

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 29, 2026**

29 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.

"¡Hosanna en lo más alto  
Bienaventurados los  
que han venidos en su  
vuestra abundante  
misericordia."

# Palm Sunday

of the Passion of the Lord

"Hosanna in the Highest!  
Blessed are you who have  
come in your abundant  
of mercy."

Cf. John 12:1,12-13; Psalm 24 [23]: 9-10

## A Letter from Father Eugene Una carta del Padre Eugene

*A Humble Contrite Heart, O Lord, You Will Not Spurn (Psalm 51:17)*

The brokenness we experience does not define our worth. Rather, it provides a chance for transformation. Each of the gaps and wounds that sins are causing in our lives can be filled by the immeasurable mercy of God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation reminds us that, despite our imperfections, we are beloved children of God. For those who come to Him in humility and heart contrite will receive mercy. Through this Sacrament we receive from Him the ultimate source of renewal and restoration, who then invites us to return to Him so that we may emerge a new creation. He makes all things new. Through His grace we find the strength to move forward, cherishing the new life He offers us and becoming the people we were created to be.

The prayer of contrition that we say when we come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an expression of our repentance. We ask God to forgive our sins and grant us His mercy. According to the International Bible Encyclopedia, the term "contrite heart" refers to a state of being in which one's inherent pride and self-sufficiency have been thoroughly diminished by an acute awareness of personal guilt. When our hearts are contrite, we are profoundly weighed down by the burden of our sins. Contrition is "sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again" (CCC 1451). A contrite heart then is open to healing and transformation and willing to receive the grace and compassion of God.



### An Act of Contrition

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His Name, God have mercy. AMEN.*

*Un Corazón Humilde Y Contrito, Oh Señor, No Despreciarás (Salmo 51:17)*

El quebrantamiento que experimentamos no define nuestro valor; más bien, nos brinda una oportunidad para la transformación. Cada una de las grietas y heridas que el pecado causa en nuestras vidas puede ser colmada por la inmensurable misericordia de Dios. El Sacramento de la Reconciliación nos recuerda que, a pesar de nuestras imperfecciones, somos hijos amados de Dios. Pues aquellos que acuden a Él con humildad y con el corazón contrito recibirán misericordia. A través de este Sacramento, recibimos de Él la fuente suprema de renovación y restauración; Él nos invita entonces a volver a Él para que podamos resurgir como una nueva creación. Él hace nuevas todas las cosas. Por medio de su gracia, hallamos la fortaleza para seguir adelante, valorando la nueva vida que Él nos ofrece y convirtiéndonos en las personas que fuimos creados para ser.

La oración de contrición que rezamos al acudir al Sacramento de la Reconciliación es una expresión de nuestro arrepentimiento. Pedimos a Dios que perdone nuestros pecados y nos conceda su misericordia. Según la \*International Bible Encyclopedia\*, el término «corazón contrito» se refiere a un estado del ser en el cual el orgullo inherente y la autosuficiencia de la persona han sido profundamente atenuados por una aguda conciencia de su culpa personal. Cuando nuestros corazones están contritos, nos sentimos profundamente agobiados por la carga de nuestros pecados. La contrición es «el dolor del alma y la detestación del pecado cometido, con la resolución de no pecar más» (CCC 1451). Un corazón contrito, por tanto, está abierto a la sanación y a la transformación, y dispuesto a recibir la gracia y la compasión de Dios.

### Acto de Contrición

*Dios mío, me arrepiento de mis pecados de todo corazón. Al elegir hacer el mal y dejar de hacer el bien, he pecado contra Ti, a quien debo amar por encima de todas las cosas. Propongo firmemente, con tu ayuda, hacer penitencia, no volver a pecar y evitar todo aquello que me conduzca al pecado. Nuestro Salvador Jesucristo sufrió y murió por nosotros. En su Nombre, Dios, ten misericordia. AMÉN.*

## 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, Chris Castano, Angie Cedillo, Pamela Coggan, Mark Dawson, Judy Dick, Joe Drysdale, Travis Eveleth, Cherie Flinn, Jerry & Maribeth Fritz, Jessica Fritz, Diana Kujala, Kathy Kranz, Sue & Joe Kleiss, Larry Lafler, Jack & Sue LaPeer, Tom Lower, Nathan Lower, Traccie 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

### Follow us on Facebook

Look for *SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church* on Facebook for the latest events and information in our faith-filled community.

## CSA 2026 Strengthened in Christ, Responding With Joy

With the annual Catholic Services Appeal, our diocese asks each of us to support the many good works done by the Church throughout western Michigan. Our parish assessment this year is \$81,314. We sent in our second batch of pledges this week bringing our total to \$25,975. We are nearly one third of the way there and are off to a great start! Thank you to all those who have responded already! If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, blank cards are available on the table in the back of church. Pledges can also be made online at [grdiocese.org](http://grdiocese.org). Working together, we can get this done!

Scan the QR Code  
with your phone  
camera to  
watch the video.



### 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.

### Announcements

Do you have any information you'd like to share with the community by facebook or bulletin? Reach out to our parish office by email at [parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com)

## Our Parish Offering

Week of March 22, 2026

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offertory      | \$5,643.23        |
| Electronic Giving      | <u>1,440.00</u>   |
| <b>Total Offertory</b> | <b>\$7,083.23</b> |

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Budgeted Weekly             | \$10,096.15       |
| <b>Deficit for the Week</b> | <b>\$3,012.92</b> |

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Budgeted Year to Date       | \$383,653.70       |
| Actual Year to Date         | \$400,173.86       |
| <b>Surplus Year to Date</b> | <b>\$16,520.16</b> |

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Our Parish Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@sspccatholic.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      |
| Hisp. Faith Formation | Claudia Graciano | 616-540-9584 |
| 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

### March 28 & 29, Palm Sunday of Lent

- 4:00 p.m.** Lector: Mary Lou Mulick  
Passion Reader: Sam Meyer  
Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin  
EMs: Julie Bennett, Mary Perrien, Sue  
Wizorek  
Greeters: Volunteers
- 10:15 a.m.** Lector: Walt Downes  
Passion Reader: Paul Meyer  
Altar Servers: Hans & Kendra Heinlein  
EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Theresa Scholtens,  
Laurie Tjalsma  
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

### April 5, Easter Sunday

- 10:15 a.m.** Lector: Madeline Meyer  
Altar Servers: Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein  
EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt,  
Veronica Meyer  
Greeters: Judy Hamblin

## Liturgies This Week

### **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14 – 27:66*

#### **Saturday, March 28**

4:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)

#### **Sunday, March 29**

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

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Monday, March 30 – Monday of Holy Week**

*Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11*

No Mass

#### **Tuesday, March 31 – Tuesday of Holy Week**

*Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38*

No Mass

#### **Wednesday, April 1 – Wednesday of Holy Week**

*Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26:14-25*

11:00 a.m. Confessions

11:30 a.m. Volunteer Rosary

12:10 p.m. Catherine Verdun

6:00 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Thursday, April 2 – Holy Thursday**

*Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/ Jn 13:1-15*

8:00 a.m. Living Stations of the Cross by school

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual &  
with St. Ed's). Adoration until 11 p.m.

#### **Friday, April 3 – Good Friday**

*Is 52:13 – 53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/  
Jn 18:1 – 19:42*

11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross & Confessions

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy in English

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy in Spanish

#### **Saturday, April 4 – Holy Saturday**

*Gn 1:1 – 2:2/Ex 14:15 – 15:1/Is 54:5-14/Bar 3:9-15, 32 – 4:4/  
Rom 6:3-11/Mt 28:1-10*

No Rosary, Confessions, or 4 p.m. Mass

10:00 a.m. OCIA Preparation Rites

9:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil (bilingual & w/ St. Ed's)

#### **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

*Acts 10:34, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9*

#### **Sunday, April 5**

10:15 a.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

## Schedule for Holy Week

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

**Holy Thursday, April 2** .....

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

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

**Good Friday, April 3** .....

*SS. Peter & Paul* 11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross with Confessions  
12 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy  
7 p.m. Spanish Viernes Santo

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

**Holy Saturday, April 4** .....

no confessions, no 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. masses

*SS. Peter & Paul* 9 p.m. Easter Vigil Bilingual

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

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



## Events This Week

### Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

No Faith Formation – Holy Week  
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
5-7 p.m. Sharing Christ (AH)

### Monday, March 30

### Tuesday, March 31

No OCIA Inquiry sessions

### Wednesday, April 1

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

### Thursday, April 2 – Holy Thursday

3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)

### Friday, April 3 – Good Friday

No School  
Easter flowers delivered to the sacristy  
Parish Office closes at 11 a.m.

### Saturday, April 4 – Holy Saturday

No Rosary, Confessions, or 4 p.m. Mass  
10:00 a.m. OCIA Preparation Rites

### Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

No OCIA  
No Faith Formation – Spring Break

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

## God's Housekeepers - March 29

### General Cleaning

Kip Gelhof  
Colleen Pierce  
Ann Buck  
Paula Geldhof

### Vacuuming

Shannon Andrews  
Debra Sochor

## A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The cruel death of Jesus tells us bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also tells us God is present during the suffering. Bad things happen but God does not abandon us.

## News from the School

Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year is open!

### Upcoming Dates

April 6-10 Spring Break  
April 24 1st Communion Retreat  
May 2 SSPP Auction

## 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](http://rootsinrome.com). To register, please contact Fr. Tom Boufford at 231-519-4348. We hope you can join us!

## 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!

## Ladies Social Group

We're back, Ladies! Mark your calendars for White Elephant Bingo on Wednesday, April 8th from 4-6 p.m. Bring a wrapped prize and a snack to share. Water will be provided or you may bring your own beverage.

### Lenten Soup Lunch

Our hearts are full of gratitude for the many generous hands that made this year's Lenten soup lunches such a beautiful success. Week after week, volunteers lovingly prepared and shared nourishing meals, creating a space not only for food, but for fellowship, conversation, and community. Your kindness and willingness to serve brought warmth to these Wednesdays in a very special way. Thank you for the time, care, and spirit you offered so freely—it truly made a difference.

As we move beyond the Lenten season, we're happy to share that opportunities to gather will continue. Beginning in May, we will host once-a-month gatherings following the 12:10 p.m. Mass on Wednesdays. These moments together will be a chance to reconnect, share, and grow in community.

Be sure to keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming dates and details. We look forward to seeing you there and continuing the spirit of fellowship that you helped make so meaningful this Lent.

### Loving Hands of Christ

The next Grief Support Group will be held on Wednesday, April 8th at 1:00pm following the 12:10 mass in the Parish Office living room. 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. All are welcome to attend; need not attend the prior sessions to come. 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).

### Housekeeper Needed

Fr. Charlon Mason, a retired priest of our diocese living here in Ionia, is seeking someone to clean house for him one day a week. This will include vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, and mopping the living areas of the house, and cleaning the bathroom. This is a paid position that will require 4-6 hours per week. If interested, please contact the parish office, 616-527-3610.

### 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](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

#### March

29 No Faith Formation Class HOLY WEEK

#### April

5 No Faith Formation Class - Spring Break

12 Faith Formation Class

19 Faith Formation Class

24 1st Communion Retreat **7:40 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. SSPP School**

26 Faith Formation Class (End of Year Party)

#### Catechist Workshop Training

All adults currently volunteering as a Catechist or interested in learning more about the role of the Catechist are invited to join us for this insightful training. ***The Vocation of the Catechist Saturday, April 18 - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Veritas Room.*** A light breakfast will be provided.

### First Communion Retreat - Schedule Change

Please note an important update to our First Communion Retreat. The retreat will now take place on **Friday, April 24, from 7:40am-2:30pm at SSPP School**. The First Communion Mass will be on **Sunday, May 3rd at 10:15am**. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Please contact Mrs. Booth in the parish office if you have any questions.

### Health Support Group

The next Health Support Group meeting is Saturday, April 11th at 9:30 a.m at Biggy Coffee in Ionia.

### Knights Corner



Last Saturday we had the annual pie making event in the gym at St. Joseph Parish, Pewamo. It is an amazing sight to see so many Knights and their family members each taking a small task in the process of making the pies. Some are mixing the dough, others are mixing the fruit, and others press the dough into the pie pans, fill them, put the top layer of dough on the pies, crimp the crust, trim the edges, bag them, seal them, and put them into the boxes. Roughly forty people can produce a lot of pies in four hours! Thank you to all those who helped make them and sell them, and to all you who purchased them!

As Lent draws to a close and we look ahead to Easter, we are sorry to announce that the KofC annual Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled indefinitely. While we are disappointed it is coming to an end, we are grateful for the memories we've already made.

Ron Speckin  
Grand Knight  
616-755-2175