

A parish clustered with St. Edward, Lake Odessa

## SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

February 1, 2026

1 de Febrero de 2026

### Mass Schedule Horario de Misas

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Saturday  | 4 pm                    |
| Sunday    | 10:15 am, 12 pm Spanish |
| Wednesday | 12:10 pm, 7 pm Spanish  |
| Thursday  | 8 am                    |

### Reconciliation Schedule Calendario de Reconciliación

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Wednesday | 11 am-12pm (noon) |
| Saturday  | 3 pm to 3:45 pm   |

**Parish Office**  
Oficina Parroquial  
Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Contact Us**  
Contacta con Nosotros  
parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com  
616-527-3610

Prayer Chain for Immediate  
Need please call  
616-522-0279 or 616-527-0438.

# Fourth Sunday *in ordinary time*

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3



## A Letter from Father Eugene

In a few weeks, the Catholic Church will begin the liturgical season of Lent. It will begin with the distribution of ashes, a symbol and a clarion call to repentance and belief in the Gospel. The Church will be called and challenged to practice almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Many will reflect on and meditate on the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some will make an intentional act of mortification through abstinence and other forms of atonement.

The season of Lent provides an opportunity for us to experience a moment of grace amid the practice of sacrifice. This sacrificial grace opens our hearts to know and receive the love of God. Grace is freely given to those who are open to receiving it. But it comes with the prize of Christ giving Himself completely for our sanctification.

As we enter and prepare ourselves for Lent, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of Jesus Christ. May this time be a moment of grace for you, and may grace carry you through the offering of sacrifice.

Please check our bulletin for the Lenten and Easter schedule.



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## News from the Diocese

### The Perfect Gift

Apply to attend a Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience at one of these lovely locations. Apply today at [wwme.org/](http://wwme.org/). For more info, contact Amy & Joe at 517-667- 0433.

**Jan. 30-Feb. 1** Comfort Inn & Suites - Grand Rapids

**Feb. 13-15** Mar Eliya Retreat Center - Oxford

**March 6-8** Center for Ministry - Saginaw

**April 10-12** St. Francis Retreat Center - DeWitt

**June 15-17** Center for Ministry - Saginaw

**July 24-26** Augustine Center - Petoskey.

### Kepha Women's Night

**Friday, March 13 | 7-8:30pm**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1935  
Plymouth Ave SE, Grand Rapids**

Ladies, come be refreshed and renewed. The evening features Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, a powerful and passionate evangelist whose message, "Honey from the Rock: Nurturing Life in a Culture of Death" is sure to challenge and inspire. The event is emceed by Christy Brown with music by Liz Owen. Tickets are \$10 and available at [buildingalegacy.org/events](http://buildingalegacy.org/events).

### Find Hope & Healing After Abortion through Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe place to heal and for hearts broken by abortion to be redeemed. The retreat offers a confidential and supportive environment for men and women who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion.

The next retreat will be held **April 17-19**.

To sign up, go to <https://ccwestmi.org/project-rachel/>. Email [projectrachel@ccwestmi.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccwestmi.org) with any questions.

### Annual Scout Mass and Recognition Ceremony

**Feb. 1 | 10 a.m.**

The Grand Rapids Catholic Committee on Scouting invites all youth and adults involved in Scouting in the Diocese of Grand Rapids to this Mass celebrated by Bishop Walkowiak. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, with a recognition ceremony at Cathedral Square Center to follow. Mass will also be livestreamed on the diocesan website.

## Liturgies This Week

### **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12

#### **Saturday, January 31**

4:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)

#### **Sunday, February 1**

10:15 a.m. Catherine Verdun

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

### **Monday, February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord**

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

No Mass

### **Tuesday, February 3 – St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr;**

#### **St. Ansgar, Bishop**

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30 – 19:3/Ps 86:1-6/Mk 5:21-43

No Mass

### **Wednesday, February 4 - Weekday**

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 6:1-6

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Intention of Juan Mendez

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

### **Thursday, February 5 -St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr**

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/(Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12/Mk 6:7-13

8:00 a.m. Katie Fox (her relatives in Germany)

9-10 a.m. 1st Thursday Confessions

9 a.m.-12 p.m. 1st Thursday Adoration

4:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

### **Friday, February 6 – St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs**

Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51/Mk 6:14-29

No Mass

3:30 p.m. Wedding of

Jacob Elenbaas & Kristine Possehn

### **Saturday, February 7 - Weekday**

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9-14/Mk 6:30-34

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

11a.m.-12noon 1st Reconciliation

3:00 p.m. Confessions

### **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

#### **Saturday, February 7**

4:00 p.m. Sandra Meyers(Doug & Nancy Cusack)

#### **Sunday, February 8**

10:15 a.m. Mark Petersen (Hemenway family)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

2:00 p.m. Baptism of 3 Children

## Parish Prayer List

We continue to pray for all those who need healing. **If you would like to add or remove a name from this list, please call the parish office at 616-527-3610.** 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:

Janice Schell, Anita Hozeski Scott, Angie Cedillo, Arlene Stanton, Bob Parker, Carolee Bennett, Chad Wickerink, Cherie Flinn, Cindy Hardy, Connie Waterman, Denise Ward, Diana Kujala, Dorr Bissell, Ed Blyth, Ericka Baer, Finnly Hunt, Georgia Sibert, Glen Alvord, 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, Mark Dawson, 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

## Our Parish Offering

Week of January 25, 2026

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offertory      | \$4,442.00        |
| Electronic Giving      | \$1,425.00        |
| <b>Total Offertory</b> | <b>\$5,867.00</b> |

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Budgeted Weekly             | \$10,096.15       |
| <b>Deficit for the Week</b> | <b>\$4,229.15</b> |

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Budgeted Year to Date       | \$302,884.50        |
| Actual Year to Date         | \$313,530.73        |
| <b>Surplus Year to Date</b> | <b>\$ 10,646.23</b> |

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## God's Housekeepers - February 1st

**General Cleaning**  
**Vacuuming**

Marisha Hileman, Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter  
Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

## Our Parish 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

### Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4:00 p.m. Lector:** Cecilia Luke  
**Altar Servers:**  
Reagan Crooks & Jaclyn Rewa  
**EMs:** Mary Lou Mulick, Barb Mulnix,  
Mary Perrien  
**Greeters:** Chris & Pilya Christensen

**10:15 a.m. Lector:** Sam Meyer  
**Altar Servers:**  
Alexis/Kendra/Hans Heinlein  
**EMs:** Shannon Anderson, Julie Bennett,  
Veronica Meyer  
**Greeters:** Judy Hamblin

### February 7 & 8, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4:00 p.m. Lector:** Phill Wizorek  
**Altar Servers:**  
Autumn/Kendall/Kyle Cusack  
**EMs:** Cecillia Luke, Mary Lou Mulick,  
Sue Wizorek  
**Greeters:** Volunteers

**10:15 a.m. Lector:** Veronica Meyer  
**Altar Servers:**  
Shyla & Stephen Johnson  
**EMs:** Kevin Heinlein, Cheryl & John  
Hildebrandt  
**Greeters:** Dave O'Mara

## Events This Week

### Sunday, February 1

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation classes  
5-7 p.m. Following Christ (AH)

### Monday, February 2

### Tuesday, February 3

1-2 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
5:30-6:30 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Mtg (VR)

### Wednesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (VR)

### Thursday, February 5

3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)  
4:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal (CH)  
5:00 p.m. Rehearsal Gathering (AH)

### Friday, February 6

4:00 p.m. Wedding(CH)

### Saturday, February 7

9:30 a.m. - 11a.m. Reconciliation Reflection (AH)  
*Before all weekend Masses: Souper Bowl of Caring Donations*

### Sunday, February 8

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes  
5-7 p.m. Following Christ (AH)

(CH) Church/(VR) Veritas Room /  
(PO) Parish Office / (CR) Cornerstone Room

## Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

The Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Fr. Tom Boufford is scheduled for **April 12-20**. We will join pilgrims from all over the world to commemorate the 800 th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. The pilgrimage will also include the weekly audience with Pope Leo and visits to the four major basilicas and other sacred sites that are precious to our Catholic faith. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,400 dollars. Airfare is extra, and a valid passport is required. This is the trip of a lifetime. For more information, go to [rootsinrome.com](http://rootsinrome.com). To register, please contact Fr. Tom Boufford at 231-519-4338. **We hope you can join us!**

### Ministry Name Change & New Grief Support Group

We are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Consolation is now called **Loving Hands of Christ**. This new name reflects our continued mission to offer Christ-centered compassion, presence, and care to those experiencing loss.

As part of this ministry, **Loving Hands of Christ** will be launching a new **Grief Support Group series beginning February 28**. The group is open to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one and is seeking support, encouragement, and healing in a faith-filled environment.

More details about meeting times and registration will be shared soon. Please keep this ministry and all who are grieving in your prayers. For more information please contact Vanessa Booth at the parish office or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

### Interested in Learning More About the Catholic Faith?

Are you curious about the Catholic Church or considering becoming Catholic? Our parish offers OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Inquiry Sessions—a welcoming, no-pressure opportunity to ask questions, listen, and explore the faith at your own pace.

Inquiry sessions are held Tuesdays in the Parish Office Living Room at two convenient times: 1:00–2:00 PM or 5:30–6:30 PM.

These sessions are open to anyone who is exploring the Catholic faith, returning to the Church, or simply seeking a deeper understanding. There is no commitment required—just come as you are. For more information, please contact the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you!

### Parish Contribution Statements

If you would like a copy of your 2025 parish contributions statement, please call the parish office at 616-527-3610. We will mail it to you, or you may pick it up from the parish office.

### Faith Formation Religious Education

Open Registration for Seedlings (4 & 5 Yr Old) through High School. All regular classes will be held in our school from **9:00-10:00am**. For more information about Faith Formation please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

#### February

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1st  | Faith Formation Class  |
| 7th  | Second Grade Reconciliation<br>Reflection 9:30am-12noon          |
| 8th  | Faith Formation Class  |
| 15th | Mid Winter Break - No Class                                      |
| 22nd | Faith Formation Class<br>Grades Seedlings-7th                    |
| 22nd | Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session<br>4:30pm in Veritas Room |

SAVE THE DATE:  
SHINE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CONFERENCE  
March 22nd 1pm - 6:30pm

### Saint Exchange

Students in the Faith Formation program will be participating in a saint exchange leading up to Valentine's Day. We are asking for any donations such as saint cards, medals etc., that you may have to help them with this exchange. Please drop off donations at the parish office. Thank you in advance for helping us teach our students more about the lives of saints.

### Ladies Social Group

We will be taking a winter break from activities until April. Expect to resume after Easter.



### Souper Bowl of Caring

Join us on February 7 & 8th by bringing either a nonperishable food item or a cash donation with you to Mass to help us raise money, food donations and awareness of food hunger in and beyond our community. A large table surrounded by our eighth-grade students will be set up in the entrance of the church to collect your donations. Thank you in advance for your donation of time, talent and treasure.



### Knights Corner

Our monthly business meeting is this Tuesday, February 3rd, in the Veritas Room, with the rosary at 7:00 and the meeting following at 7:30. With the season of Lent on the horizon, we will be talking about fish dinners, the annual pie sale, and a possible retreat for the men of the parish. Join us if you can!

Vivat Jesus!  
Ron Speckin, Grand Knight



## Una Carta del Padre Eugene

### Un momento de gracia a través de la ofrenda de sacrificio

En unas pocas semanas, la Iglesia Católica comenzará la temporada litúrgica de la Cuaresma. Comenzará con la distribución de cenizas, un símbolo y un clarión llamado al arrepentimiento y la creencia en el Evangelio. La Iglesia será llamada y desafiada a practicar la limosna, la oración y el ayuno. Muchos reflexionarán y meditarán en la pasión y la muerte de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Algunos

Hará un acto intencional de mortificación a través de la abstinencia y otras formas de expiación.

La temporada de la cuaresma nos brinda la oportunidad de experimentar un momento de gracia en medio de la práctica del sacrificio. Esta gracia de sacrificio abre nuestros corazones para conocer y recibir el amor de Dios. La gracia se da libremente a aquellos que están abiertos a recibirla. Pero viene con el premio de Cristo dándose completamente por nuestra santificación.

A medida que entramos y nos preparamos para la Cuaresma, abramos nuestros corazones al poder transformador de Jesucristo. Que este tiempo sea un momento de gracia para ti, y que la gracia te lleve a través de la ofrenda de sacrificio.

Por favor, consulte nuestro boletín para el horario de Cuaresma y Pascua.

*Blessed are  
the peacemakers  
for they will be  
called the children  
of God.*



*Dichosos los  
trabajan por la  
paz porque seran  
llamados hijos  
de Dios.*

Matthew 5:9

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Our School Staff

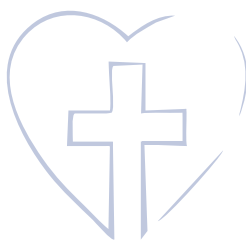
School Phone: 616-527-3561  
ssppcatholic.com

**Principal**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Administrative Assistant/Librarian**

**Preschool Teacher**  
**D. Kindergarten Teacher**  
**Kindergarten/1st Grade Teacher**  
**2nd Grade Teacher**  
**3rd/4th Grade Teacher**  
**5th/6th Grade Homeroom**  
**7/8th Grade Homeroom**

**P.E. Teacher**  
**Art & Spanish Teacher/ School Counselor**  
**Technology Teacher**

**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



## Upcoming Dates

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 10</b>    | 6pm School Board Mtg                 |
| <b>Feb. 13</b>    | Classroom Valentine's<br>Day Parties |
| <b>Feb. 16-17</b> | No School - Mid<br>Winter Break      |

Jenny Leik ext. 18  
Amie Heinlein ext. 23  
Joann Johnson ext. 23

Angie Bush  
Ronda Kapp  
Audra Searfoss  
Danielle Wandel  
Petra Laux  
Molly Lang  
Beth Rutter

Brad Starks  
Kim Paton  
Joyce Essich

## The Gift of Education

Enrollment for the  
2026/2027 school year  
will be opening in late  
February/Early March.

## Now Available: Spirit Wear/Uniforms

We are happy to now be able to offer SSPP Spirit Wear and our uniform crewnecks and jackets online! We are working with Hometown Sports in Portland for all of our products. The link for shopping is here: [hometown-sports-inc.myshopify.com/collections/saints-peter-paul-panthers](https://hometown-sports-inc.myshopify.com/collections/saints-peter-paul-panthers)

## Word Search



E R E J O I C E A O  
N C R O W D S A G U  
S P M L P H V S S Y  
T B O U G E A T C M  
E L U A L A O G I E  
T E N P A R P X I E  
L S T A D T G L D K  
A S A M E R C Y J D  
N E I R E W A R D F  
D D N W C U U W O X

Crowds  
Mountain  
Blessed  
Meek  
Land  
Mercy  
Heart  
Rejoice  
Glad  
Reward