

A parish clustered with St. Edward of Lake Odessa

**SS. PETER & PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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

January 11, 2026

11 de Enero de 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Bautismo del Señor

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

Prayer chain for immediate need

call 616-522-0279 and 616-527-0438.

Baptism of the Lord

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

Luke 3:21-22

A Letter from Father Eugene

The Gift of Baptism.

Baptism, as one of the seven Sacraments, serves as an outward and visible sign of inward grace—a divine gift that brings spiritual renewal and sanctification to the individual being baptized. These signs, which include the use of water, sacred oils, and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, are designed to be seen and recognized by the community of believers.

The communal aspect of Baptism emphasizes the importance of shared beliefs and support within the faith community, highlighting the interconnectedness of all believers. Through this sacramental act, individuals embark on a transformative journey, and the collective rejoicing of the community underscores the significance of this milestone for the spiritual well-being of the baptized and the Church as a whole.

By the grace of our Baptism, we are nourished with the desire to be filled with everlasting Union with God. The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ is a revelation to us that, just as The Father of Christ proclaims and acknowledges who Jesus Christ is, our baptism in like manner is Christ recognizing and claiming us to be His very own, member of the Kingdom of God, in the Catholic Church that is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. And to this revelation we proclaim boldly that we renounce all evil and that we believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary.

If you know of anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, or desires to enter fully into the Catholic faith, please contact our office.



Events & Announcements

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be meeting on **Sunday, January 18th** from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** in the **Cornerstone Room**. Come and enjoy some fellowship and fun with other youth in our parish family.

Christmas Clean Up

Unfortunately, the time has come to take down the beautiful Christmas decorations. This will take place after the noon mass on **Sunday, January 11th**. Please come if you are able to lend a hand. Although it may be disappointing to think of Christmas as being over, we look forward to the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation in his Son's death and resurrection. Glory to God in the highest!

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. Reach out to lauren.mulford@gmail.com

The Perfect Gift

As you prepare your hearts for Jesus, the Greatest Gift God has ever given, consider enriching another great gift, the gift of your marriage. Apply today at wwme.org to attend a Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

Liturgies

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/
Mt 3:13-17

Saturday, January 10

4:00 p.m. Marianne Stein
(Barbara Burrows)

Sunday, January 11

10:15 a.m. Paula O'Keeffe
(Mary Murphy O'Keeffe)
12:00 p.m. Misa en espanol

Monday, January 12 – Weekday (Week 1 in Ordinary Time)

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20
No Mass

Tuesday, January 13 –

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
1 Sm 1:9-20/(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28
No Mass

Wednesday, January 14 – Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10/Mk 1:29-39
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Bob O'Connor
(Jack & Carole Hausserman)
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour
7:00 p.m. Misa en espanol

Thursday, January 15 – Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
8:00 a.m. Barbara Kauffman
(Hemenway family)

Friday, January 16 – Weekday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12
No Mass

Saturday, January 17 – St. Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
3:00 p.m. Confessions

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday, January 17

4:00 p.m. Phil O'Mara
(Ralph & Michele
Westbrook and
Lillian Overbeck)

Sunday, January 18

10:15 a.m. John Scholtens
(Edward & Tamara Albert)
12:00 p.m. Misa en espanol

Wrapping Up Christmas

Thank you to Kevin Heinlein & all who participated in decorating our church for Christmas. An additional thank you to **Veronica Meyer & Bos Greenhouse** who donated the lush garlands and wreaths. We **thank you all** for all of your efforts that have helped bring Christmas cheer to our church.

Faith Formation Religious Education

Registration remains open 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.

January

11th Faith Formation Class
18th Faith Formation Class
24th 9:30 -11:30 a.m. 2nd Grade Reconciliation Reflection
25th Faith Formation Class

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

Reconciliation Reflection for 2nd Graders

We invite our second graders who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to attend a special Reconciliation Reflection on **Saturday, January 24th**, from **9:30-11:30 a.m. in Apostles Hall**.

Parent participation is encouraged, as your presence supports and strengthens your child's faith formation and allows you to share in this important milestone together. Please contact Vanessa Booth at the parish office or through email vbooth@ssppcatholic.com with any questions.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him - In Harmony



Pictured above are our musicians from this year's Epiphany Concert. **Thank you to all who attended the Epiphany Concert.** We hope this concert lifted your spirits and filled your hearts. It was a great turn out. Until next year!

The Ministry of Consolation is now offering:

Grief Support Series

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We invite you to attend this support group series. Each session offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. We are here to walk the journey with you. The next group series will begin in February. Please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com for more information about the support group or if you are interested in private sessions.

Health Support Sessions

All those touched by Cancer or any other illness are invited to join our support group discussion series on love, grace and gratitude. The **next session** will be held at **Biggby Coffee on January 31 at 9:30am**; all are welcome.

Ionia Ministerial Association- Friends of Jesus Fund Fundraiser

El Mariachi, Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Between 11am-9pm
412 W. Main Street, Ionia

Come and have lunch or supper at El Mariachi on Tuesday, January 20, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. **10% of all food and beverage revenue will go to support the Friends of Jesus Fund.** This fund helps local people with emergency shelter, rent assistance, utilities, and other pressing needs.

The Ionia Ministerial Association founded the Friends of Jesus Fund in November of 2016 as a way for the churches to work together to answer calls for help. In a typical month, we receive around 65 calls and are able to help 20 or so. The average amount of assistance is approximately \$120, and in the course of a year we distribute almost \$30,000. We are very grateful to the Velasco family and El Mariachi Restaurant for their generosity and willingness to host this event.

Bring your family, friends, and appetite, and help spread the word. Let's fill the restaurant on January 20 as we help those in our community who most need our help! **If you can't come to the restaurant but want to donate, checks may be made to "Ionia Ministerial Association" and mailed to**

SS. Peter and Paul Church,
434 High Street,

A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

The pilgrimage will be from **April 12-20**. For more information, please call Fr. Tom Boufford at 231-519-4348.

Knight's Corner



My Brother Knights and Fellow Parishioners, Council #944 has completed half of its fraternal year as we head into this new calendar year. Some projects started in 2025 will be completed in 2026, with some traditional and newer activities being done over the upcoming year that should keep us busy. Our parish has been blessed over many years with Catholic Gentlemen who as Knights of Columbus have proven that you shall know them by their deeds! If you would like to be part of this wonderful fraternity, talk to a Knight, or go on line and e-register. It's that easy!

Vivat Jesus!
Ron Speckin G.K.

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 10 & 11, The Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Mary Lou Mulick
Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin
EMs: Cecilia Luke, Phill & Sue Wizorek
Greeters: Volunteers

10:15 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson
Altar Servers: Raelynn Christensen,
Reagan Crooks
EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Sam Meyer
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

January 17 & 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Pat Rinker
Altar Servers: Reagan Crooks, Jaclyn Rewa
EMs: Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick,
Barb Mulnix
Greeters: Volunteers

10:15 a.m. Lector: Pete Fox
Altar Servers: Alexis Heinlein, Jace Perry
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Theresa Scholtens,
Laurie Tjalsma
Greeters: Deb Porter

God's Housekeepers - January 11th

General Cleaning Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

Vacuuming Bruce Sibert, Joe Peckins,

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation classes

1:00pm Take down Christmas decorations

Monday, January 12

Tuesday, January 13

5:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting (VR)

6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

Thursday, January 15

9:00 a.m. Daytime Faith Sharing (PO)

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

Friday, January 16

4:30 p.m. Marriage Preparation Session (PO)

Saturday, January 17

10:00 a.m. Marriage Preparation Session (PO)

Sunday, January 18 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

6-8:00pm Youth Group Night (CR)

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

Our Parish Offering Week of January 5, 2026

Regular Offertory \$ 8,889.10

Electronic Giving \$ 1,765.00

Total \$ 10,654.10

Budgeted Weekly \$ 10,096.15

Surplus for the Week \$ 557.95

Budgeted Year to Date \$272,596.05

Actual Year to Date \$285,510.73

Surplus Year to Date \$ 12,914.68

Please Pray for:

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.

To join the prayer chain for immediate need call 616-622-0279 or 616-527-0448.

Anita Hozeski Scott, Angie Cedillo, Arlene Stanton, Bob Parker, Carolee Benett, Chad Wickerink, Cherie Flinn, Cindy Hardy, Connie Waterman, Denise Ward, Diana Kujala, Dorr Bissell, Ed Blyth, Ericka Baer, Finnly 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, 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

Por todos los cristianos:
que podamos vivir nuestro llamado
bautismal para proclamar el
Evangelio del amor de Dios y la
dignidad de cada vida humana;
roguemos al Señor.



Una Carta del Padre Eugene

El don del Bautismo

El Bautismo, como uno de los siete Sacramentos, es un signo externo y visible de la gracia interior: un don divino que trae renovación espiritual y santificación a la persona que es bautizada. Estos signos, que incluyen el uso del agua, los óleos sagrados y la invocación del Espíritu Santo, están destinados a ser vistos y reconocidos por la comunidad de creyentes.

El aspecto comunitario del Bautismo enfatiza la importancia de las creencias compartidas y el apoyo dentro de la comunidad de fe, destacando la interconexión de todos los creyentes. A través de este acto sacramental, las personas emprenden un camino de transformación, y la alegría colectiva de la comunidad subraya la importancia de este hito para el bienestar espiritual del bautizado y de la Iglesia en su conjunto.

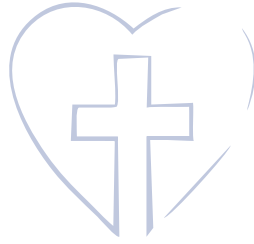
“Padre celestial, en el sacramento del Bautismo, nos has dado el don de la nueva vida. Por tu Hijo Jesucristo, nuestro Señor, y el Espíritu Santo, nos hiciste hijos tuyos. Ayúdanos a reconocer el don de la vida humana como signo de esperanza en nuestro mundo. Muéstranos donde tu preciado don de la vida necesita mayor protección y fortalécenos para defender la vida en todas las etapas y circunstancias, desde el niño en el seno materno hasta los ancianos y moribundos. Guiados por tu Espíritu Santo, protégenos del desánimo y danos la gracia de ser mensajeros de esperanza, llenos de una confianza de que nada puede separarnos de tu amor.”

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB
“Oración por la Esperanza”,

Por la gracia de nuestro Bautismo, somos nutridos con el deseo de alcanzar la unión eterna con Dios. El Bautismo de nuestro Señor Jesucristo es una revelación para nosotros de que, así como el Padre de Cristo proclama y reconoce quién es Jesucristo, nuestro bautismo, de igual manera, es Cristo reconociéndonos y reclamándonos como suyos, miembros del Reino de Dios, en la Iglesia Católica que es Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica. Y ante esta revelación, proclamamos con valentía que renunciamos a todo mal y que creemos en Dios Padre y en Jesucristo, concebido por el Espíritu Santo y nacido de la Virgen María.

Si conoce a alguien que desee recibir el Sacramento del Bautismo o desee entrar plenamente en la fe católica, comuníquese con nuestra oficina.

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Our School 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

Upcoming Dates

Jan. 19	No School - MLK Day
Jan. 23	Report Cards sent home
Jan. 24	First Reconciliation Retreat & Sacrament

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, January 12	Popcorn Chicken, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch
Tuesday, January 13	School Board Meeting at 6 p.m. Cheese Pizza, Hamburger, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch
Wednesday, January 14	Chicken Sandwich, Pizza, Uncrustable, or Cold Lunch
Thursday, January 15	School Mass at 8am Bosco Sticks, Hamburger, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch
Friday, January 16	Jeans Day End of 2nd Quarter Walking Taco, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch



Catholic Schools Week

Each year, we end the month of January with a **HUGE celebration of Catholic Schools Week!** We will have days filled with exciting celebrations of all the great things about Catholic Schools! Each day will have a theme and an event to accompany that theme. Please stay tuned for a complete schedule of events! We are working on some wonderful things and need to confirm them before sending home the completed schedule.

Support Our School, It's Cool

For over 29 years, **Box Tops for Education** has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy.

Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store and all you need is the Box Top app.

The app allows you to contribute at your convenience.

To get started download the app, designate SSPP as your school, and scan grocery receipts. It's as simple as that. If not, please place grocery receipts with BOX TOP tags in the back of church and we will scan them for you. Please help us exceed our goals.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for our school families. May God strengthen the bonds of love, patience and understanding between parents, children and siblings as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

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.

Please visit www.smartaidforparents.com. If you have an account, you may just log in, but if you are new to the scholarship application, our school code is 12044.

Enrollment will open in late February/early March for the 2026/2027 school year.

Show Your School Spirit with 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 below!

<https://hometown-sports-inc.myshopify.com/collections/saints-peter-paul-panthers>

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

