

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

March 1, 2026

1 de Marzo 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.

**Second
Sunday
of Lent**

**Of you my heart has spoken:
Seek his face. It is your face,
O Lord, that I seek; hide not your
face from me.**

Psalm 27 [26]:8-9

The Gift of Silence

by Father Eugene

Robert Cardinal Sarah notes in his book “The Power of Silence” that silence draws us back to God. He writes, “Through silence, we return to our heavenly origin, where there is nothing but calm, peace, repose, silent contemplation, and adoration of the radiant face of God.”

At the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, His surroundings were inundated with noise. The people yelled loudly, “Crucify Him,” while the soldiers kept taunting Him. Yet there was one person who kept silence, who relied solely on faith and trust in God, and who was motivated by an enormous and magnificent love. The Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus, kept everything in the silence of her heart amidst the chaos and noise brought by the suffering of her Son. Her silence spoke louder than any sound. She only focused on her Son and in Him, she found peace and strength. Here are a few suggestions for a productive and reflective moment of silence:

1. Pray to God and ask Him to accompany you in the silence. Simply say, “Lord be with me and help me to enter into a quiet moment with you.”
2. Be intentional in your desire to be in the quiet. Silence is not about the quantity but the quality. Be realistic with your goal. A one-minute silence can do more for you rather than an hour that is filled with restlessness. Remember Saint Augustine, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.”
3. Try not to occupy yourself with unnecessary sounds like music, TV, or social medias. Sometimes even a good well-meaning music can be disruptive. It can be soothing to the soul for a moment but it can also distract you from listening to God instead. Ask yourself why do I need to listen to this music or spend time in front of a television or computer.
4. Practice Lectio Divina or Divine Reading. Take the time to ponder the Words of God. Read a particular Scripture. Then take a moment to ponder a word, or a passage in your heart and mind. Ask God what He is telling you in the moment. Read the scripture a second time, close the book and allow yourself to enter into the word or passage that caught your attention.

¡ El Don del Silencio!

El Cardenal Robert Sarah señala en su libro “El Poder del Silencio” que el silencio nos acerca a Dios. Escribe: “A través del silencio, regresamos a nuestro origen celestial, donde solo hay calma, paz, reposo, contemplación silenciosa y adoración del rostro radiante de Dios”.

Durante la pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, su entorno se llenó de ruido. La gente gritaba a gritos: “¡Crucificalo!”, mientras los soldados lo insultaban sin cesar. Sin embargo, hubo una persona que guardó silencio, que se basó únicamente en la fe y la confianza en Dios, y que estaba motivada por un amor enorme y magnífico. La Santísima

Virgen María, madre de Nuestro Señor Jesús, guardó todo en el silencio de su corazón en medio del caos y el ruido provocados por el sufrimiento de su Hijo. Su silencio hablaba más fuerte que cualquier sonido. Solo se centró en su Hijo y en Él encontró paz y fortaleza. Aquí tienes algunas sugerencias para un momento de silencio productivo y reflexivo:

1. Ora a Dios y pídele que te acompañe en el silencio. Simplemente di: “Señor, quédate conmigo y ayúdame a entrar en un momento de tranquilidad contigo.”
 2. Sé intencional en tu deseo de estar en silencio. El silencio no se trata de la cantidad, sino de la calidad. Sé realista con tu objetivo. Un minuto de silencio puede ser más beneficioso que una hora llena de inquietud. Recuerda a San Agustín: “Nuestro corazón está inquieto hasta que descansa en Dios.”
 3. Intenta no ocuparte con sonidos innecesarios como la música, la televisión o las redes sociales. A veces, incluso una buena música bien intencionada puede ser disruptiva. Puede ser reconfortante para el alma por un momento, pero también puede distraerte de escuchar a Dios. Pregúntate por qué necesito escuchar esta música o pasar tiempo frente al televisor o la computadora.
 4. Practica la Lectio Divina o Lectura Divina. Tómate el tiempo para reflexionar en la Palabra de Dios. Lee una Escritura específica. Luego, tómate un momento para reflexionar sobre una palabra o un pasaje en tu corazón y mente. Pregúntale a Dios qué te está diciendo en ese momento. Lee la escritura una segunda vez, cierra el libro y permítete sumergirte en la palabra o el pasaje que te llamó la atención.
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Liturgies This Week

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 members 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

Monday, March 2 - Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38
No Mass

Tuesday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23
No Mass

Wednesday, March 4 - St. Casimir

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:10 p.m. Special Intention (Elaine Caswell)
6:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Confessions
7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, March 5 - Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

8:00 a.m. Mary Mercier (Christine Bewell)
9-10 a.m. Confessions
9 a.m.-12 p.m. 1st Thursday Adoration

Friday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
No Mass

No School Stations at 8 a.m. (no school)

6 p.m. Stations of the Cross English
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross Spanish

Saturday, March 7 - Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42

Saturday, March 7

4:00 p.m. Katie Fox (Dave & Carol Blundy)

Sunday, March 1

10:15 a.m. Phil O'Mara (Gary & Janice Ferguson)
12:00 p.m. Misa en español
2:30 p.m. Taize Prayer Service (CH)

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, Barb Burrows, 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 22, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$5,075.00
Electronic Giving	1,440.00
Total Offertory	\$6,515.00

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
Deficit for the Week	\$3,581.15

Budgeted Year to Date	\$343,269.10
Actual Year to Date	\$356,747.44
Surplus Year to Date	\$13,478.34

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 28 & March 1, Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. **Lector:** Cecilia Luke
Altar Servers:
Reagan Crooks, Lillian Mabe
EMs: Mary Lou Mulick,
Phill & 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

March 7 & 8, Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. **Lector:** Phill Wizorek
Altar Servers:
Levi & Logan Haskin
EMs: Julie Bennett, Sam Meyer,
Mary Perrien
Greeters: Mary Lou Mulick

10:15 a.m. **Lector:** Pete Fox
Altar Servers:
Alexis Heinlein, Jace Perry
EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Cheryl & John
Hildebrandt
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

God's Housekeepers - March 1st

General Cleaning Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nuñez, Carolina Velasco
Vacuuuming Ray Korytkowski & Lon MacLachlan

Events This Week

Sunday, March 1

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

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

1-2 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)
5:30-6:30 pm OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)

Wednesday, March 4

1:00 p.m. Soup & Bread Luncheon (PO)
5:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion Prep. (AH)
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (VR)

Thursday, March 5

9 a.m.-noon 1st Thursday Confessions & Adoration
3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

Friday, March 6

No School – Diocesan Inservice
5-7 p.m. K of C Fish Dinner (AH)

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

2:00 a.m. **Daylight Saving Time begins**
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)
1:00 p.m. Quinceañera Prep. Session (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.

Lenten Soup Lunch

You are invited to join us for our Lenten Soup Lunch following the 12:10 PM Wednesday Masses during the month of March.

As we journey through this holy season of Lent—a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—we gather in simple fellowship to share a modest meal of soup and bread. This tradition reminds us of the spirit of simplicity and community that draws us closer to Christ and to one another.

The 12:10 PM Mass will be celebrated each Wednesday in the church, with the Soup Lunch immediately following in the parish office living room.

All are welcome—bring a friend, invite a neighbor, and come share in faith, food, and fellowship. Sign-up sheets are in the back of church for those able to bring soup, bread or drinks. We look forward to seeing you on March 4th!

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.

Loving Hands of Christ

The next Grief Support Group will be held at 9:30am in the Parish Office on March 14th. 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.

Faith Formation Religious Education

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

March

- 1 Faith Formation Class
First Communion Parent / Student Meeting (VR)
- 8 Faith Formation Class
- 15 Faith Formation Class (Stations of the Cross)
- 22 Faith Formation Class
- 22 Shine Youth Rally 1:00pm-6:30pm
3 Mile Project, Walker MI

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!

Knights Corner

My Brother Knights and fellow parishioners,



We are just into our Lenten journey and I've discovered a plan called '40 Ways for 40 Days' on-line to help me out. It's the "Look To Him and Be Radiant" educational resources for Catholic homes and classrooms. Some things we do routinely, but there are other hints of love, service and prayer during Lent that are doable tasks involving our spiritual growth that I found interesting also. So, give it a look and maybe a try!

Along with our Lenten Fish Dinners, Council #944 is collecting orders for pies - apple, blueberry and cherry! They are \$13 each or 3 for \$35. Get your orders in asap! They will be available for picking up March 21st and 22nd in the parish garage.

Just a reminder that this Tuesday, March 3, is our monthly business meeting. Join us in the Veritas Room at 7:00 for the Rosary and the meeting at 7:30.

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Speckin Grand Knight
616-755-2175

2026 Easter & Lent Schedules

Holy Triduum

Palm Sunday, March 29 (Regular Sunday Mass Times)

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



Lenten Fish Fry

Are you interested in volunteering? See the sign up sheets on the table in the back of the church.

First Communion Parent & Student Meeting

We are excited to continue the beautiful journey toward First Holy Communion with you! All parents and students preparing to receive First Communion are invited to join us for an important meeting on Sunday, March 1 at 9:00 AM in the Veritas Room.

This gathering will help you and your child feel prepared and confident as we approach this special sacrament. We will share important details, key dates, and what to expect in the coming months – and there will be time to ask questions as well.

We look forward to being together as we grow in faith and prepare for this joyful celebration!

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!



Knights of Columbus
Pie Sale



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

News from the School

Classroom Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year will be open soon. If you're applying for scholarships for the next school year please remember that every family has to apply for a scholarship to receive a scholarship. The Bishop's scholarship is given to Catholic families who demonstrate need, but the parish gives scholarships to all those in need. Please visit smartaidforparents.com. If you have an account, you may just log in, but if you are new to the scholarship application, our school code is 12044.

March

25 Meet the Teacher Night for Preschool,
Developmental Kindergarten, & Kindergarten

The Sponsor a Student for the Jr. High SHINE Youth Rally has been a huge success!

Thank you for supporting our youth and helping them shine in faith!

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 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!**

Ionia Area CRS Rice Bowl Fundraiser El Mariachi Mexican Grill, Ionia



Bring your appetite, your family, and your friends, and spread the word! On Tuesday, March 24, between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m., 10% of all food and beverage revenue at El Mariachi Mexican Grill will be donated to the CRS Rice Bowl. These funds will help support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services to feed the hungry throughout the world. We are very grateful to the Velasco family for their generosity and willingness to host this event! Let's fill the restaurant for lunch and dinner, and raise funds and awareness as we answer the call to feed the hungry in the local and global community.

The money raised here will be donated to Catholic Relief Services through SS Peter & Paul Church. If you wish to participate further in this global hunger relief effort, you can get a rice bowl from El Mariachi today and continue to set aside whatever funds you can through the Season of Lent. As Lent concludes, please write a check to SS Peter & Paul Church for the amount in your rice bowl, and drop it off at the parish office, 434 High Street, Ionia, by April 2. Thank you!