

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

434 High St. Ionia MI 48846
616-527-3610
saintspeterandpaulionia.org

May 17, 2026

17 de Mayo 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.

A parish
clustered
with St.
Edward,
Lake Odessa

The Ascension of the Lord

A Letter from Father Eugene Una carta del Padre Eugene

Christ's Ascension: *A Call to Mission and Discipleship*

Christ's Ascension brings us hope that we will also receive the promise of being raised up from the dead and join Him in paradise. His Ascension brings the reality of the union of heaven and earth that began when God sent His only begotten Son to be with us. The incarnation of Christ brought heaven to earth so we can know and experience the good while we are in this world. Christ's Ascension into heaven has sanctified and made Holy our experiences of this world and reveal to us what can be possible for us if we remain in Him.

This intimacy with Christ that started with our Baptism is emboldened by Christ calling us to go forth and carry out the mission He has commissioned us to do. The Ascension gets us to move outward. The Ascension is not only about meeting the Christ who dwells within; it is also about taking that same Christ out into the world where we live. 'Go, make disciples of all nations,' When Jesus ascended into heaven, two significant events in particular happened: Jesus gave his followers instructions on how they were to live, and he left them with a promise. He directed the disciples to spread the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, declaring the good news of salvation.

Around the year 165, St. Justin Martyr said about today's Gospel, "A band of twelve men went forth from Jerusalem, and they were common men, not trained in speaking, but by the power of God they testified to every race of humankind." From the moment Jesus ascended into Heaven, he has proven his love over and over again. He has used us to spread his Kingdom, giving us the words to say, the actions to perform, the love in our hearts.

This call to mission, that is, to be sent forth, is a task that calls us to have faith and confidence in God. Faith in the real Presence of God in the Eucharist and confidence in the Sacred Scripture that will guide us in carrying out this mission. The Ascension compels us to look beyond ourselves, beyond our neighbor, to seek the transcendent, the traces of the divine, that elude our grasp, elude our sight, and elude our understanding. Christ's Ascension compels us to continue the mission He began and to faithfully and courageously become His disciple.

La Ascensión de Cristo: *Un Llamado a la Misión y al Discipulado*

La Ascensión de Cristo nos trae la esperanza de que también recibiremos la promesa de resucitar y unirnos a Él en el paraíso. Su Ascensión trae la realidad de la unión del cielo y la tierra que comenzó cuando Dios envió a su Hijo unigénito a estar con nosotros. La encarnación de Cristo trajo el cielo a la tierra para que podamos experimentar el bien mientras estamos en este mundo. La Ascensión de Cristo al cielo ha santificado y hecho santas nuestras experiencias en este mundo y nos revela lo que es posible para nosotros si permanecemos en Él.

Esta intimidad con Cristo, que comenzó con nuestro bautismo, se fortalece cuando Cristo nos llama a salir y llevar a cabo la misión que nos ha encomendado. La Ascensión nos impulsa a salir. La Ascensión no se trata solo de encontrarnos con el Cristo que mora en nuestro interior, sino también de llevar a ese mismo Cristo al mundo en que vivimos. «Id y haced discípulos de todas las naciones». Cuando Jesús ascendió al cielo, ocurrieron dos acontecimientos significativos: les dio instrucciones a sus seguidores sobre cómo debían vivir y les dejó una promesa. Les encomendó la misión de difundir el mensaje del Evangelio hasta los confines de la tierra, proclamando la buena noticia de la salvación.

Alrededor del año 165, San Justino Mártir dijo sobre el Evangelio de hoy: «De Jerusalén partió un grupo de doce hombres, gente común, sin formación en oratoria, pero por el poder de Dios dieron testimonio a toda la humanidad». Desde el momento en que Jesús ascendió al cielo, ha demostrado su amor una y otra vez. Nos ha utilizado para extender su Reino, dándonos las palabras que debemos pronunciar, las acciones que debemos realizar y el amor en nuestros corazones.

Este llamado a la misión, es decir, a ser enviados, es una tarea que nos llama a tener fe y confianza en Dios. Fe en la presencia real de Dios en la Eucaristía y confianza en la Sagrada Escritura que nos guiará en el cumplimiento de esta misión. La ascensión nos impulsa a mirar más allá de nosotros mismos, más allá de nuestro prójimo, a buscar lo trascendente, las huellas de lo divino, que escapan a nuestro alcance, a nuestra vista y a nuestra comprensión. La Ascensión de Cristo nos impulsa a continuar la misión que Él comenzó y a convertirnos, con fidelidad y valentía, en sus discípulos.

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, 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, Sarah Gregg, Pam & Jeff Goss, Finnly Hunt, Ron Kaminski, Kathy Kranz, Sue & Joe Kleiss, Larry Lafler, Jack & Sue LaPeer, Nathan Lower, Traccie Lower, Pat MacLachlan, Mona Martinez, Susan Meyers, Karen Miller, Jim & Barb Mulnix, Nichole Munsell, Ken and Sherry North, Terri Nurenberg, Mary O'Connor, Bob Parker, Joe Peckins, Mike Peckins, Jace Peterson, Mary Perrien, Mike Priest, Lisa Pringle, Roxanne Rader, 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

CSA 2026 Strengthened in Christ, Responding With Joy

With the batch we submitted this week, we have pledges for \$40,885. We have now passed the halfway point to our assessment of \$81,314. While this is a nice milestone, we clearly still have a long way to go. If you haven't sent in your pledge yet, please do so today! Blank cards are available on the table in the back of church, and pledges can be made online at grdiocese.org. Thank you for your support in helping us reach our goal!



Electronic Giving

No matter the amount, your donations help keep a roof over our heads and the lights shining today and tomorrow. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation. Thank you for your support and continued generosity.

Scan the
QR Code



Our Parish Offering

Week of May 10, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$5,373.50
ACH Giving	3,870.00
QR Code Giving	<u>220.44</u>
Total Offertory	\$9,463.94

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,096.15
Deficit for the Week	\$632.21

Budgeted Year to Date	\$454,326.75
Actual Year to Date	\$474,389.14
Surplus Year to Date	\$20,062.39

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Parish Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@sspccatholic.com
saintspeterandpaulionia.org

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal ext. 12

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

May 16 & 17, Ascension of the Lord

4:00 p.m.	Lector: Sue Wizorek Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe EMs: Mary Lou Mulick, Barb Mulnix, Phill Wizorek Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen
10:15 a.m.	Lector: Pete Fox Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey EMs: Sam Meyer, Theresa Scholtens, Laurie Tjalsma Greeters: Deb Porter

May 23 & 24, Pentecost Sunday

4:00 p.m.	Lector: Phill Wizorek Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin EMs: Julie Bennett, Mary Perrien, Sue Wizorek Greeters: Mary Lou Mulick
10:15 a.m.	Lector: Kevin Kenney Altar Servers: Reagan Crooks, Alexis Heinlein EMs: Shannon Andrews, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt Greeters: Theresa Scholtens

Liturgies This Week

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Saturday, May 16

4:00 p.m. Sandra Meyers (Tom & Julie Bennett)

Sunday, May 17

10:15 a.m. Jerry & Barbara Gibson
(Jason & Cynthia Mayle)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

2:00 p.m. OCIA Rites of Entrance & Welcoming (CH)

Monday, May 18 – St. John I, Pope & Martyr

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/Jn 16:29-33

No Mass

11:00 a.m. Burial of John Scholtens (Mt. Olivet)

Tuesday, May 19 – Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11

No Mass

Wednesday, May 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36/Jn 17:11-19

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

Thursday, May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26

8:00 a.m. Mike Gallagher (Dane & Linda Droste)

Friday, May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 25:13-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19

No Mass

Saturday, May 23 – Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4-5, 7/Jn 21:20-25

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34/1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13/
Jn 20:19-23

Saturday, May 23

4:00 p.m. Katie Fox (Christine Bewell)

Sunday, May 24

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

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

Events This Week

Sunday, May 17

- 8:30 a.m. OCIA Mystagogy (PO)
 1-2 p.m. Scoop of Theology Workshop with
 Fr. Darrel Kempf (401 W. Main St.)
 After 2 p.m. Refreshments after OCIA Rites (AH)
 4-6 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor
 Session (VR)

Monday, May 18

- 6:30-8 p.m. Bible Timeline (VR)

Tuesday, May 19

- 12-4 p.m. Bible Study Webinar (VR)
 1-2 p.m. OCIA Session (PO)
 5:30-6:30 OCIA Session (PO)

Wednesday, May 20

- 8th Grade Trip
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (VR)

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

- 11:00 a.m. School Dismissal
 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Saturday, May 23

- 1:00 p.m. Baptism prep. class (PO)

Sunday, May 24

- 8:30 a.m. OCIA Mystagogy (PO)

(CH) Church/(VR) Veritas Room / (PO) Parish
 Office / (CR) Cornerstone Room /
 (AH) Apostles Hall / (SCH) School

God's Housekeepers - May 17

General Cleaning

Jane Hemenway
 Laurie Tjalsma

Vacuuming

Ray Kortytkowski
 Lon MacLachlan

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus speaks of unity, not uniformity. With uniformity everything is the same. Unity requires recognition and reconciliation of differences. How do you reconcile differences in your home?

Do you listen respectfully or do you try to manipulate or impose your opinion? The seeds of unity and division are in every family. What we sow, we reap. What is your family harvest?

News from the School

Please contact our school principal Jenny Leik at (616) 527-3561 or jleik@ssppcatholic.com for information about enrollment.



SSPP School
 Now
 Enrolling
 26/27 School Year

Vacation Bible School 2026

Come to our Vacation Bible School adventure: Trusting God in a Wild World. Sign up now for VBS on August 3, 4 & 5th from 4:00pm-6:00pm (Parish School). We will have Bible Adventures, Games, Snacks, Crafts and Music. It will be fun for all ages! Adults and older youth volunteers are needed! Help us make this a wonderful experience! Parish Contact: Vanessa Booth 527-3610



Easy
 Registration
 Here



SUNDAYKIDZ

Ascension of the Lord

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

Mountain Worship Doubt Power Nations
 Baptize Father Son Spirit Always



Bible Study Leaders & Participants - You're Invited!

Are you currently leading or involved in a Bible study? We'd love for you to join us for an upcoming webinar designed to encourage, equip, and connect our Bible study community. This gathering will take place in our Veritas Room and will offer practical insights and helpful resources from Ascension for anyone passionate about studying and teaching God's Word. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just beginning, this is a great opportunity to grow and be refreshed.

Location: Veritas Room

Who: All Bible study leaders and participants

Date & Time: May 19th, 12:00–4:00 PM

As of right now we have not received any RSVPs for this event. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office. If we do not receive any RSVPs we will assume there is no interest and cancel.

Calling All Graduates

We are excited to invite all graduates to a **Special Mass in your honor on Sunday, May 31 at 10:15 AM.**

Join us as we celebrate your achievements, offer prayers for your future, and recognize this important milestone in your life. Graduates of all levels are encouraged to attend and wear their caps and gowns if possible. Family and friends are welcome to share in this celebration!

A light brunch will be offered after Mass in Apostles Hall. Please RSVP at the parish office and send Vanessa Booth your graduation photo by May 23rd to vbooth@ssppcatholic.com if you would like your photo in the bulletin. Media release forms must be signed in order for us to add photos to our Facebook and bulletin; forms are on the table in the back of church or can be obtained through Vanessa in the parish office. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Event Planning Ministry – Help Bring Our Parish Community to Life

Do you enjoy organizing, decorating, or bringing people together for meaningful and fun experiences? We would like to create an Event Planning Ministry and are looking for creative and enthusiastic volunteers. Our first event is a *Graduation Brunch on May 31st after the 10:15am Mass!* Please contact Vanessa Booth in the parish office for more details or to sign up to help decorate or bring food. **Come help us create joyful moments that bring our parish family together!**

Mary Concert

You're invited to join the SS Peter & Paul Choir in an evening of music and melodies that celebrate and honor our blessed Mother Mary. Bring a friend, and sing along if you wish. The Mary Concert will be in the Church at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday May 16th. Stick around until the end for a sweet surprise.

Come and Pray the Rosary

Please join us as we pray the Rosary together beginning 30 minutes before the start of the 4 p.m. and 10:15 a.m. weekend Masses in May. If you'd like to volunteer to lead one of the Rosaries please call the parish office or add your name to the sign up sheet in the back of church.

Scoop of Theology Workshop

Have a good time exploring the joys of the world and getting answers to questions that science can't answer about the topic of existence. Much like ice cream or any delightful food, it is more than ever can be measured. After all, what is a scoop of ice cream for you may not be for me. Join Fr. Darrel Kempf on Sunday May 17, 1 to 2 p.m. to have some ice cream and discuss God in a comfortable, judgement free environment. Clavers Companions Inc, 401 W. Main St., Ionia. Register online at ClaversCompanions.org

Rite of Entrance into the Catechumanate & Rite of Welcome for Candidates

This Sunday, May 17th, at 2:00pm, our parish will celebrate an important step in the faith journey of those preparing to enter fully into the Catholic Church.

During the **Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate**, those who are not yet baptized publicly express their desire to begin their journey toward becoming Catholic. From this point forward, they are called catechumens and are joined more closely to the life of the Church.

We also celebrate the **Rite of Welcome for Candidates**, in which those already baptized in another Christian tradition publicly affirm their desire to continue their formation in the Catholic faith and prepare for full communion with the Church through the reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

These rites mark significant spiritual milestones and remind all of us of our own call to ongoing conversion and discipleship. Please keep our 14 catechumens and 10 candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

May our parish community continue to welcome, support, and encourage them with Christian love and witness. Light refreshments will be offered in our hall, all are welcome!

Panther Pride

Fourth Grade Battle of the Books was a success. Students enjoyed reading the list of books and competing against other fourth graders.



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.

May

17 Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30-6pm in the 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!

Pregnancy Services of Ionia County - Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day) to June 21st (Father's Day)

Support PSIC with Three Easy Steps

1. Take home an empty baby bottle available in the back of church.
2. Fill with dollar bills, checks or change.
3. Please return the baby bottles with change to the Parish by June 21st, Father's Day.

Your support for Pregnancy Services (PSIC) of Ionia County directly supports local families and the operational services of PSIC.

Knights' Corner



"In Service to One. In Service to All." We see this when we reflect on the history of our council and how the inspiration from Blessed Father Michael McGivney's dedication gave rise to our organization. Decades later, memories and accomplishments of those charitable causes, hopes and dreams still exist today. The generation of Knights who have gone before us have left their legacy for us to maintain and improve upon. We are looking for the next generation of Knights, men of character and conviction who are driven by both faith and conscience to do truly meaningful work. The rewards of Knighthood over your lifetime will be that you made a difference. This is accomplished with fearless service, heartfelt perseverance, and unflinching fellowship. You can sign up online at KofC.org/join or call or text 616-755-2175 for more information.

Congratulations to our May raffle winners - Matt Cusack, Shannon Andrews, Rebecca Chartrand, and Jack LaPeer.

Vivat Jesus!
Ron Speckin, Grand Knight