

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 15, 2026**

15 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-12 pm (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.

# Sixth Sunday *in ordinary time*

"Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to  
save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name."

Psalms 31 [30]: 3-4

# Lent: A Time to Slow Down and Reflect

by Father Eugene

We can often find ourselves in situations that may make us feel uneasy or overwhelmed. Sometimes, instead of letting go and enjoying the moment, we tend to exert control over it. However, it's worth considering that even though our intentions may be pure and well-meaning, the best way to act, especially in the presence of God, is to be present and open to receiving the grace that we have been privileged to witness. Being receptive to the beauty and wonder of the moment can help us appreciate the gifts we have been given and allow us to experience joy and peace.

Lent presents to us an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and ponder our relationship with God and each other. This is a moment where we examine our conscience and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us. Be cautious of planning too many things during this time. We might want to do so many things that it overwhelms us and end up not doing anything at all. Listen, ponder and let God be your companion during this Lenten time. May this Holy Hour be a moment of renewal for our hearts and for our nation. Entrusting our fears and hopes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us ask the Lord to make us instruments of his peace and witnesses to the inherent dignity of every person. Let us pray together, confident that God hears the cry of his people and remains close to all who seek him.

## Cuaresma: Un tiempo para desacelerar y reflexionar

A menudo nos encontramos en situaciones que nos incomodan o nos abruman. A veces, en lugar de dejarnos llevar y disfrutar del momento, tendemos a controlarlo. Sin embargo, vale la pena considerar que, aunque nuestras intenciones sean puras y bien intencionadas, la mejor manera de actuar, especialmente en la presencia de Dios, es estar presentes y abiertos a recibir la gracia que hemos tenido el privilegio de presenciar. Ser receptivos a la belleza y la maravilla del momento nos ayuda a apreciar los dones que hemos recibido y nos permite experimentar alegría y paz.

La Cuaresma nos brinda la oportunidad de desacelerar, reflexionar y meditar sobre nuestra relación con Dios y con los demás. Este es un momento para examinar nuestra conciencia y dejar que el Espíritu Santo nos guíe. Tenga cuidado de no planificar demasiado durante este tiempo. Podríamos querer hacer tantas cosas que nos abrumen y terminemos sin hacer nada. Escucha, reflexiona y deja que Dios te acompañe durante este tiempo de Cuaresma.

Dear friends in Christ,

As we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, we are called in a special way to remember and reach out to our brothers and sisters who are poor and most in need. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl is one way to put our faith into action throughout the 40 days of Lent.

I invite you to pick up a CRS Rice Bowl from your parish and make it a part of your prayer, fasting and almsgiving this year. Your participation in the Rice Bowl program is a simple gesture that makes a real difference in the lives of those who suffer from hunger and poverty.

Twenty-five percent of Rice Bowl proceeds remain in our diocese to address hunger and poverty in our own communities. Your generosity helps support parish food pantries, God's Kitchen programming and other charitable efforts within West Michigan.

In today's economy, these pantries are a critical lifeline for our brothers and sisters. On behalf of all those who benefit from CRS Rice Bowl, thank you for your past generosity and for your continued support. Through your sacrifices and participation, this program continues to have an impact.

You can read more about the work of CRS and the Rice Bowl Lenten program by visiting the CRS website at [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

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



## Liturgies This Week

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/  
Mt 5:17-37

### Saturday, February 14

4:00 p.m. Deborah Kaminski (Ron Kaminski)

### Sunday, February 15

10:15 a.m. Bill & Judy Nowak (Diana Verdun)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

2:00 p.m. Baptism of Arial Joy Mulford

### Monday, February 16 - Weekday

Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76/Mk 8:11-13

No Mass

7:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Peace  
(Cathedral of St. Andrew)

### Tuesday, February 17 – The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

No Mass

### Wednesday, February 18– Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2/Mt 6:1-6,  
16-18

8:00 a.m. For the people of the parish

12:10 p.m. For the people of the parish

7:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass (for the  
people of the parish)

### Thursday, February 19 - Thursday after Ash

### Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

8:00 a.m. Vernon Brown

### Friday, February 20 – Friday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

No Mass

### Saturday, February 21 – St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor

Is 58:9-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

12:00 p.m. Quinceañera for  
Rosalba Camila Velazquez

3:00 p.m. Confessions

### First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19/  
Mt 4:1-11

### Saturday, February 21

4:00 p.m. Robert O' Connor (Paul & Jean Barker)

### Sunday, February 22

10:15 a.m. Julio Ortiz (Ibeth & Kevin Kenney)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

3:00 p.m. OCIA Rite of Election  
(Cathedral of St. Andrew)

## 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

## 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.

## Our Parish Offering Week of February 8, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$5,869.38
Electronic Giving	1,440.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$7,309.38</b>

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
<b>Deficit for the Week</b>	<b>\$2,786.77</b>

Budgeted Year to Date	\$323,076.80
Actual Year to Date	\$333,910.40
<b>Surplus Year to Date</b>	<b>\$10,833.60</b>

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## God's Housekeepers - February 15th

### Our Parish Staff

General Cleaning  
Vacuuming

Kip Geldhof, Colleen Pierce, Ann Buck, Paula Geldhof  
Bruce Sibert, Joe Peckins

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. 14
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

### Events This Week

#### Sunday, February 15

No Faith Formation classes  
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
1-7 p.m. Following Christ Retreat (AH)

#### Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day

No School - Midwinter Break  
7:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Peace (Cathedral)

#### Tuesday, February 17

No School - Midwinter Break  
1-2 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
5:30-6:30 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

#### Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

#### Thursday, February 19

9:00 a.m. Daytime Faith Sharing (PO)  
3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)  
5:45 p.m. Ionia Community Awareness(AH)

#### Friday, February 20

5:00 p.m. Marriage Prep Session  
5-7 p.m. K of C Fish Dinner (AH)

#### Saturday, February 21

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Hispanic Catechesis (VR)  
9:30 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby)  
11:30-12:30 Marriage Prep Session (PO)

#### Sunday, February 22

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation (Seedlings-Gr.7)  
11:15 a.m. Italy Pilgrimage Info. Mtg. (VR)  
4:30-6 p.m. Confirmation Candidate  
Sponsor Session (VR)  
5-7 p.m. Following Christ (AH)  
6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)

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

### Youth Group

The next youth group night will be  
Sunday, February 22nd, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
See you in the Cornerstone Room.

### February 14 & 15, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Mary Lou Mulick  
Altar Servers:  
Adah Drown, Jace Perry  
EMs: Cecillia Luke, Barb Mulnix,  
Mary Perrien  
Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:15 a.m. Lector: Kevin Kenney  
Altar Servers:  
Reagan Crooks, Gavin McGuire  
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Sam Meyer,  
Theresa Scholtens  
Greeters: Deb Porter

### February 21 & 22, First Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Lector: Sue Wizorek  
Altar Servers:  
Charlotte & Lillian Mabe  
EMs: Mary Lou Mulick, Barb Mulnix,  
Mary Perrien  
Greeters: Volunteers

10:15 a.m. Lector: Shannon Andrews  
Altar Servers:  
Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey  
EMs: Julie Bennett, Kevin Heinlein  
Theresa Scholtens  
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

### Loving Hands of Christ

A new **Grief Support Group** series will begin at 9:30am in the Parish Office on 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. 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).

### Sponsor a Student for the Jr. High SHINE Youth Rally

Our Jr. High students have a wonderful opportunity to attend the SHINE Youth Rally, a faith-filled day designed to help them grow closer to Christ through prayer, music, community, and dynamic speakers. You can help make this experience possible by sponsoring a student.

The cost to sponsor one student is \$45, which includes the conference ticket and a Parish/School T-shirt.

Sponsorship is a beautiful way to invest in the faith and future of our young people. If you are interested in sponsoring a student or would like more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at the parish office. Thank you for supporting our youth and helping them shine in faith!

### Health Support Group

Join our discussion. The next session will be at Biggby Coffee February 21st at 9:30 a.m.

### SOUP-er Bowl of Caring

Raised \$258.25 and a table full of non-perishable food item! Thank you SSPP for once again stepping up to a wonderful cause-feeding our neighbors!

### Taize Prayer

During Lent, we will be offering Taize prayer on Feb 22, Mar 8 and Mar 22 at 2:30pm in the church. Taize prayer is an ecumenical prayer form that uses simple chant like songs, combined with silence, scripture and prayer. Consider starting your week with this calming, peaceful, and prayerful experience.

### Faith Formation Religious Education

Open Registration for Seedlings (4 & 5 Yr Old) through High School. All regular classes are 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

15th	Mid Winter Break - No Class
22nd	Faith Formation Class Grades Seedlings-7th
22nd	Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30pm - 6:00pm in Veritas Room

### 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!

### Are You Planning to Get Married?

Engaged couples are invited to attend a Pre-Cana Retreat on March 7 at St. Joseph's Parish in Pewamo. This marriage preparation day offers a meaningful opportunity to grow together in faith, communication, and love as you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Please contact Vanessa Booth for more information on how to register.

### CSA 2025 – Strengthened In Christ, Responding With Joy

Thank you to everyone who responded to Fr. Eugene's request, we have now completed our Catholic Services Appeal campaign for 2025! I am so grateful for all of the generosity that has helped us reach the goal – thank you!



### Knights Corner

At our meeting last week, we discussed the upcoming fish dinners. We will need lots of volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up on the four Fridays (February 20, 27, March 6, and 13). Even if you're not a Knight, we will happily accept your help! Also, if you can help by making a dessert, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church.

Congratulations to our raffle winners this month – Tim O'Connor, Jenna Stewart, Jason Becher, and Barb Mulnix!

## 2026 Easter & Lent Schedules

### Ash Wednesday, February 18th

SS. Peter & Paul 8am, 12:10pm, 7pm Bilingual Mass  
St. Edward 12pm, 7pm

### Palm Sunday, March 29 (Regular Sunday Mass Times)

## Holy Triduum

### Holy Thursday, April 2 .....

SS. Peter & Paul 7pm Bilingual  
  
Mass of the Lord's Supper  
with Washing of the Feet  
  
Transfer of Eucharist with  
Adoration until 11pm.

*Holy Thursday will be a combined celebration  
for both parishes at SSPP, Ionia.*

### Good Friday, April 3 .....

SS. Peter & Paul 11:30am Stations of the Cross  
with Confessions  
12pm Good Friday Liturgy  
7pm Spanish Viernes Santo

St. Edward 2:30pm Stations of the Cross  
with Confessions  
3pm Good Friday Liturgy

### Holy Saturday, April 4 .....

no confessions, no 4pm or 6pm masses

SS. Peter & Paul 9pm Easter Vigil Bilingual

*Easter Vigil will be a combined celebration  
for both parishes at SSPP, Ionia.*

### Easter Sunday, April 5 (Regular Sunday Mass Times)

## Lenten Penance Service

### SS. Peter & Paul

Wednesday, March 11  
6-8pm (both English & Spanish)

### St. Edward

Thursday, March 12  
6-8pm

## Confessions

### SS. Peter & Paul

Wednesdays 11am & 6pm  
Thursday 9-10am  
Saturday 3-4pm

### St. Edward

Tuesday 11am & 6pm  
Thursday 6-8pm  
Friday 9:30-10am

## Stations of the Cross

*every Friday led by volunteers*

SSPP 2pm, 6pm, 7pm Spanish  
St. Edward 9:30am, 6pm



# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Our School Staff

School Phone: 616-527-3561  
ssppcatholic.com

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

Jenny Leik  
Amie Heinlein  
Joann Johnson

ext. 18  
ext. 23  
ext. 23

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

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

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

Brad Starks  
Kim Paton  
Joyce Essich

**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. 13</b>	Classroom Valentine's Day Parties
<b>Feb. 16-17</b>	No School - Mid Winter Break
<b>Mar. 25</b>	Meet the Teacher Night for PS & Kdg.

Welcome, Children and Parents

The SSPP Community warmly welcomes you and your family to celebrate Mass with us!

Kind Reminders:

The wiggles are normal. God created children with joyful spirits and active hearts. They belong in His house just as they are. If you need a break, please come back when you're ready.

Young minds learn by watching. Join in the Mass. Sing the hymns, pray the prayers, and say the responses. Engagement nurtures faith. Not sure what's going on? That's okay. Don't be afraid to ask.

## Word Search



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

Law  
Fulfill  
Heaven  
Earth  
Breaks  
Teaches  
Reconcile  
Obeys  
Gift  
Altar

