

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 18, 2026**

18 de Enero 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.

# Second Sunday *in Ordinary time*

All the earth shall bow down before you. O God,  
and shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalms 66 [65]:4

# A Letter from Father Eugene

## The Taking of Jesus. No Force Needed.

The taking of the statue of the baby Jesus from the Nativity scene at SS Peter and Paul Church is regrettable. Whatever the reason for such an act, it is unacceptable and shows how we have lost the sense of reverence for the sacred. We pray for those who took the image of the child Jesus Christ and hope they have a change of heart and realize what they have done.

Nevertheless, in hindsight, this situation made me think there can be a silver lining even in unfortunate events. Christ came into the world to be with us, especially for those who are hurting, troubled, and lacking in faith, to bring healing and wholeness to their souls. God desires to be with us. Those who took Him away may be in for a surprise when they realize that Christ, our Lord, ultimately desires to be with them as well.

To all who seek to embrace Christ or have already welcomed Him into their hearts, I gently encourage you to stay close to Him. There is no need for any form of deceit or force—simply approach Him sincerely and ask. Trust in His power to bring wonderful changes into your life. Remember the thief on the cross with Jesus, who humbly recognized his need and

## News from the Diocese

### 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](http://wwme.org) to attend a Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. 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

### Annual Mass for Life

All are invited to join Bishop Walkowiak to pray for the legal protection of unborn children. Mass will be **Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m.** at the **Cathedral of St. Andrew**. A reception will follow in the Cathedral's parish center. Catholics also are encouraged to pray for an end to abortion during the Nine Days for Life novena beginning Friday, January 16.

### Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) is launching in Grand Rapids!

YCP brings together young adults in their 20s and 30s to grow in faith, life, and work—building authentic friendships, finding purpose, and striving for excellence.

Launch Party Details:

Thursday, January 22, 2026

7:00 – 9:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM)

Goei Center

Registration required:

[youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/grand-rapids](http://youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/grand-rapids)

Why Come?

Meet other Catholic professionals

Celebrate this exciting new chapter

Learn how to live your faith in the workplace

## Liturgies This Week

### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

#### **Saturday, January 17**

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

#### **Sunday, January 18**

10:15 a.m. John Scholtens (Edward &  
Tamara Albert)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Monday, January 19 - Weekday**

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mk 2:18-22  
No Mass

#### **Tuesday, January 20 – St. Fabian, Pope; Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr**

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28  
No Mass

#### **Wednesday, January 21 – St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr**

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6  
11:00 a.m. Confessions  
12:10 p.m. Marsha Packer (Tom & Julie Bennett)  
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour  
7:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Thursday, January 22 - Weekday**

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/Mk 3:7-12  
8:00 a.m. Carolyn Zilch (Hemenway family)

#### **Friday, January 23 – St. Vincent, Deacon; Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin**

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11/Mk 3:13-19  
No Mass

#### **Saturday, January 24 – St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor**

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21  
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
9:30-11:30 1st Reconciliation Reflection &  
Sacrament (AH, CH)  
3:00 p.m. Confessions

### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is 8:23 – 9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23

#### **Saturday, January 24**

4:00 p.m. Carol Cope (Jack & Carole  
Hausserman)

#### **Sunday, January 25**

10:15 a.m. Carol Gallagher (Dane & Linda Droste)  
12:00 p.m. Misa en español

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

## 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:**

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 11, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$7,240.00
Electronic Giving	\$3,305.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$10,545.00</b>

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
<b>Surplus for the Week</b>	<b>\$448.85</b>

Budgeted Year to Date	\$282,692.20
Actual Year to Date	\$296,055.73
<b>Surplus Year to Date</b>	<b>\$13,363.53</b>

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## God's Housekeepers - January 18th

**General Cleaning**  
**Vacuuming**

Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nunez, Carolina Velasco  
Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

## Our Parish Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

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

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal

Permanent Deacon: Zenon Cardenas

<b>Secretary</b>	Cecilia Luke	ext. 10
<b>Office Manager</b>	Adam Rewa	ext. 11
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Tiffany Ferguson	ext. 39
<b>Music Director</b>	Whitney Crooks	616-527-3610
<b>Faith Formation</b>	Vanessa Booth	ext. 21
<b>Maintenance</b>	Matt Lang	616-527-3610
<b>Cemetery Sexton</b>	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

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, January 18

8:30 a.m.	OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m.	Faith Formation classes
12:30 p.m.	K of C Free Throw Contest Check in (Gym)
6-8 p.m.	Youth Group Night (CR)

### Monday, January 19

	No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
7:00pm	Bilingual Rosary for Life (CH)

### Tuesday, January 20

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Fundraiser for Friends of Jesus Fund (El Mariachi Restaurant)
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### Wednesday, January 21

### Thursday, January 22

9:00 a.m.	Daytime Faith Sharing(PO)
3:45 p.m.	Life Fit (PO)

### Friday, January 23

### Saturday, January 24

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Hispanic Catechesis (VR)
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	1st Reconciliation Reflection & Sacrament(AH,CH)

### Sunday, January 25- Catholic Schools Week Begins (January 25-31)

8:30 a.m.	OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m.	Faith Formation Classes

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

## Interested in Learning More About the Catholic Faith?

Are you curious about the Catholic Church or considering becoming Catholic? **Join us for a no-pressure inquiry session which are held Tuesdays in the Parish Office Living Room at two convenient times: 1:00-2:00 PM or 5:30-6:30 PM.** They are a great opportunity to ask questions, listen and explore the faith at your own pace.

## A Sincere Thank You

To all who helped put away Christmas Decorations. Thank you all for your time, energy, and spirits.

## January 17 & 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m.	<b>Lector:</b> Pat Rinker <b>Altar Servers:</b> Reagan Crooks & Jaclyn Rewa <b>EMs:</b> Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick, Barb Mulnix <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers
10:15 a.m.	<b>Lector:</b> Pete Fox <b>Altar Servers:</b> Alexis Heinlein & Jace Perry <b>EMs:</b> Shannon Andrews, Theresa Scholtens, Laurie Tjalsma <b>Greeters:</b> Deb Porter

## January 24 & 25, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m.	<b>Lector:</b> Phill Wizorek <b>Altar Servers:</b> Charlotte & Lillian Mabe <b>EMs:</b> Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick, Sue Wizorek <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers
10:15 a.m.	<b>Lector:</b> Dan Lower <b>Altar Servers:</b> Hans & Kendra Heinlein <b>EMs:</b> Julie Bennett, Kevin Keinlein, Sam Meyer <b>Greeters:</b> Theresa Scholtens

### 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](mailto: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.

### **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!

### **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](mailto:lauren.mulford@gmail.com)**

### **Ionia Ministerial Association- Friends of Jesus Fund Fundraiser**

**El Mariachi, Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**Between 11 am-9 pm**

**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,  
Ionia, MI 48846.**



### **Free Throw Contest Knights of Columbus Council 944**

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the 2026 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. The competition will be held on **Sunday, January 18th** in the **SS. Peter and Paul gym**. Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m. Competition starts at 1:00 p.m. Winners are eligible to take part in the District competition on Sunday, February 1st at St. Charles, 505 S. Lafayette Street, Greenville, MI 48838

### **Knights Corner**



My brother Knights and fellow parishioners, at our meeting last week . We approved donations to the RAVE (Relief After Violent Encounter) shelter and to PSIC (Pregnancy Services of Ionia County). We also were able to provide some help, both monetary and skilled labor, to help a single mother with four children get hot water and working plumbing in her trailer. One of the primary reasons Fr. McGivney founded the Knights was to help families who had lost their husband and father, and we are proud to continue that work today.

Congratulations to our first raffle winners of 2026 – Jill Simons, Linda Downes, Taggart Loucks, and Kevin Hyma.

Vivat Jesus!  
Ron Speckin Grand Knight

# Una Carta del Padre Eugene

## El robo de la imagen del Niño Jesús. No se necesita la fuerza.

El robo de la estatua del Niño Jesús de nuestro pesebre en San Pedro y Pablo es lamentable. Cualquiera que sea el motivo de tal acto, es inaceptable y demuestra cuánto hemos perdido el sentido de reverencia por lo sagrado. Oramos por quienes se llevaron la imagen del Niño Jesús y esperamos que cambien de parecer y se den cuenta de lo que han hecho.

Sin embargo, en retrospectiva, esta situación me hizo pensar que incluso en los acontecimientos desafortunados puede haber un lado positivo. Cristo vino al mundo para estar con nosotros, especialmente con aquellos que sufren, están afligidos y carecen de fe, para traer sanación e integridad a sus almas. Dios desea estar con nosotros. Quienes se lo llevaron quizás se sorprendan al darse cuenta de que Cristo, nuestro Señor, en última instancia, también desea estar con ellos.

A todos los que buscan abrazar a Cristo o ya lo han acogido en sus corazones, les animo con cariño a permanecer cerca de Él. No hay necesidad de engaño alguno; simplemente acérquense a Él con sinceridad y pidan. Confíen en su poder para traer cambios maravillosos a sus vidas. Recuerden al ladrón en la cruz junto a Jesús, quien humildemente reconoció su necesidad y pidió misericordia. Cristo le aseguró con amor: «Hoy estarás conmigo en el paraíso».



### Special Mass for the Protection of Life

St Edwards Parish in Lake Odessa invites you to join them for a special mass on January 22. We pray for the sanctity and protection of human life from natural conception to natural death. The Mass will take place on **January 22, Thursday at 7pm at St Edwards Parish in Lake Odessa**. Adoration with confession is from 6-7pm.

### Bilingual Praying of the Holy Rosary

We extend an invitation to our Catholic community to participate in the **prayer of the Holy Rosary on January 19, 2026, Monday at 7:00 PM at SS Peter and Paul Parish**. Kindly note that the service will be conducted bilingually.

May we, as a Church, continue to walk together, praying for the country in upholding the sanctity and protection of human dignity and being a light of hope in the midst of uncertainty.

### Oración bilingüe del Santo Rosario

Extendemos una invitación a nuestra comunidad católica para participar en la **oración del Santo Rosario el 19 de enero de 2026, el lunes a las 7:00 p.m.** en la parroquia de **San Pedro y San Pablo**. Tenga en cuenta que el servicio se llevará a cabo de forma bilingüe.

Que nosotros, como Iglesia, sigamos caminando juntos, orando por el país en la defensa de la santidad y protección de la dignidad humana y siendo una luz de esperanza en medio de la incertidumbre.

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

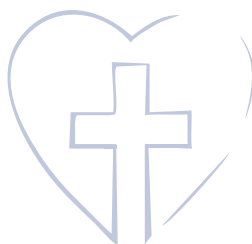
## Our School Staff

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**



Jenny Leik  
Amie Heinlein  
Joann Johnson

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

Brad Starks  
Kim Paton  
Joyce Essich

ext. 18  
ext. 23  
ext. 23

**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

## 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.

### January

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

### February

1st Faith Formation Class  
8th Faith Formation Class

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

## 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.



## Upcoming Dates

<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>No School - MLK Day</b>
<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>Report Cards sent home</b>
<b>Jan. 24</b>	<b>First Reconciliation Retreat &amp; Sacrament</b>

## 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.



## Souper Bowl of Caring

Join us as we raise money, food donation and awareness of food

hunger in and beyond our community. On February 7th & 8th we will have representatives from our parish and school collecting donations before the weekend Masses which will be donated to the Ionia Food Pantry. For more information, on how you can be involved please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com. Thank you in advance for your donation of time, talent and treasure.