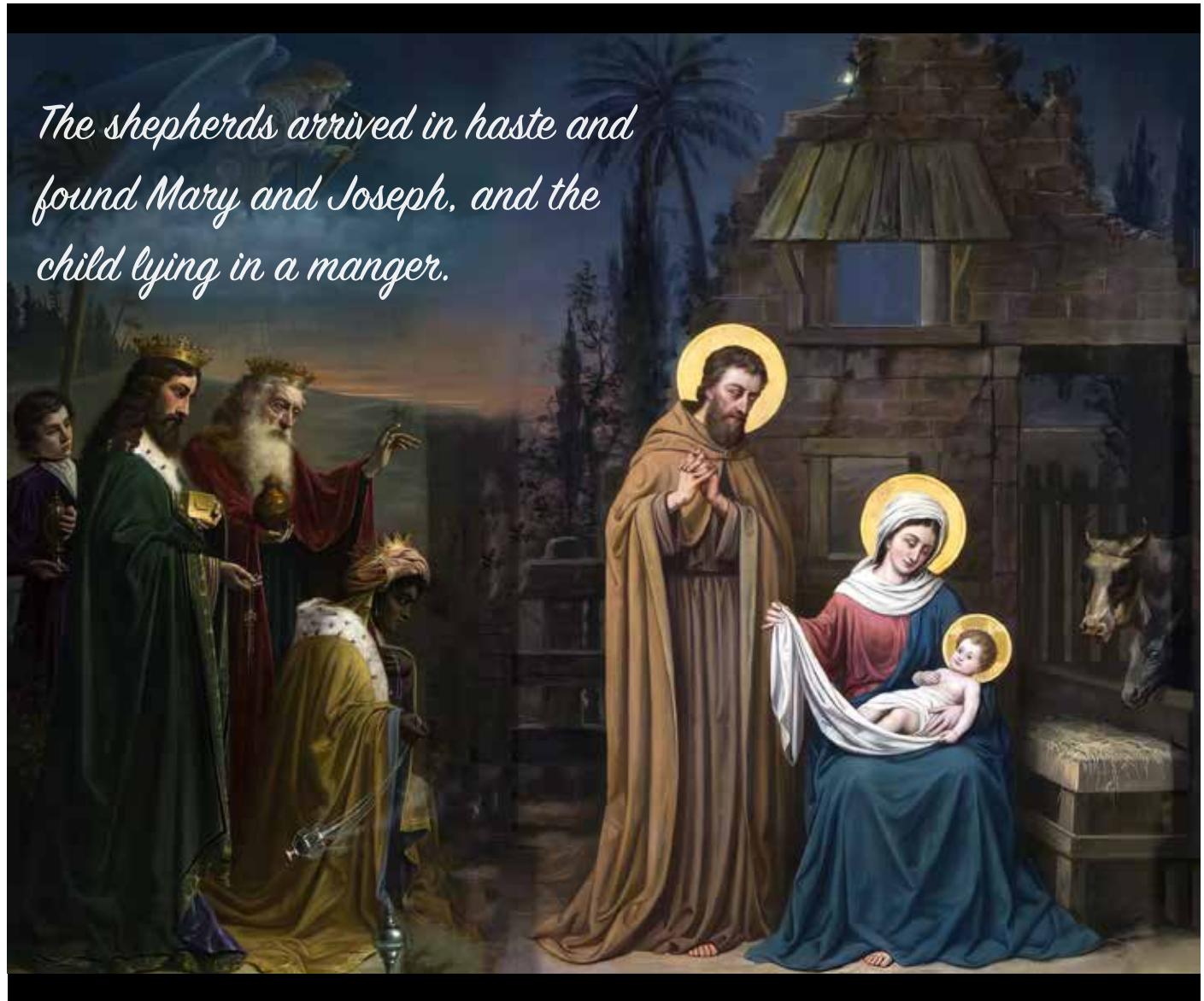


SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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@sspcatholic.com

*Llegaron los pastores a toda
prisa y encontraron a María 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

Saturday, January 3

4:00 p.m. Pat Brockman
(Paul & Jean Barker)

Sunday, January 4

10:15 a.m. Margaret O'Malley
(Mary O'Connor)
12:00 p.m. Misa en espanol

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 10:34-38Mt 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

Events & Announcements

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 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

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
saintspeterandpaulonia.org

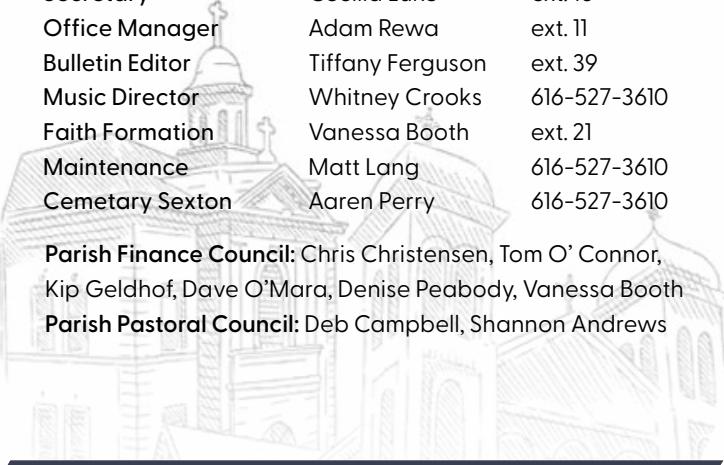
Fr. Eugene Batungbacal

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, 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

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

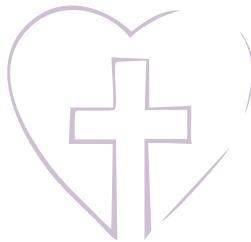
Gert Bennett
 Members of Freund & Stoj Families
 Michael Gallagher

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

Jan. 13 School Board Meeting @ 6pm
Jan. 16 2nd Quarter Ends
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 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



School News & Announcements



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 with any questions.