:30 p.m. Mass

**Christmas Holy Day** 

Wed. Dec. 24 7:30 p.m. Mass Thurs, Dec. 25 10 a.m. Mass

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day

Wed, Dec. 31 7 p.m. Mass 10 a.m. Mass Thurs, Jan. 1

\* Other Seasonal Events (at SS. Peter & Paul)

**Lessons and Carols** Sun, Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m. in church Advent by Candlelight Tues, Dec. 9, 5 p.m. Adoration & Evening Prayer in church, Dinner at 6 p.m. in school

Dec. 15-23, 7 p.m. in school **Posadas** Sun, Jan. 4, 2:30 p.m. in church **Epiphany Concert** 

November 29 & 30, First Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. Lector: Bill Trueblood

Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe EMs: Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick,

Mary Perrien Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:00 a.m. Lector: Dan Lower

> Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein EMs: Shannon Andrews, Kevin Heinlein,

Theresa Scholtens Greeters: Deb Porter

December 6 & 7, Second Sunday of Advent 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Monica Mabe Altar Servers: Adah Drown, Jace Perry EMs: Mary Lou Mulick, Phill & Sue Wizorek

Greeters: Julie Bennett

10:15 a.m.. Lector: Shannon Andrews

Altar Servers: Raelynn Christensen,

Gavin McGuire

EMs: Kevin Heinlein,

Greeters: Judy Hamblin

# Please pray for:

Tom & Norma White Connie Waterman Marsha Packer Angie Cedillo Katie Maynard Dorr Bissell Ericka Baer Jim Zook Jo Wirtz Martha Misak **Bob Parker** Martha Brooks Terri Butler Denise Ward Mary O'Connor Chad Wickerink Shirley Weber Terri Nurenberg Mona Martinez Tom Lower Judy Ďick Jessica Fritz Travis Eveleth Cindy Hardy Sue Speckin Larry Lafler Diana Kujala Traccie Lower Mark Dawson Arlene Stanton Jack & Sue LaPeer Tony Burns Pat MacLachlan Sharon Baer Ed **B**lyth Jim & Barb Mulnix Jackie Franz Doug Zeeck Ken and Sherry North Yolanda(Lewis)Hardison Randy Tripp Nathan Lower Kirsten Mork Mike Peckins Finnly Hunt Sue & Joe Kleiss Jerry & Maribeth Fritz Glen Alvord Kathy Kranz Heather Rensi Pamela Coggan Theresa Hess Joe Drysdale Cherie Flinn Mike Gallagher Nichole Munsell Anita Hozeski Scott Mike Priest Karen Miller Jace Peterson Lisa Pringle Georgia Sibert Russinda Rohde Lesley Williams Landon Battle

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.

Cheryl & John Hildebrandt

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. 11 616-527-3610 Music Director Whitney Crooks

ext. 21 Faith Formation Vanessa Booth 616-527-3610 Matt Lang Maintenance Cemetery Sexton Aaren Perry 616-527-3610

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

Jenny Leik Principal Joann Johnson Secretaries

& Amie Heinlein ext. 23

ext. 18

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

Allen Wizorek (Chair), Samantha Crawford (Vice-Chair) Cara Brownell (Secretary), Kara Dipzinski, Nik Discher, Diane Grummet, Kevin Heinlein, Sharon VanEtt, Rachel Wilson



# **Knights' Corner**

This Tuesday, December 2, is our business meeting, with the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow at 7:30 in the Veritas Room. This is a very busy time of year for our council and there

are lots of activities to take part in. This Friday is the K of C spelling bee for our school children, and this Saturday we will be preparing pancakes and sausage for the downtown Breakfast with Santa. We can use your help if you're available!

Raffle tickets are still available at the parish office or after the weekend liturgies. Don't miss out on your chance to win!

Remember: Starting the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, the Sunday morning Mass at SS. Peter & Paul is changing from 10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. This small change will give Fr. Eugene a bit more time to arrive comfortably and avoid any unexpected delays or tricky weather conditions. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to welcoming you just a little later for the Sunday morning Masses.

## A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel, Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" because fear cripples! Instead, "pray for the strength" to be courageous.



All of the 11 families our parish was given to adopt for Christmas have been matched with 11 generous parishioner families. If you picked one of the profiles from the Christmas tree that was in the back of church, be sure to call Monica Mabe at 517-526-3201. She will give you more information about your adopted family and about the Adopt-a-Family process.

All parishioners are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items to fill the totes that the adopted families will receive. You may place your donated food items near Mary's altar until Sunday, December 14. Distribution of the food and gift items will be on Saturday, December 20, at 10 a.m. If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please call Theresa Scholtens at 616-648-2959.

### **Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that Advent will be a time of hopeful preparation, repentance, and joyful expectation for the entire Saints Peter & Paul family.

# CSA 2025 – Strengthened In Christ, Responding With Joy

Thanks to the 23 people who made either an initial or an additional pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal, we have reduced our unpaid balance by another \$3,100. Thank you for your response! Our parish assessment for this year is \$78,253 and we still have \$21,500 to go. Please make your pledge today!

# **Holiday Baking**

Has God blessed you with a talent for baking? Would you consider baking some of your favorite holiday cookies or bread or candy for the SSPP School Annual Cookie sale? We would greatly appreciate any contributions to our efforts to raise money. The sale will begin at the school on Friday, December 5th, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. We will then transport the baked goods to the Mrs. Claus Bazaar on Saturday, December 6th, at the Ionia Middle School. Any remainders will be available at our Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 7th, from 8 to 9:45 a.m. in Apostles Hall.

# **Box Tops for Education**

SSPP School needs your *grocery receipts*. General Mills Box Tops for Education program will award schools money for educational needs. Every time you purchase an item with the Box Tops for Education logo on it, our school can benefit from it. We are asking that you leave your *receipts* in the basket on the table in the back of church. They will be scanned and the rewards will be credited to SSPP.

# Bilingual Advent Penance Service Wednesday, December 3, 6-8 p.m.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend a bilingual Advent Penance Service at SS. Peter & Paul Church on Wednesday, December 3, from 6-8 p.m. There will be a talk from 6-7 by some Sisters of Children of Mary, then a guided bilingual Holy Hour with music and meditations. Three priests will be available to hear Confessions.

Todos son bienvenidos y se les anima a asistir a un Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento bilingüe en la Iglesia SS. Pedro y Pablo el miércoles 3 de diciembre, de 6 a 8 p.m. Habrá una charla de 6 a 7 a cargo de algunas Hermanas de los Niños de María, seguida de una Hora Santa guiada bilingüe con música y meditaciones. Tres sacerdotes estarán disponibles para escuchar confesiones.

### **Faith Formation Program**

All regular classes are held in our school from **9:00 to 9:55 a.m.** Families, be sure to sign up for the Remind App to receive notifications about class cancellations due to inclement weather. Use Remind App Code: adgedc. For more infomation about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or 616-527-3610.

### **November**

30th Thanksgiving Break—no classes

### December

7th Faith Formation Classes 14th Faith Formation Classes

21st Faith Formation Classes—Advent Party

### **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. Team members of the Ministry of Consolation will be offering Health Support gatherings on Saturday mornings. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Biggby Coffee. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Vanessa at <a href="mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com">vbooth@ssppcatholic.com</a>.

## Ministry of Consolation

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 struggling with an illness. Training for new volunteers in this ministry will be on Saturday, November 29, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Parish Office Living Room. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

We will soon be preparing our new volunteer schedules for 2026. Please call the parish office soon if any of the following pique your interest.

### **Church Cleaners & Vacuumers**

A number of teams of volunteers clean the church and sacristy, and other teams vacuum the body of the church and the vestibule. Teams rotate and serve about once every 2 or 3 months.

### **Church Collection Counters**

Teams of 4 people count the weekend collection each Monday morning at 9 a.m. They are scheduled on a rotating basis and serve about once a month.

### **Care of Altar Linens**

Several women currently care for the altar cloths, purificators, hand towels, and servers' albs used in church. Are you an experienced laundress who would like to help?

Coming Soon . . . A New Tradition
Lessons & Carols:
An Ecumenical Celebration
of the Advent & Christmas Seasons
Sunday, December 7, 2:30 p.m.
in SS. Peter & Paul Church

# Advent by Candlelight

Saints Peter & Paul Church Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5 p.m.: Holy Hour in the church 6 p.m.: Dinner in Apostles Hall

Calling all ladies! Please join us for our annual Advent by Candlelight dinner. This year, we offer some new additions to our evening. To truly embrace the Advent spirit of quiet anticipation, we will begin with a Eucharistic Holy Hour of Adoration and Evening Prayer in church. Following that, we will move to Apostles Hall for a time of socializing, touring the tables, dinner catered by Olivera's, and a guest speaker.

The cost per woman will be \$20 this year. This will cover the cost of dinner and, more importantly, the rest will be donated to Pregnancy Services of Ionia County to support our local moms and babies during this season of giving.

If you would like to participate or host a table, please email Lauren Mulford by December 1st at lauren.mulford@gmail.com.



The Christmas wreaths and poinsettias that adorn our church during the Christmas season are offered to honor the birth of Christ and to glorify God. You are invited to honor your loved ones, living or deceased, by offering a **Christmas Flower Memorial**.

The names of those honored will be published in our parish bulletin during the Christmas season. Your donation will help to decorate the church not only at Christmas, but into the new year. The suggested donation is \$10 per name.

To make an honorary or memorial offering, please pick up a request form near the main entrances to church. You can submit your request and donation in an envelope in the collection basket, or return to the parish office by December 13