

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

434 High St. Ionia MI 48846
616-527-3610
saintspeterandpaulionia.org

December 14 2025

14 de Diciembre de 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Tercer Domingo de Adviento



Gaudete
Alegrarse
Rejoice!

End Sunday of Advent

Daily Readings December
(Lecturas Diarias Diciembre)

13 Saturday, 14 Sunday: Advent Weekend
Is 35: 1-6, 10 / Ps 146: 6-10 / Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11: 2-11

15 Monday: Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17 / Ps 25:4-9
Mt 21:23-27

16 Tuesday: Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 / Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23
Mt 21: 28-32

17 Wednesday: Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 / Mt 1:1-17

18 Thursday - Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1: 18-25

19 Friday: Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 / Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 / Lk 1:5-25

20 Saturday: Advent Weekday: Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Lk 1:26-38

20 Saturday, 21 Sunday: Advent Weekend
Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10:15 p.m. ; 12 p.m (Noon). Spanish
Wednesday: 12:10 p.m; 7 p.m. Spanish
Thursday: 8 a.m.

Reconciliation Schedule (Calendario de Reconciliación)

Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Noon)
Saturday: 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m

Parish Office (oficina parroquial)

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Email:
parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

- A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

A Letter from Father Eugene

Parish Bulletin New Design

We are thrilled to announce the unveiling of our newly designed parish bulletin after many years of using the same format. This fresh and engaging layout not only enhances the visual appeal of our publication but also reflects the vibrancy and diversity of our community. Our goal is to highlight our commitment to showcasing the mission of our parish and school life, while fostering discipleship, and enriching our communal faith life through creative and innovative means. As we move forward into a more dynamic and active faith life, our bulletin will serve as an important calling card to the wider community, providing information, inspiration, and a sense of belonging.

With this new design, we aspire to invite more people to our church and demonstrate our deep commitment to engaging with others, building connections, and nurturing relationships within and beyond our parish. We believe that this revitalized bulletin will better serve as a tool to inform, inspire, and invite all to join us on our spiritual journey together.

Boletín parroquial Nuevo diseño

Nos complace anunciar la presentación de nuestro boletín parroquial con un nuevo diseño, tras muchos años utilizando el mismo formato. Este diseño fresco y atractivo no solo mejora el atractivo visual de nuestra publicación, sino que también refleja la vitalidad y diversidad de nuestra comunidad. Nuestro objetivo es destacar nuestro compromiso de dar a conocer la misión de nuestra parroquia, y escuela, fomentar el discipulado y enriquecer nuestra vida de fe comunitaria a través de medios creativos e innovadores.

A medida que avanzamos hacia una vida parroquial más dinámica y activa, nuestro boletín servirá como una importante tarjeta de presentación para la comunidad en general, proporcionando información, inspiración y un sentido de pertenencia. Con este nuevo diseño, aspiramos a invitar a más personas a nuestra iglesia y demostrar nuestro profundo compromiso de involucrarnos con los demás, establecer conexiones y fomentar las relaciones dentro y fuera de nuestra parroquia. Creemos que este boletín revitalizado servirá mejor como herramienta para informar, inspirar e invitar a todos a unirse a nosotros en nuestro viaje espiritual juntos.

- Father Eugene Batungbacal

Events & Announcements

Adopt a Family

All of the 11 families our parish was given to adopt for Christmas have been matched with 11 generous parishioner families.

All parishioners are encouraged to bring in nonperishable 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

**Saturday,
December 20
at 10 a.m.**

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, January 3rd, at 9:30 a.m. at Biggby Coffee.** All are welcome. For more information, please contact Vanessa at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Volunteers Needed

We are preparing our new volunteer schedules for 2026! Please call the parish office (616-527-3610) if you'd like to join or form a team, or if you'd be willing to substitute now and then.

Church Cleaners & Church 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 two months.

Church Collection Counters

Teams of four 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?

Midnight Mass and Concert to be Broadcast from the Cathedral on FOX 17 and Online

The Prelude of Carols followed by Midnight Mass will be broadcast live from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on FOX 17 and on the diocesan website, gdiocese.org, and YouTube (Diocese of Grand Rapids) on Christmas Eve. The concert begins at 11 p.m. followed by Mass at midnight. On Christmas morning, there will be a replay of Mass on FOX 17 at 7 a.m.

Special Liturgies at SS. Peter & Paul

Christmas Holy Day

Wed, December 24	
4:00 p.m.	Mass
10:00 p.m.	Mass (Bilingual)

Thurs, December 25	
10:00 a.m.	Mass

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day

Wed, December 31	
5:00 p.m.	Mass

Thurs, January 1	
10:00 a.m.	Mass

Special Liturgies at St. Edward

Christmas Holy Day

Wed, December 24	
7:30 p.m.	Mass

Thurs, December 25	
10:00 a.m.	Mass

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day

Wed, December 31	
7:00 p.m.	Mass

Thurs, January 1	
10:00 a.m.	Mass

A Note of Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you to the 100+ attendees who made our first annual Lessons & Carols a special afternoon. We appreciate the time and talents of the SSPP musicians and the Harkness Handbell Choir. Everyone put together fantastic performances. Your generosity helped raise \$800 to be split between the two music groups and the Friends of Jesus Fund. We plan to do it again next year.

-Whitney

Save the Date

January 4th, 2026
Epiphany Concert
2:30 p.m.
Inside Saints Peter & Paul Church

The SSPP choir presents a one-hour, collage-style concert jam-packed with Christmas carols performed in a variety of musical styles.

CSA 2025 - Strengthened In Christ, Responding With Joy

Thanks to another 16 people who made either an initial or an additional pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal, we have reduced our unpaid balance by another \$4,475. Thank you for your response! Our parish assessment for this year is \$78,253 and we now have just over \$17,000 to go. **Please make your pledge today!**

Faith Formation Program

Registration remains open for Seedlings (ages 4-5) through High School. All regular classes are held in our school from 9 to 10 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 information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or 616-527-3610.

December

14th Faith Formation Class
21st Faith Formation Class—Advent Party
28th No Faith Formation Class—Christmas Break

January

4th No Faith Formation Class—Christmas Break
11th Faith Formation Classes resume



Knight's Corner

District deputy Mike Karpus presenting the Star Council Award to Past Grand Knight Tom O'Connor.



A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

You are invited to join Fr. Tom Boufford on a prayerful pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. A pilgrimage is not a vacation or sightseeing tour, though we will certainly experience the beauty and flavor of Italy along the way. Rather, it is a sacred journey of prayer, reflection, and deep appreciation for our Catholic faith.

This year is especially meaningful as the Church commemorates the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Pilgrims will have the opportunity to visit some of the holiest sites in Rome and Assisi, encounter people from around the world, and participate in daily Mass and moments of quiet prayer. **We will depart for Italy on April 12 and return on April 20**

Pilgrimage Highlights:

Monday:	Arrival in Italy and Mass at the site of St. Paul's martyrdom.
Tuesday:	Tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the tomb of St. Peter.
Wednesday:	Return to St. Peter's for the Papal Audience and a tour of the Vatican Museums.
Thursday:	Travel to Assisi, visiting key sites in the life of St. Francis as we commemorate his 800th anniversary.
Friday:	Celebrate Mass at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, one of the Church's newest saints, before returning to Rome.
Saturday:	Visit the Basilicas of St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and other sacred sites.
Sunday:	Pray the Angelus with the Holy Father, tour the catacombs, and share a final meal together.
Monday:	Return home with renewed faith and gratitude.

Cost: \$3,400 per person (airfare additional). This includes lodging, meals, transportation to all holy sites, and museum entrance fees. Please note that there will be significant walking each day; we will do our best to accommodate all participants. A valid passport is required. **If you are interested in joining this once-in-a-lifetime spiritual journey, please contact Fr. Tom at 231-519-4348.** We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to deepen your faith and celebrate this historic anniversary of St. Francis.

Prayer Chain

We continue to pray for all those who need healing. If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the parish office. Be sure to have the consent of the person or a family member. Names will remain on the prayer list for three months. Requests may be renewed.

Please Pray for:

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

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Faculty and Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com
saintspeterandpaulionia.org

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal

Permanent Deacon: Zenon Cardenas

Secretary	Cecilia Luke	ext. 10
Office Manager	Adam Rewa	ext. 11
Bulletin Editor	Tiffany Ferguson	ext. 39
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

Parish Finance Council: Chris Christensen, Tom O' Connor, Kip Geldhof, Dave O'Mara, Denise Peabody, Vanessa Booth

Parish Pastoral Council: Deb Campbell, Shannon Andrews

December 13 & 14, Third Sunday of Advent

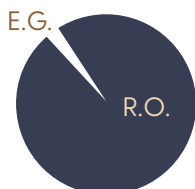
4:00 p.m.	Lector: Mary Lou Mulick Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin EMs: Julie Bennett, Cecilia Luke, Barb Mulnix Greeters: Volunteers
10:15 a.m.	Lector: Paul Meyer Altar Servers: Shyla & Stephen Johnson EMs: Shannon Andrews, Sam Meyer, Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Dave O'Mara

December 20 & 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m.	Lector: Sue Wizorek Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe EMs: Cecilia Luke, Monica Mabe, Phill Wizorek Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen
10:15 a.m.	Lector: Kevin Kenney Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey EMs: Theresa Scholtens, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt Greeters: Deb Porter

Our Parish Offering

December 6 & 7



Regulatory Offertory Collection (R.O.): \$16,470.26

Electronic Giving (E.G.): \$1,765.00

Total: \$18,235.26

-5% Tithe: -911.76

Net Total: \$17,323.50

God's Housekeepers - December 14

General Cleaning Chris & Pilya Christensen

Vacuuming Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

Weekly Parish Events

Saturday, December 13

1:15 p.m.	Church Decorating
4:00 p.m.	Special Intention (Jane Emelander)

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:35 a.m.	Children's Choir Practice in Choir Loft
10:15 a.m.	Roy and Dee Cook (Kurt & Laurie Tjalsma)
12:00 p.m.	Misa en español
1:15 p.m.	Church Decorating

Monday, December 15

7:00pm.	Las Posadas (Apostles Hall)
	No Mass

Tuesday, December 16

Wednesday, December 17

11:00 a.m.	Confessions
12:10 p.m.	Mass: Retha Frozley (Nancy Nyenhuis)
6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour
7:00pm.	Las Posadas (Apostles Hall)
	No Mass in Español

Thursday, December 18

8:00 a.m.	Bill & Judy Nowak (Diana Verdun)
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Friday, December 19

	No Mass
7:00pm.	Las Posadas (Apostles Hall)

Saturday, December 20

8:30 a.m.	Scriptural Rosary
3:00 p.m.	Confessions
4:00 p.m.	Dennis Spitzley (Paul & Jean Barker)
7:00pm.	Las Posadas (Apostles Hall)

Sunday, December 21

9:35 a.m.	Children's Choir Practice in Choir Loft
10:15 a.m.	Gloria Cook (Hemenway Family)
12:00 p.m.	Misa en Español
1:15 p.m.	Church Decorating

Budgeted Weekly: \$10,096.15

Surplus for the Week: \$8,139.11

Budgeted YTD: \$242,307.60

Surplus YTD: \$4,335.92

School Support: \$35.00

Christmas Baskets \$100.00

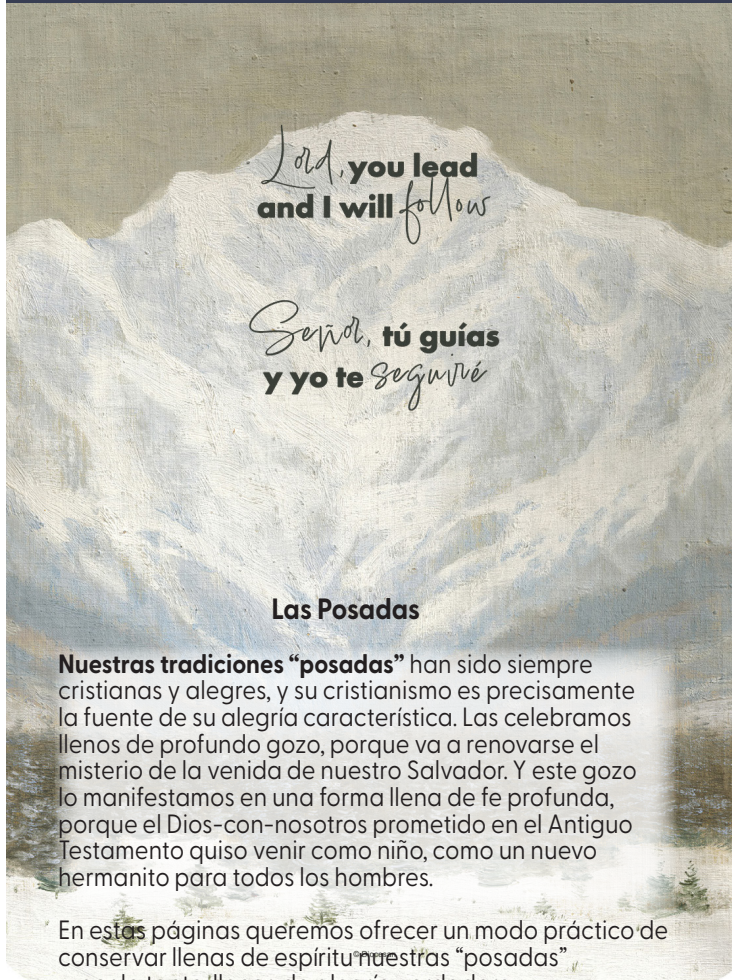
Campaign for Human Development \$5.00

Religious Retirement: \$195.00

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.

Misa de medianoche y concierto que se transmitirá desde la catedral en FOX 17 y en línea

El Preludio de Villancicos de Nochebuena con Instrumentos de Viento, Cuerdas y Coros seguido de la Misa de medianoche (en vivo) se transmitirá desde la Catedral de San Andrés en FOX 17 y en el sitio web diocesano, grdiocese.org y el canal de Youtube (GRDiocese) en la víspera de Navidad. El concierto comienza a las 11 p.m. y la misa a la medianoche. En la mañana de Navidad, habrá una repetición del Misa de medianoche en FOX 17 a las 7 a.m.



Las Posadas

Nuestras tradiciones “posadas” han sido siempre cristianas y alegres, y su cristianismo es precisamente la fuente de su alegría característica. Las celebramos llenos de profundo gozo, porque va a renovarse el misterio de la venida de nuestro Salvador. Y este gozo lo manifestamos en una forma llena de fe profunda, porque el Dios-con-nosotros prometido en el Antiguo Testamento quiso venir como niño, como un nuevo hermanito para todos los hombres.

En estas páginas queremos ofrecer un modo práctico de conservar llenas de espíritu nuestras “posadas”, y, por lo tanto, llenas de alegría verdadera.

Las Posadas es la Novena de preparación espiritual para la Navidad. Se reza el Rosario y se canta o se reza la letanía, mientras se efectúa una procesión llevando a la Virgen y a San José en andas o dos personas se visten de José y María encabezando la procesión.

Presentamos para cada “posada” dos breves lecturas bíblicas que renuevan en nosotros los sentimientos cristianos propios de este tiempo navideño y una oración comunitaria que nos hará sentirnos más en familia con Dios. Después se pide la Posada cantando los versos en tres sitios diferentes.

Las “posadas” nos acercan más a Dios. José, María y Jesús encarnado en el vientre de María también fueron migrantes. Nos identificamos con ellos, porque de alguna forma cada uno de nosotros somos peregrinos.

Weekly Parish Events

Sábado Diciembre 14

1:15 p.m. Decoración de la Iglesia

Lunes Diciembre 15

7:00 p.m. Las Posadas en el salón de los apóstoles

Martes Diciembre 16

Miercoles Diciembre 17

7:00 p.m. Sin Misa
Las Posadas en el salón de los apóstoles

Jueves Diciembre 19

7:00 p.m. Las Posadas en el salón de los apóstoles

Viernes Diciembre 19

7:00 p.m. Las Posadas en el salón de los apóstoles

Sábado, Diciembre 20

7:00 p.m. Las Posadas en el salón de los apóstoles

Domingo, Diciembre 21

(Cuarto Domingo de Adviento)
1:15 p.m. Decoración de la Iglesia

Las Posadas

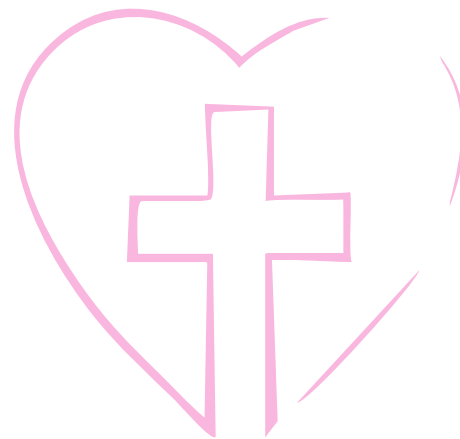
Our “posadas” traditions have always been Christian and joyful, and their Christianity is precisely the source of their joyful characteristics. We celebrate “posadas” full of deep joy, because the mystery of the coming of our Savior is being renewed. And this joy is manifested in a way that is full of deep faith, because the God-With-Us who was promised in the Old Testament desired to come as a child, as a new little brother for all humanity.

In these pages we offer a very practical way to keep our “posadas” full of spirit and, in that way, full of true joyfulness. Las Posadas is the Novena of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The Rosary is prayed and the litany is sung or prayed, while walking in procession and bearing the images of Joseph and Mary, or following two people who lead the procession, dressed as Joseph and Mary.

We present for each “posada” two brief readings that renew us in our own Christian belief about this Christmas season and a community prayer that will help us to feel more at home with God. Afterwards we ask for Posada, singing the verses in three different places.

The “posadas” draw us nearer to God. Joseph, Mary and Jesus incarnated in the womb of Mary were also migrants. We identify with them, because in some way every one of us are pilgrims.

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Our Faculty and Staff

School Phone: 616-527-3561
ssppcatholic.com

Principal	Jenny Leik	ext. 18
Administrative Assistant	Amie Heinlein	ext. 23
Administrative Assistant/Librarian	Joann Johnson	ext. 23

Preschool Teacher	Angie Bush
D. Kindergarten Teacher	Ronda Kapp
Kindergarten/1st Grade Teacher	Audra Searfoss
2nd Grade Teacher	Danielle Wandel
3rd/4th Grade Teacher	Petra Laux
5th/6th Grade Homeroom	Molly Lang
7/8th Grade Homeroom	Beth Rutter

P.E. Teacher	Brad Starks
Art & Spanish Teacher/ School Counselor	Kim Paton
Technology Teacher	Joyce Essich

Board of Education: Allen Wizorek (Chair), Samantha Crawford (Vice-Chair), Cara Brownell (Secretary), Kara Dipzinski, Nik Discher, Dianne Grummet, Kevin Heinlein, Sharon Vanett, Rachel Wilson

Weekly Events & Lunch Menu

Monday, December 15 **Long Winters' Nap - Wear comfy wear! (NO PAJAMAS OR LEGGINGS)**

Santa's Secret Shop
Chicken Tenders, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

Tuesday, December 16 **Holiday Chaos - Over accessorize today! (JEANS ALLOWED - NO LEGGINGS/SWEATPANTS)**

Pepperoni Pizza, Hamburger, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch Santa's Secret Shop

Wednesday, December 17 **Channel Your Flannel - Wear your favorite flannel! (JEANS ALLOWED -NO LEGGINGS/SWEATPANTS)**

Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Diced Peaches

Thursday, December 18 **School Mass @ 8am**

Dress Up for Jesus - Christmas Best (NO JEANS)

Classroom Christmas Parties - See individual classroom newsletter for more information.
Pepperoni Calzone, Hamburger, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

Friday, December 19

Panther Playhouse Closed

Festive Friday - Rock your Ugly Sweater (JEANS ALLOWED - NO LEGGINGS/SWEATPANTS)
Yogurt, String Cheese & Muffin, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

School News & Announcements

Box Tops for Education

SSPP school needs your 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.

FSC Volunteer Opportunities

FSC Volunteer Opportunities: Thank you to our Family School Council and all of their volunteers for making December so memorable for all of us! We have had great volunteers for the Cookie Sale, Mrs. Claus Bazaar and Breakfast with Santa!

Next up, is Santa's Secret shop! Please consider volunteering at a time that you DO NOT have a child shopping. The students really love to surprise their family members!

Special Events

Dec. 15 & 16	Santa's Workshop
Dec. 18	Classroom Christmas Parties
Dec. 22 - Jan. 5	Christmas Break

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for the poor and marginalized in our community. May our students see their needs and be attentive and generous in their response.

Spelling Bee Winners

The Knights of Columbus held their annual spelling bee on Friday, December 5th. There are two groups that compete in the spelling bee, 4th through 6th grade and 7th/8th grade.

Congratulations to the winners!

4th-6th	1st	Jill C
	2nd	Gavin M
	3rd	Miles C.
7th/8th	1st	Makayla C.
	2nd	Raelynn C.
	3rd	Allie G.

Scholarships

It's hard to believe it, but the time for scholarship for the 2026/2027 school year is upon us! Please remember that every family has to apply for a scholarship to receive a scholarship. The Bishop's scholarship is given to Catholic families who demonstrate need, but the parish gives scholarships to all those in need.

ADVENT SUNDAY KIDZ



KIDS



WORDSEARCH

MARY	JOSEPH	REJOICE
ANGEL	PURPLE	SAVIOUR
JESUS	WREATH	EMMANUEL
ADVENT	BELIEVE	GOODNEWS
CANDLE		ISRAEL

