

## SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

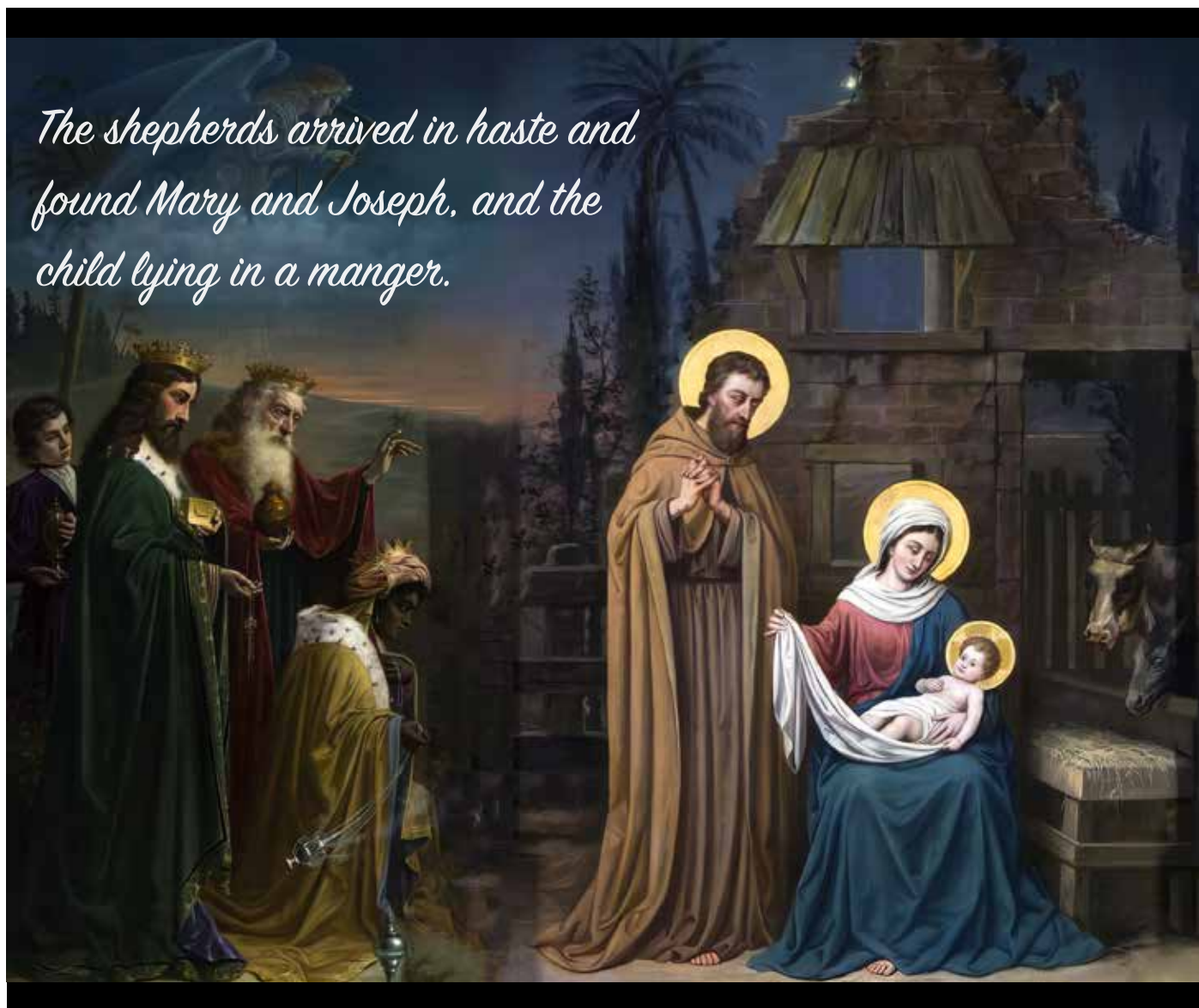
January 4, 2026

4 de Enero de 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

Epifanía de Señor

*The shepherds arrived in haste and  
found Mary and Joseph, and the  
child lying in a manger.*



### 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

*Llegaron los pastores a toda  
prisa y encontraron a Mariá y  
a José, y al niño recostado  
en un presebre.*

## A Letter from Father Eugene

### A New Year Toward Mission and Discipleship

Happy New Year! As we step into this new beginning, we do so with a heart full of prayer, deep discernment, and a profound sense of hope for the blessed year that lies ahead. We take a moment to reflect on the past year, expressing our gratitude to God for the many blessings we encountered.

As we embark on this journey through the New Year, we recognize our collective call to mission and discipleship. Together, as a community, we will earnestly seek His guidance each day, striving to walk in faith as we fulfill His great commission. This scripture reminds us of our purpose: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Let us carry this mission in our hearts with zeal, and with faith in God, the endurance of love in challenging times, and unwavering perseverance in hope.

## A Letter from the Cathedral

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to ask for your prayerful support for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), as part of the Triennial National Collection on **January 10/11, 2026**.

Saint John Paul II established the AMS in 1985 to ensure that the Catholic Church's full range of sacraments and pastoral ministries remains available to those in the United States Armed Forces. The Archdiocese seeks to ensure that Catholics serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, receiving care in any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Centers, working for the federal government overseas, and the families of these populations receive the necessary pastoral care and services. Members of our own diocese have benefited from this pastoral care.

The AMS does not receive financial support from the military or the government for its programs and services, including sacramental preparation, vocations, evangelization and catechesis, Tribunal and veterans affairs.

Unlike a conventional diocese, the AMS does not have a parish and cannot take up weekly collections to sustain its ministries. Service members and veterans depend on the generosity of Catholics like you as they defend our freedoms and face constant transition and uncertainty.

Your support of the Triennial National Collection will bring the Gospel, the sacraments, and vital pastoral care to the men and women who serve our nation. Thank you for your generosity.

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

### Liturgies This Week

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/  
Mt 2:1-12

4:00 p.m. **Saturday, January 3**  
Pat Brockman  
(Paul & Jean Barker)

10:15 a.m. **Sunday, January 4**  
Margaret O'Malley  
(Mary O'Connor)  
12:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Monday, January 5**

##### **St. John Neumann, Bishop**

1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6/Ps 2:7-8, 10-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
No Mass

#### **Tuesday, January 6**

##### **St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
No Mass

#### **Wednesday, January 7**

##### **St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
No Mass  
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

#### **Thursday, January 8 - Christmas Weekday**

1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/Lk 4:14-22  
No Mass

#### **Friday, January 9 - Christmas Weekday**

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
No Mass

#### **Saturday, January 10 - Christmas Weekday**

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30  
8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
3:00 p.m. Confessions

#### 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 español

### A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

You are prayerfully invited to consider this once in lifetime opportunity to grow in our Catholic faith. 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 be from **April 12-20**. 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. **For more information, please call Fr. Tom at 231-519-4348.**

### You're Invited! Diocesan Catechist Workshop

All catechists are invited to a Diocesan Workshop through Franciscan at Home hosted by SS Peter & Paul Parish on **Saturday, January 10, from 8:00–11:00 a.m. in the Veritas Room.**

This engaging and energizing morning is open to Faith Formation Catechists, OCIA team members, and School Teachers. Whether you are new to ministry or a seasoned catechist, this workshop is a wonderful opportunity to grow, share ideas, and be renewed in your call to hand on the faith.

The workshop will offer practical insights, fresh perspectives, and time for collaboration with **fellow catechists from across the diocese—all in a welcoming and supportive environment.**

### Good Tidings We Bring



Pictured at left is our Christmas Caroling crew who visited *Optalis*, *Just Like Home*, and *Green Acres*. By evening they visited homes of those who are homebound, ill, or grieving. We caroled for 8 homes. **So much fun!** Merry Christmas from the SSPP Choir.



### Knight's Corner

We will be having our **first monthly business meeting** of the new year this **Tuesday, January 6th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Veritas Room.** Come early if you can and join us for the **Rosary at 7:00 p.m.** We had an extremely busy month of December with the spelling bee, cooking for the community Breakfast with Santa, serving Advent by Candlelight, moving food totes for the Adopt a Family program, selling raffle tickets, and hosting the traveling icon of the Sacred Heart. If you would enjoy being part of these types of activities, join us!

Ron Speckin, Grand Knight

### Special Thanks



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our Church for the Christmas season. Many hours went into making the decorations beautiful. Your time, talents and dedication are truly appreciated.

Kevin Heinlein  
*Soli Deo gloria*

### Advent Party

Pictured are our Faith Formation students enjoying hands-on activities as we celebrate the anticipation of Christ. **Merry Christmas from the Faith Formation group!**



### Ministry of Consolation

Do you feel called to help those who are grieving? Join us for the next Ministry of Consolation's training session. It will be held on **Friday, January 2nd** from **3:00pm to 4:30pm** in the **parish office living room.**

### 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](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or 616-527-3610.

#### January

**4th** No Faith Formation Class—Christmas Break  
**11th** Faith Formation Classes Resume  
**18th** Faith Formation Class  
**24th** First Reconciliation Reflection 9:30–11:30am

### 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)

### Epiphany Concert

**Epiphany weekend is upon us!** 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.**



# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Our Parish Faculty

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 3 & 4, The Epiphany of the Lord

- 4:00 p.m.** Lector: Cecilia Luke  
Altar Servers: Kenna & Kinleigh Wizorek  
EMs: Monica Mabe, Mary Lou Mulick,  
Barb Mulnix,  
Greeters: Volunteers
- 10:15 a.m.** Lector: Walt Downes  
Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey  
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Julie Bennett,  
Kevin Heinlein  
Greeters: Judy Hamblin

### January 10 & 11, The Baptism of the Lord

- 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

## 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.

## God's Housekeepers - January 4th

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| General Cleaning | Kip Gelhof, Colleen Pierce, Ann Buck, Paula Gelhof |
| Vacuuming        | Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan                    |

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany Sunday

- 1:15 p.m. No Faith Formation classes  
Epiphany Concert Rehearsal (CH)
- 2:30 p.m. Epiphany Concert (CH)

### Monday, January 5 – Epiphany Sunday

School resumes

### Tuesday, January 6

- 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)

### Wednesday, January 7

### Thursday, January 8

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

### Friday, January 9

### Saturday, January 10

- 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Catechist Training (VR)

### Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of the Lord

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

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

## 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, 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, 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

## Christmas Floral Memorials 2025

### *In Memory of*

Earl Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. John Alonge  
Ann & Rudi  
Della Arbour  
Bernard & Bertha Ardis  
Barcelow & Dingman families  
Sharon Bartley  
Gert Bennett  
Mitch Bennett  
Jerry Blundy  
Leo & LeeAnn Bowen  
Mary Breeze  
Thomas & Patricia Brockman  
Ricki Chowning  
Julia Christensen  
Robert Christensen  
Claire Colwell  
Marcia Cook  
Roy & Dee Cook  
Dale & Carol Cope  
Susan (O'Mara) Csonka  
The Curtin family  
Rebecca Denney  
Robert Desrochers  
Leyna Donaldson  
Elizabeth & William Droste  
Richard F. Dunn family  
Richard V. Dunn family  
Anna Katharina Fox  
Philip Fox  
Members of Freund & Stoj Families  
Carol Gallagher  
Donald Gardner  
Barbara Gibson  
Alice Groshko

Stephen Groshko  
Ray & Carol Grummet  
Jim Hayden  
Duane & Mary Lou Hildebrandt  
Matilda Hufnagel  
Rita Huhn  
William Irwin  
Rich Johnson  
Deborah Kaminski  
Edward & Marie Kaminski  
Leon & Lorena Kuhtz  
Marvin, Gwen, & David Kuieck  
Michael Lewis  
Phillip & Eileen Lower  
Ken & Helen McKee  
Frank & Betty McMullen  
Joseph & Sandra Meyers  
Susan Mitchell  
Keith & Betty Morley  
Rick Morley  
James Nummer  
Bob O'Connor  
JoEllen O'Connor  
John P. & Mary V. O'Connor  
Rex P. O'Connor  
Marie O'Mara  
Tom & Norma O'Mara  
Kathy Page  
BJ Paulin  
James Paulin Sr.  
Robin Petersen  
Shirley V. Peterson  
Dan & Heather Pierce  
Dave Pierce

Don Pierce  
Julia Pierce  
Jim Poole  
Joseph Rosenburg  
Suzanne Rosenburg  
Ellis & June Shotwell  
John & Mary Simon  
Ronda Simon  
Dennis Spitzley  
Francis Spitzley  
William & Katherine Spitzley  
Ray & Aldona Springer  
Hailey Anne Stanton  
Chuck Tarpey  
Elmer & Mary Therese Thelen  
Martin & Martha Thelen  
Patricia Vidro  
Ken & Sharron Voet  
Lois Walker  
Demerease A. Weger  
Nancy J. Weger  
Christina Woodcock  
Ruth Woodcock  
Jack Wymer

### *In Honor of*

Gert Bennett  
Members of Freund & Stoj Families  
Michael Gallagher

# 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 |

## Upcoming Dates

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Jan. 13</b> | School Board Meeting @ 6pm                  |
| <b>Jan. 16</b> | 2nd Quarter Ends                            |
| <b>Jan. 19</b> | No School - MLK Day                         |
| <b>Jan. 23</b> | Report Cards sent home                      |
| <b>Jan. 24</b> | First Reconciliation Retreat<br>& 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 5**      **Welcome Back to School!**  
Chicken Tenders, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

**Tuesday, January 6**      Mac & Cheese, Hamburger, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

**Wednesday, January 7**      **Panther Playhouse Closed**  
Hot dog, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch

**Thursday, January 8**      **School Mass at 8am**

**Friday, January 9**      **Jeans Day**  
Lasagna Roll Up, Pizza, Uncrustable or Cold Lunch





### 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 endorsed purchases) in the back of church and we will scan them for you. Please help us reach and exceed our goal for this year.

Thank you

### Reconciliation Reflection for Second Graders

We invite our Catholic 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**. This warm and welcoming morning will help children better understand God's loving mercy and the gift of forgiveness through age-appropriate activities, prayer, and reflection.



It is a meaningful step in their sacramental journey as they prepare to celebrate Reconciliation for the first time.

**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. We look forward to spending this faith-filled time with you and your child as we grow closer to Christ and His boundless mercy.

Please contact Vanessa Booth at the parish office or through email [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) with any questions.