

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 8, 2026

8 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.

Third Sunday of Lent

My eyes are always on the Lord, for
he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

Psalms 25 [24]:15-16



Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

by Father Eugene

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. This reminder serves as a gentle yet powerful call to maintain our faith amidst the uncertainties of life. From the beginning, the message of God has consistently centered around love. It is not merely an emotion but the very foundation upon which we construct our relationships with one another. This love acts as a unifying force, weaving a tapestry that binds us together in community. It is through love that we bridge the divides between us, forging deep connections that transcend our differences. Ultimately, love is what allows us to understand one another, empathize with each other's struggles, and celebrate each other's joys. It is this essential gift that nurtures our bonds and enriches our lives especially as we get closer and closer to the mystery of the Paschal Festivities.

No se turben sus corazones

No se turben sus corazones ni tengan miedo. Este recordatorio es un llamado suave pero poderoso a mantener nuestra fe en medio de las incertidumbres de la vida. Desde el principio, el mensaje de Dios se ha centrado constantemente en el amor. No es solo una emoción, sino la base misma sobre la que construimos nuestras relaciones. Este amor actúa como una fuerza unificadora, tejiendo un tapiz que nos une en comunidad. Es a través del amor que superamos las divisiones entre nosotros, forjando conexiones profundas que trascienden nuestras diferencias. En definitiva, el amor es lo que nos permite comprendernos, empatizar con las luchas de los demás y celebrar las alegrías de los demás. Es este don esencial el que nutre nuestros vínculos y enriquece nuestras vidas, especialmente a medida que nos acercamos al misterio de las festividades pascuales.

Dear friends in Christ,

The annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection assists in funding six Catholic agencies that provide humanitarian aid, administer resettlement programs, and advocate on behalf of victims. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) is one of those six agencies.

One of the many challenges facing immigrants coming to the United States is how to secure knowledgeable legal representation as they navigate our complex immigration system. Given their difficulties in finding and affording legal assistance, immigrants commonly try to represent themselves. The bishops of the United States founded CLINIC more than 35 years ago to help immigrants secure the legal services they need. This dedicated network of legal immigration programs promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants. Their work was critical for Viviana, who applied for asylum. When she represented herself in an appeal, the judge denied her relief based on a technicality in her supporting documents. After reviewing her case, CLINIC connected Viviana with volunteer private attorneys, who filed a petition for her to remain in the United States. This petition was denied, and she was removed. Despite her removal, her attorneys here continued to advocate for Viviana's return to the United States. More than five years later, CLINIC and Viviana's attorneys secured permission from Immigration and Customs Enforcement for her to return to America. In success stories such as Viviana's, human dignity is protected thanks to the funds that CLINIC receives through The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Please know that your continued participation in this collection helps give hope to poor and vulnerable families and individuals around the world. We will take up the collection in our parishes next weekend, March 14/15. Thank you for your continued support! To learn more about how your gift will make an impact, please visit usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend
David J. Walkowiak

Health Support Group

Anyone burdened by illness is invited to join our health support group discussion. The next Health Support Group meeting is Saturday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m. at Biggby Coffee in Ionia.

Liturgies This Week

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 8

10:15 a.m. Phil O'Mara (Gary & Janice Ferguson)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

2:30 p.m. Taize Prayer Service

Monday, March 9 - St. Frances of Rome, Religious

2 Kgs 5:1-15/Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30

No Mass

Tuesday, March 10 – Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35

No Mass

Wednesday, March 11 – Lenten Weekday

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Carol Gallagher (Jack & Carole Hausserman)

6-8 p.m. Penance Service

Thursday, March 12 – Lenten Weekday

Jer 7: 23-28 / Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9 / LK 11: 14-23

8:00 a.m. Bertha Meier

9-10 a.m. Confessions

Friday, March 13 – Lenten Weekday

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34

No Mass

8:00 a.m. School Stations of the Cross

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (in English)

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (in Spanish)

Saturday, March 14 – Lenten Weekday

Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

Saturday, March 14

4:00 p.m. Carol Cope (Barbara Burrows)

Sunday, March 15

10:15 a.m. David Kueick (Diane Grummet)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

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, 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 March 1, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$9,082.52
Electronic Giving	4,725.00
Total Offertory	\$13,807.52

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
Surplus for the Week	\$3,711.37

Budgeted Year to Date	\$353,365.25
Actual Year to Date	\$370,554.96
Surplus Year to Date	\$17,189.71

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
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 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

March 14 & 15, Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Lector: Mary Lou Mulick
Altar Servers:
Adah Drown, Charlotte Mabe
EMs: Julie Bennett, Phill & Sue Wizorek
Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:15 a.m. Lector: Shannon Andrews
Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey
EMs: Veronica Meyer, Theresa Scholtens,
Laurie Tjalsma
Greeters: Volunteers

God's Housekeepers - March 8th

Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen
Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

General Cleaning
Vacuuming

Events This Week

Sunday, March 8

2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins
8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes
1:00 p.m. Quinceañera Prep. Session (AH)

Monday, March 9

Tuesday, March 10

1-2 p.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)
5:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting (VR)
5:30-6:30 pm OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)

Wednesday, March 11

1:00 p.m. Soup & Bread Luncheon (PO)
5:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion Prep. (AH)
6-8 p.m. Penance Service (CH)

Thursday, March 12

3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)
6-8 p.m. Penance Service at St. Edward's

Friday, March 13

5-7 p.m. K of C Fish Dinner (AH)

Saturday, March 14

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hispanic Catechesis (VR)
11 a.m. Marriage Preparation (PO)
9:30- 11 a.m. Grief Support Group (PO)

Sunday, March 15

8:30 a.m. OCIA (PO)
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes (with Stations
of the Cross)
1:00 p.m. Quinceañera Prep. Session (AH)

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

Youth Group

Join us for Youth Group on Sunday, March 22nd
from 6-8pm. We will be practicing for Stations of
the Cross which we will lead on Friday, March 27th.
We will need many youth to make this happen.
Please encourage your teenager to participate.

Join the Conversation - Follow us on Facebook

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

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 to 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 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

- 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 (No Confirmation evening session)
- 29 Faith Formation Class

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!

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!

Knights Corner



The Blessed Michael McGivney's Lenten spirit focused on a life of unselfish giving to others, charity, unity and fraternity through Eucharistic devotion. His life called for an active sacrificial love for neighbors, supporting those in need, and strengthening the community. This was the example he wanted for his Knights of Columbus. His, and the Knights' approach, puts an emphasis on the premise that true faith is lived through service. His life is considered a "living reading" of the Word of God, that encourages the 100% devotion to God and neighbor.

Brother Knights, watch your emails and bulletin for information on the upcoming pie making effort and pie pick up time scheduled for March 21 & 22.

Vivat Jesus!
Ron Speckin Grand Knight
616-755-2175

7/8 de marzo de 2026

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

La colecta anual de Catholic Relief Services (CRS) contribuye a financiar seis agencias católicas que brindan ayuda humanitaria, administran programas de reasentamiento y abogan en favor de las víctimas. La agencia de Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) es una de estas seis agencias.

Uno de los muchos desafíos que enfrentan los inmigrantes que llegan a los Estados Unidos es cómo asegurar una representación legal competente mientras navegan por nuestro complejo sistema de inmigración. Debido a las dificultades para encontrar y costear asistencia legal, con frecuencia intentan representarse a sí mismos. Los obispos de los Estados Unidos fundaron Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. hace más de 35 años para ayudar a los inmigrantes a obtener los servicios legales que necesitan. Esta dedicada red de programas legales de inmigración promueve la dignidad humana y protege los derechos de los inmigrantes. Su labor fue crucial para Viviana, quien solicitó asilo. Cuando se representó a sí misma en una apelación, el juez le negó el alivio migratorio debido a un tecnicismo en sus documentos de respaldo. Tras revisar su caso, CLINIC conectó a Viviana con abogados privados voluntarios, quienes presentaron una petición para que pudiera permanecer en los Estados Unidos. Esta petición fue denegada y ella fue deportada.

A pesar de su deportación, sus abogados en este país continuaron abogando por el regreso de Viviana a los Estados Unidos. Más de cinco años después, CLINIC y los abogados de Viviana obtuvieron el permiso del U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement para que pudiera regresar a Estados Unidos. En historias de éxito como la de Viviana, la dignidad humana es protegida gracias a los fondos que CLINIC recibe a través de la colecta de Catholic Relief Services.

Por favor, sepan que su participación continua en esta colecta brinda esperanza a familias e individuos pobres y vulnerables en todo el mundo. La colecta en nuestras parroquias se realizará el próximo fin de semana, 14 y 15 de marzo. ¡Gracias por su generoso y constante apoyo! Para conocer más sobre cómo su donación marcará una diferencia, visite: usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,
Reverendísimo David J. Walkowiak
Obispo de Grand Rapids
David J. Walkowiak

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





Knights of Columbus®

Fr. Fierle Council 944



Pie Sale

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

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.

Saturday, March 21, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 22, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pick up in the Parish Office Garage

Lenten Fish Dinners

The last fish fry of the season will be on Friday, March 13. For more information or interest in volunteering, please see the sign up sheets on the table in the back of the church.

Teeing Off for 30 Years

Our annual school auction is coming up quickly! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2nd! We will be hosting our event at the Ionia Armory. Tickets are \$30 per person and will include entry to the event, dinner and free draft beer. Stay tuned for more information as the event gets closer! Our students will be submitting some awesome classroom projects that you will want to see!

Spring Forward

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.

News from the School

Classroom Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year is now open.

Upcoming Dates

March 25	Meet the Teacher Night for Preschool, Developmental Kindergarten, & Kindergarten
March 27	Kdg. Round Up (by appt. only)
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. 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!