

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 22, 2026

22 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.**

First Sunday of Lent

When he calls on me,
I will answer him; I will deliver him
and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

Psalm 91[90]: 15-16

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR GOD THIS LENT!

by Father Eugene

All is unveiled in an act of love that proclaims, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Such a profound expression of love! A sacrifice of love from the God who created us: sending His only begotten Son to walk among us. An offering of oneself that is generous, unconditional, and unselfish—a total gift to us. Yet, the greatest sadness is that, despite such goodness, kindness, and love, humanity has often chosen darkness over the light.

Jesus Christ has shown us what true love looks like. He has opened the eyes of the blind to see, given hope to the despairing, joy to the sorrowful, and life to the lifeless. He has even turned the cross, once a symbol of death and punishment, into a sign of hope, life, and salvation. It stands as a reminder of God's unwavering love for us all, even in our struggles and sins.

Let us use this Lenten season to open our hearts to the power of love. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we can deepen our connection with God and become more aware of the needs around us. By making small sacrifices out of love, we can bring kindness and positive change into our world. In doing so, our hearts unite even closer with our Lord Jesus Christ, who, through His passion and death on the Cross, has revealed the depth of His incredible love for each of us.

¡PREPARAMOS NUESTROS CORAZONES PARA DIOS EN ESTA CUARESMA!

Todo se revela en un acto de amor que proclama: «Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo unigénito». ¡Qué profunda expresión de amor! Un sacrificio de amor del Dios que nos creó: enviando a su Hijo unigénito a caminar entre nosotros. Una ofrenda generosa, incondicional y desinteresada: un don total para nosotros. Sin embargo, la mayor tristeza es que, a pesar de tanta bondad, amabilidad y amor, la humanidad a menudo ha elegido la oscuridad en lugar de la luz.

Jesucristo nos ha mostrado cómo es el verdadero amor. Ha abierto los ojos de los ciegos para que vean, ha dado esperanza a los desesperados, alegría a los afligidos y vida a los que no la tienen. Incluso ha convertido la cruz, que antes era símbolo de muerte y castigo, en un signo de esperanza, vida y salvación. Es un recordatorio del amor inquebrantable de Dios por todos nosotros, incluso en nuestras luchas y pecados.

Aprovechemos esta Cuaresma para abrir nuestros corazones al poder del amor. Mediante la oración, el ayuno y la limosna, podemos profundizar nuestra conexión con Dios y ser más conscientes de las necesidades que nos rodean. Al hacer pequeños sacrificios por amor, podemos traer bondad y un cambio positivo a nuestro mundo. Al hacerlo, nuestros corazones se unen aún más a nuestro Señor Jesucristo, quien, a través de su pasión y muerte en la cruz, reveló la profundidad de su increíble amor por cada uno de nosotros.

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.

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Mientras nos preparamos para entrar en el tiempo santo de la Cuaresma, estamos llamados de manera especial a recordar y tender la mano a nuestros hermanos y hermanas pobres y más necesitados. La campaña Rice Bowl (Tazón de arroz) de Catholic Relief Services (CRS) es una forma de poner nuestra fe en acción durante los 40 días de Cuaresma.

Les invito a recoger una Cajita de Arroz de CRS (CRS Rice Bowl) en su parroquia y a incluirla como parte de su práctica de su oración, ayuno y limosna de este año. Su participación en el programa Rice Bowl es un gesto sencillo que marca una diferencia real en las vidas de quienes sufren hambre y pobreza.

El veinticinco por ciento de los fondos recaudados por Rice Bowl permanece en nuestra diócesis para atender el hambre y la pobreza en nuestras propias comunidades. Su generosidad ayuda a sostener los dispensarios de alimentos parroquiales, los programas de God's Kitchen y otros esfuerzos caritativos en West Michigan. En la economía actual, estos bancos de alimentos representan un apoyo vital para nuestros hermanos y hermanas. En nombre de todas las personas que se benefician del programa CRS Rice Bowl, gracias por su generosidad y su continuo apoyo. Gracias a sus sacrificios y a su participación, este programa sigue teniendo un impacto significativo. Para conocer más sobre el trabajo de CRS y el programa cuaresmal Rice Bowl, pueden visitar el sitio web de CRS en crsricebowl.org.

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

Liturgies This Week

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
2:30 p.m. Taize Prayer Service (CH)
3:00 p.m. Rite of Election (Cathedral)

Monday, February 23 – St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

No Mass

Tuesday, February 24 – Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15

No Mass

Wednesday, February 25 – Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Ray Dietrich
6:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Confessions
7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, February 26 – Lenten Weekday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12

8:00 a.m. Don Gardner
9-10 a.m. Confessions

Friday, February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26

No Mass
8 a.m. School Stations of the Cross
6 p.m. Stations of the Cross English
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross Spanish

Saturday, February 28 – Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
3:00 p.m. Confessions

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/2 Tm 1:8-10/Mt 17:1-9

Saturday, February 28

4:00 p.m. Living & deceased of Patrick & Carol Lewis families

Sunday, March 1

10:15 a.m. John Scholtens (Kurt & Laurie Tjalsma)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español
2:00 p.m. Baptism of Carson Allen Anderson

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:

Ericka Baer, Sharon Baer, Martha Bailey Brooks, Landon Battle, Dorr Bissell, Ed Blyth, Tony Burns, Terri Butler, Angie Cedillo, Pamela Coggan, Mark Dawson, Judy Dick, Joe Drysdale, Travis Eveleth, Cherie Flinn, Jerry & Maribeth Fritz, Jessica Fritz, Mike Gallagher, Diana Kujala, Kathy Kranz, Sue & Joe Kleiss, Larry Lafler, Jack & Sue LaPeer, Tom Lower, Nathan Lower, Tracie Lower, Pat MacLachlan, Mona Martinez, Karen Miller, Kirsten Mork, Jim & Barb Mulnix, Nichole Munsell, Ken and Sherry North, Terri Nurenberg, Mary O'Connor, Bob Parker, Mike Peckins, Jace Peterson, Mary Perrien, Mike Priest, Lisa Pringle, Russinda Rohde, Janice Schell, Anita Hozeski Scott, Georgia Sibert, Sue Speckin, Arlene Stanton, Randy Tripp, Connie Waterman, Denise Ward, Shirley Weber, Tom & Norma White, Chad Wickerink, Lesley Williams, Jo Wirtz, Jim Zook

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 15, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$12,602.04
Electronic Giving	<u>3,720.00</u>
Total Offertory	\$16,322.04
Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
Surplus for the Week	\$6,225.89
Budgeted Year to Date	\$333,172.95
Actual Year to Date	\$350,232.44
Surplus Year to Date	\$17,059.49

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. 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

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

February 28 & March 1, Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. **Lector:** Cecilia Luke

Altar Servers:

Reagan Crooks, Lillian Mabe

EMs: Mary Lou Mulick, Phillip & Sue Wizorek

Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:15 a.m. **Lector:** Jamie Meyer

Altar Servers:

Jace Perry, Jaclyn Rewa

EMs: Shannon Andrews, Veronica Meyer, Laurie Tjalsma

Greeters: Judy Hamblin

God's Housekeepers - February 22nd

General Cleaning

Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

Vacuuming

Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

Events This Week

Sunday, February 22

8:30 a.m.	OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m.	Faith Formation Classes, Seedlings-Grade 7
11:15 a.m.	Italy Pilgrimage Info. Meeting (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)

Monday, February 23

Tuesday, February 24

1-2 p.m.	OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)
5:30-6:30 pm	OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)

Wednesday, February 25

5:00 p.m.	Hispanic 1st Communion Prep. (AH)
7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice (VR)

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27

5-7 p.m.	K of C Fish Dinner (AH)
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Saturday, February 28

9:30-11 a.m.	Grief Support Session (PO)
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Sunday, March 1

8:30 a.m.	OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m.	Faith Formation Classes
	1st Communion Parent/Student Meeting (VR)
1:00 p.m.	Quinceañera Prep. Session (AH)
5-7 p.m.	Following Christ (AH)

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

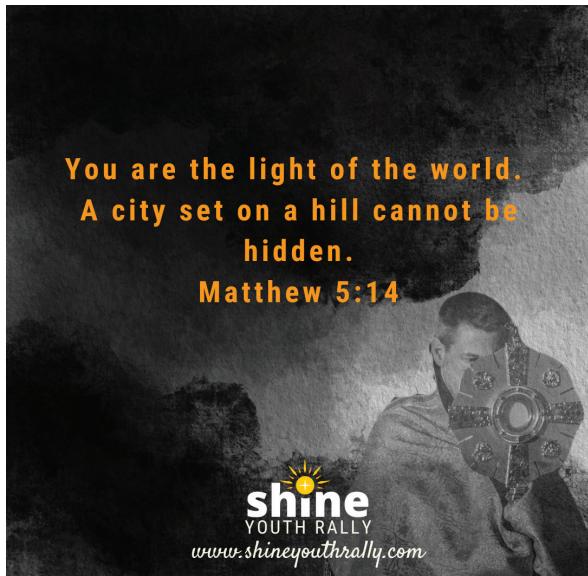
Are You Planning to Get Married?

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.

Events & Announcements

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@sspcatholic.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!

Youth Group

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

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@sspcatholic.com.

February

22nd Faith Formation Class Grades Seedlings-7th
22nd Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session
 4:30pm - 6:00pm in Veritas Room

March

1st Faith Formation Class) First Communion Parent / Student Meeting in the Veritas Room
8th Faith Formation Class
15th Faith Formation Class (Stations of the Cross)

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!

Health Support Group

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



Knights Corner

Brother Knights and fellow parishioners, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday we will exercise intentional spiritual growth through our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving. We can pray the Rosary, attend Stations of the Cross, and maybe pick up our Bible and read some Sacred Scripture. Along with this, we can initiate some charity by giving time, money, or kindness to those in need and fostering love for our neighbor. We should all prepare for Easter by examining our conscience and participating in the sacrament of Confession. Forty days! Let's get it done folks, and let's get it right!

Workers will be needed for our fish dinners from February 20 thru March 13. Please help where you can!

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Speckin, Grand Knight

2026 Easter & Lent Schedules

Lenten Penance Service

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

SS. Peter & Paul
St. Edward

8am, 12:10pm, 7pm Bilingual Mass
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)

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	8am, 6pm, 7pm Spanish
St. Edward	9:30am, 6pm



Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

There will be an **informational meeting on Sunday, February 22nd at 11:15 a.m.** 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 800th 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. To register, please contact Fr. Tom Boufford at 231-519-4348. **We hope you can join us!**



SS. Peter & Paul Parish will be serving

FISH DINNERS

on the first four Fridays of Lent

February 20 & 27
March 6 & 13
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

FRIED FISH, BAKED POTATOES, MACARONI & CHEESE, VEGETABLES, FRENCH FRIES, COLESLAW, ROLLS, AND DESSERT

\$12.00 for Adults
\$10.00 for Seniors (age 60+)
\$6.00 for Children, ages 6-12
maximum price of 40\$ with minor children

Take out Available.
Proceeds will benefit
SS. Peter & Paul Church.

A photograph of a plate of fried fish and potatoes.

Join the GRDCCW on a pilgrimage to local churches

May 12 | When: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$55/person

Join the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women as Father Tom Simons conducts a historical tour of area churches: St. Mary Magdalen in Kentwood, the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and the Basilica of St. Adalbert. Men are welcome to attend the pilgrimage as well. The trip includes tours, Mass, lunch and bus transportation. Reservation deadline: Tuesday, April 14.

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.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross and an opportunity for Volunteers to lead each service. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church. If you feel called to serve you may sign up as an individual or with a group. We appreciate your participation.

Symposium on the True, Good, and Beautiful

Feb. 26 & 28 | Aquinas College

All are invited to attend the fifth annual Symposium on the True, Good, & Beautiful at Aquinas College. The Symposium seeks to elevate hearts and minds through scholarly presentations, artistic displays, and musical performances that exemplify Aquinas College's Catholic, Dominican, and liberal arts mission and identity.

Thursday, Feb. 26

7 p.m. Speaker at the Aquinas College Donnelly Center

Plenary speaker Dr. Catherine Peters will present on "The True, the Good, and the Beautiful of Disability."

Saturday, Feb. 28

9 a.m. Mass in the Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel

10 a.m. Symposium at the Donnelly Center

Aquinas College students, faculty, and staff will present at the full-day Symposium. Mass is followed by presentations, lunch, and a reception at the Donnelly Center. Parking for both events is available in the Woodward Lot (159 Woodward Lane SE).

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!

Knights of Columbus Pie Sale

Saturday, March 21, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parish Office Garage

Order your pies after Mass in the back of church or by calling the parish office—(616) 527-3610. All proceeds support the charitable work of K of C Council 944. Thank you!



Apple, Cherry &
Blueberry Pies
\$13 each or 3 for \$35