

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

December 21, 2025

21 de Diciembre de 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento



Gaudete
Alegrarse
Rejoice!

4th Sunday of Advent

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

Mass Schedule (Horario de Misas)

Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10:15 a.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 child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

- A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

A Letter from Bishop Walkowiak

Dear Friends in Christ,

In these final days of Advent, the season of hope, we reflect on how the Jubilee Year has reminded us that “Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love” (Spes non confundit, 3).

In coming as a lowly infant, we are reminded of God’s desire to be close to us, and “as a result, we live our lives in expectation of his return and in the hope of living forever in him. In this spirit, we make our own the heartfelt prayer of the first Christians with which sacred Scripture ends: ‘Come, Lord Jesus!’” (Rev 22:20; Spes non confundit, 19).

I invite you to join me as we close the Jubilee Year in our local Church. **The Closing Mass will take place on December 28 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Priests will be available for confession beginning at 2 p.m. Mass begins at 3 p.m., with a reception in the Catholic Central gymnasium to follow.**

I pray that this past year has been a journey of hope, mercy and renewal for you. May the good works begun in our parishes, schools and communities continue to bear much fruit beyond this Jubilee Year. Together, let us give thanks for the graces of this holy year and embrace the Advent promise that Christ comes to dwell among us. May this sacred season deepen our hope and ready our hearts to welcome the Lord who always draws near.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids

Dear Friends in Christ,

En estos últimos días de Adviento, el tiempo de la esperanza, reflexionamos sobre cómo el Año Jubilar nos ha recordado que “La esperanza cristiana, no engaña ni defrauda, porque está fundada en la certeza de que nada ni nadie podrá separarnos nunca del amor divino” (Spes non confundit, 3).

Al venir como un humilde niño, se nos recuerda el deseo de Dios de estar cerca de nosotros, y como resultado, “[vivimos] por tanto en la espera de su venida y en la esperanza de vivir para siempre en Él. Es con este espíritu que hacemos nuestra la ardiente invocación de los primeros cristianos, con la que termina la Sagrada Escritura: ‘¡Ven, Señor Jesús!’” (Ap 22:20; Spes non confundit, 19).

Les invito a unirse a mí mientras concluimos el Año Jubilar en nuestra Iglesia local. La Misa de Clausura tendrá lugar el 28 de diciembre en la Catedral de San Andrés. Habrá sacerdotes disponibles para confesiones a partir de las 2 p.m. La Misa comenzará a las 3 p.m., seguida de una recepción en el gimnasio de Catholic Central.

Ruego que este año pasado haya sido para ustedes un camino de esperanza, misericordia y renovación. Que las buenas obras iniciadas en nuestras parroquias, escuelas y comunidades continúen dando mucho fruto más allá de este Año Jubilar.

Juntos, agradezcamos las gracias recibidas en este año santo y abracemos la promesa de Adviento de que Cristo viene a habitar entre nosotros. Que este tiempo sagrado profundice nuestra esperanza y prepare nuestros corazones para acoger al Señor que siempre se acerca.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,
Reverendísimo David J. Walkowiak
Obispo de Grand Rapids

Liturgies

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10–14 / Ps 24:1–6 / Rom 1:1–7 / Mt 1:18–24

Saturday, December 20

4:00 p.m. Dennis Spitzley (Paul & Jean Barker)

Sunday, December 21

9:35 a.m. Children’s Choir Practice (choir loft)
10:15 a.m. Gloria Cook (Hemenway family)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español
Church Decorating – After 12:00pm Mass

Monday, December 22 – Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24–28 / (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4–8 / Lk 1:46–56
No Mass

Tuesday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Ps 25:4–5, 8–10, 14 / Lk 1:57–66

No Mass
6:00 p.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal (choir loft)
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (choir loft)

The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Mass at Night: Is 9:1–6 / Ps 96:1–3, 11–13 / Ti 2:11–14 / Lk 2:1–14

4:00 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish
10:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7–10 / Ps 98:1–6 / Heb 1:1–6 /
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

10:00 a.m. All who are ill or homebound

Friday, December 26 – St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 / Ps 31:3–4, 6, 8, 16–17 / Mt 10:17–22

No Mass

Saturday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1–4 / Ps 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12 / Jn 20:1–8
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
3:00 p.m. Confessions

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 / Ps 128:1–5 / Col 3:12–21 / Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Saturday, December 27

4:00 p.m. Intention of Jim & Barb Mulnix,
50th Anniversary

Sunday, December 28

10:15 a.m. Joe & Sandy Meyers
(Richard & Jackie VanDyne)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español

A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

You are invited to join Fr. Tom Boufford for a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. This is not intended to be a vacation but a time of prayer, reflection and growing in our Catholic faith. We will join people from all over the world who have come to likewise venerate the Sacred sites of Rome and Assisi, as the Church commemorates the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death. The pilgrimage will from April 12-20. We will visit the places where Peter and Paul died as well as praying the Angelus with Pope Leo and visiting the town of Assisi where St. Francis lived and died.

The cost of the Pilgrimage is \$3,400 per person (airfare is not included. Mass is offered each day with opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and private prayer. A valid, up to date passport is required. You are prayerfully invited to consider this once in lifetime opportunity to grow in our Catholic faith. **For more information, please call Fr. Tom at 231-519-4348.**

Epiphany Concert

'Tis the season to delight in good company and holiday cheer! Join the SSPP choir for a jam-packed afternoon of Christmas Carols and performances. Come to listen or sing along! This collage style concert is **2:30pm** inside SS. Peter and Paul Church on **January 4th, 2026.**

Seven Sisters Apostolate

If you are interested in joining with others to pray for our parish priest every week, consider joining the Seven Sisters Apostolate. Contact Lauren Mulford for more info. Men and women welcome. Lauren.mulford@gmail.com



Knight's Corner

As we draw to the close of this year of the Lord 2025, the principles of the Knights of Columbus—Charity, Unity, and Fraternity—are exactly the sort of things that we need most. We need a spirit of charity to remember all those who do not have enough to eat, adequate shelter, or employment. We need a spirit of unity to let go of what divides us and concentrate on what we all share in common. We need a spirit of fraternity to warm the bonds of friendship which knit a community together. May God bless us all as we enter the holy season of Christmas! In the coming week we will be honored to host a traveling icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Stay tuned for more details.

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. Tasks include positions such as Church Cleaners, Church Vacuumers, and Church Collection Counters.

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 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: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Theresa Scholtens Greeters: Deb Porter

December 27 & 28, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

4:00 p.m.	Lector: Pat Rinker Altar Servers: Kenna & Kinleigh Wizorek EMs: Julie Bennet, Mary Lou Mulick, Barb Mulnix Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen
10:15 a.m.	Lector: Jamie Meyer Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Theresa Scholtens Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Deb Porter

Our Parish Offering

December 13 & 14



Regulatory Offertory Collection (R.O.): \$7,251.06

Electronic Giving (E.G.): \$3,305.00

Total: \$10,556.06

-5% Tithe: -527.80

Net Total: \$10,028.26

God's Housekeepers - December 21

General Cleaning	Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter, Marisha Hileman
Vacuuming	Ray Korytkowski & Lon MacLachlan

Upcoming Events

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

Monday, December 22

School Christmas Break:
December 22 - January 4th
Christmas Caroling 1-3pm, and 5pm

Tuesday, December 23

Wednesday, December 24

Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 25

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

Holy Family Sunday
No OCIA
No Faith Formation Classes



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.



Año Jubilar 2025 **Misa de Cierre**

con Obispo Walkowiak

**Catedral de San Andrés | 28 de diciembre | 3 p.m. Misa
Seguida por una recepción**

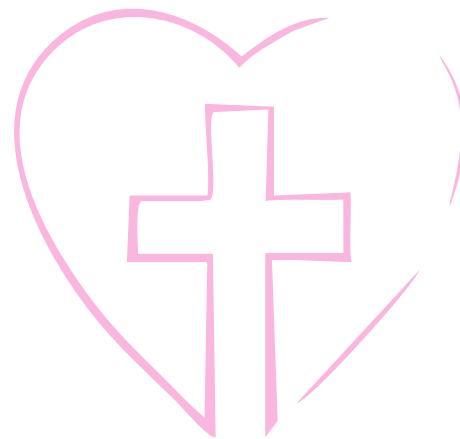
Escane para
información
sobre el
evento:



Jubilee Year 2025 Closing Mass with Bishop
Walkowiak. Cathedral of Saint Andrew
December 28th at 3 p.m. Reception to Follow.



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

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 22

Christmas Break

December 22 - January 4th

Tuesday, December 23

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Friday, December 26



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!

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.

KIDS CORNER

The Little Ones Los pequeños

Jim Burrows



Cuando los ángeles se fueron al cielo, los pastores se decían unos a otros:
"Vayamos, pues, hasta Belén y veamos esto que ha sucedido,
que el Señor nos ha dado a saber".
Fueron a toda prisa, y hallaron a María y a José,
y al Niño acostado en el pesebre. Lc 2:15-16



When the angels had gone away from them into heaven,
the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go
straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened
which the Lord has made known to us."
So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph,
and the baby as He lay in the manger. Lk 2:15-16