

# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

October 4, 2026

4 de Octubre de 2026

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

## Mass Schedule Horario de Misas

**Saturday** 4 p.m.  
**Sunday** 10:15 a.m. 12 p.m. (Spanish)  
**Wednesday** 12:10 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)  
**Thursday** 8 a.m.

## Reconciliation Schedule Calendario de Reconciliación

**Wednesday** 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (noon)  
**Saturday** 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

## Contact the Parish Office

email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com  
phone: 616-527-3610  
**Monday - Friday** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Prayer Chain for Immediate Need

please call 616-522-0279 or 616-527-0438.

A parish  
clustered  
with St.  
Edward,  
Lake Odessa

# Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

# A Letter from Bishop Walkowiak Una carta del Obispo



Dear friends in Christ,

There are many times in our lives that we need to trust where the Lord is calling us. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). When Saint Francis of Assisi heard a voice

calling, "Francis, rebuild my Church which is falling into ruin," he immediately began construction. The lives of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Francis are examples of what can happen when we trust in the Lord, especially amid uncertainty, fear and suffering.

The saints are not only our role models of trust in the Lord's providence; they are also an example of how we are to love, accompany and encounter others. Today's Respect Life Sunday celebration falls on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. There is a story in which Saint Francis meets a leper on the side of the road. He feels compelled to dismount his horse, kiss the man and offer him money. When Francis returns to his horse, the leper is nowhere to be found. Saint Francis presumes this leper was Jesus in disguise. How often have we found ourselves looking at 'the lepers of today' and riding by?

Like Saint Francis, we are called to stop and offer compassion. Through our conversations, advocacy efforts, and acts of service, we bear witness to God's love and inspire hope for those whose hearts are burdened. All individuals are bearers of God. Each of us is a gift to others.

During this Respect Life Month, let us reflect more deeply on how we can respect life at every stage and in every circumstance. Through the intercession of Saint Francis may we "become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace" (Decree for the Jubilee Year, January 16, 2026).

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Hay muchos momentos en nuestra vida en los que necesitamos confiar en el camino al que el Señor nos está llamando. Cuando el ángel Gabriel se apareció a María para anunciarle que concebiría y daría a luz un hijo, María respondió con su fiat: "Hágase en mí según tu palabra" (Lc 1,38). Cuando San Francisco de Asís escuchó una voz que le decía: "Francisco, ve y repara mi Iglesia, que está en ruinas", inmediatamente comenzó a reconstruirla. La vida de la Santísima Virgen María y la de San Francisco son ejemplos de lo que puede suceder cuando confiamos en el Señor, especialmente en medio de la incertidumbre, el temor y el sufrimiento.

Los santos no solo son modelos de confianza en la providencia del Señor; también son un ejemplo de cómo debemos amar, acompañar y acercarnos a los demás. La celebración de hoy Domingo del Respeto a la Vida de este año coincide con la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís. Existe un relato según el cual San Francisco se encontró con un leproso a la orilla del camino. Sintió el impulso de bajar de su caballo, besar al hombre y ofrecerle unas monedas. Cuando Francisco regresó junto a su caballo, el leproso había desaparecido. San Francisco comprendió que aquel leproso era Jesús disfrazado. ¿Cuántas veces nosotros también hemos encontrado a "los leprosos de hoy" y pasado de largo?

Como San Francisco, estamos llamados a detenernos y ofrecer compasión. A través de nuestras conversaciones, de nuestros esfuerzos en favor de la vida y de nuestros actos de servicio, damos testimonio del amor de Dios e inspiramos esperanza a aquellos cuyos corazones están agobiados. Cada persona es portadora de la dignidad que Dios le ha dado. Cada uno de nosotros es un don para los demás. Durante este Mes del Respeto a la Vida, reflexionemos más profundamente sobre cómo podemos respetar la vida en cada etapa y en toda circunstancia. Por intercesión de San Francisco, pidamos que podamos "ser modelo de santidad de vida y testigos constantes de la paz" (Decreto para el Año Jubilar, 16 de enero de 2026).

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids



*Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,*

Reverendísimo David J. Walkowiak  
Obispo de la Diócesis de Grand Rapids

## Our Parish Prayer List, Please Pray for:

Feleciana Alcara, Ericka Baer, Sharon Baer, Dawn Baldwin, Keineth Barker, Landon Battle, Dorr Bissell, Jonathan Bunce, Tony Burns, Terri Butler, Angie Cedillo, Michelle Charon, Pamela Coggan, Kathy Coughlin, Mark Dawson, Judy Dick, Joe Drysdale, Pat Duffy, Travis Eveleth, Greg & Terry Fattal, Sr. Shaun Marie Fattal, Cherie Flinn, Jackie Franz, Jerry & Maribeth Fritz, Jessica Fritz, Jeff & Pam Goss, Sarah Gregg, Connie Hamblin, Melissa Harper, Finnly Hunt, Ron Kaminski, Edward Kaminski, Joe & Sue Kleiss, Kathy Kranz, Larry Lafler, Jack & Sue LaPeer, Nathan Lower, Tracie Lower, Pat MacLachlan, Mona Martinez, David & Judy Maynard, Susan Meyers, Karen Miller, 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, Roxanne Rader, Tom Reinhardt, Michelle Richard-Mix, Russinda Rohde, Janice Schell, Anita Hozeski Scott, Georgia Sibert, Sue Speckin, Arlene Stanton, Randy Tripp, Connie Waterman, Denise Ward, Shirley Weber, Jerry & Cindy White, Tom White, Chad Wickerink, Jo Wirtz

## *Church on Fire: The Desire for God*

Catechism of the Catholic Church 27

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for:

The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.

A special thank you to Karen Meyers for coordinating the hospitality following our Church on Fire Retreat! We are also incredibly grateful to our greeters who warmly welcomed everyone, and to all those who generously donated refreshments. Your time, generosity, and kindness helped create a welcoming atmosphere where everyone could gather, enjoy fellowship, and continue the joy of the retreat. There were many hands at work behind the scene as well, and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make this a memorable experience.



# SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Our Parish Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

Parish Office Email: [parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com)

Website: [saintspeterandpaulionia.org](http://saintspeterandpaulionia.org)

Pastor: Fr. Eugene Batungbacal ext. 12

Permanent Deacon: Zenon Cardenas

Secretary: Cecilia Luke ext. 10

Office Manager: Adam Rewa ext. 11

Mission & Discipleship: Vanessa Booth ext. 14

Bulletin Editor: Tiffany Ferguson ext. 39

Music Director

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

### October 3 & 4, Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4:00 p.m.** Lector: Mary Lou Mulick  
Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe  
EMs: Mary Perrien, Phill & Sue Wizorek  
Greeters: Julie Bennett

**10:15 a.m.** Lector: Nancy Wilson  
Altar Servers:  
Gavin McGuire, Jace Perry  
EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt,  
Ronda Kapp  
Greeters: Judy Hamblin

### October 10 & 11, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4:00 p.m.** Lector: Pat Rinker  
Altar Servers:  
Charlotte Mabe & Jaclyn Rewa  
EMs: Julie Bennett, Mary Lou Mulick,  
Mary Perrien  
Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

**10:15 a.m.** Lector: Shannon Andrews  
Altar Servers:  
Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein  
EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Sam Meyer,  
Theresa Scholtens  
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

## Liturgies This Week

### Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43*

#### **Saturday, October 3**

4:00 p.m. Roger Hogan (Hogan Family)

#### **Sunday, October 4**

10:15 a.m. Vern & Mary Pinnow (Christine Terpstra)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Monday, October 5 – St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin;**

#### **Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest**

*Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1-2, 7-10/Lk 10:25-37*

No Mass

#### **Tuesday, October 6 – St. Bruno, Priest;**

#### **Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin**

*Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1-3, 13-15/Lk 10:38-42*

No Mass

#### **Wednesday, October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary**

*Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1-2/Lk 11:1-4*

9:00 a.m. Mass at Optalis

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Jim Van Syckle (Hemenway family)

6:00 p.m. Adoration

7:00 p.m. Misa en español

#### **Thursday, October 8 - Weekday**

*Gal 3:1-5/(Ps) Lk 1:69-75/Lk 11:5-13*

8:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)

#### **Friday, October 9 – St. Denis, Bishop, & Companions,**

#### **Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest**

*Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 11:15-26*

No Mass

5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

#### **Saturday, October 10 - Weekday**

*Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-7/Lk 11:27-28*

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

1:00 p.m. Wedding of

Tatiana Cardenas & Cody Kammers

3:00 p.m. Confessions

### Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14*

#### **Saturday, October 10**

4:00 p.m. Mike & Carol Gallagher

(Charlie & Kathy Fox)

#### **Sunday, October 11**

10:15 a.m. Curt Simmons (Phill & Sue Wizorek)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

3-4:30 p.m. Confessions for

Confirmation Candidates



### Young People on Fire for God

Sign up for email updates about Youth  
Conferences or see the printed booklet in the  
back of the Church.

## Events This Week

### Sunday, October 4

9-10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes  
1:45 p.m. CROP Walk (gather at Zion Church)  
5-6:30 p.m. "Know More, Grow More in the Holy Spirit" (AH)

### Monday, October 5

2:00 p.m. Blessing of Pets (school grounds)  
6:00 p.m. Local EMHC Training (CH)  
6:30 p.m. Bible Timeline (VR)

### Tuesday, October 6

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

### Wednesday, October 7

9:00 a.m. Mass at Optalis  
5-6 p.m. Hispanic Confirmation Class (VR)

### Thursday, October 8

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

### Friday, October 9

### Saturday, October 10

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Hispanic Diocesan Catechetical Training (VR)  
9:30 a.m. Health Support Group (Bittersweet Bakery, Main St.)

### Sunday, October 11

9-10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes  
1:45 p.m. CROP Walk begins (at Zion Church)  
3-4:30 p.m. Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session (VR)  
5-6:30 p.m. "Know More, Grow More In the Holy Spirit" (AH)

(VR) Veritas Room / (PO) Parish Office /  
(AH) Apostles Hall / (CH) Church

### God's Housekeepers October 4

#### General Cleaning

Chirs & Pilya  
Christensen  
Joe Thelen

#### Vacuuming

Chris & Pilya  
Christensen



### A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel, Jesus encourages married couples to throw away the marriage rule book. Rules are for those with "hardened hearts."

Married couples are called to be a sacramental reflection of God's faithful and selfless love ..... a place where people live and love beyond rules and formulas.

## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



317 Baldie St. Ionia, MI 48846  
616-527-3561  
ssppcatholic.com

### Dear Parishioners,

On Monday, October 5th, Father Eugene will be offering Blessing of the Pets in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day that is celebrated on October 4th. All leashed and/or caged FRIENDLY pets are welcome to come and join us on the hill near the playground. Please respect the space of other families and their pets. The blessing will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and students will be dismissed from the playground.

In addition to the Blessing of the Pets, Mrs. Laux's 3rd and 4th grade class is accepting donations for the Ionia County Animal Shelter and local veterinary hospitals. Please consider donating your old, used towels, sheets, blankets, animal bed and toys. We will also be collecting any pet food or monetary donation. All donations can be brought directly to Mrs. Laux's classroom!

### Our Parish Offering

#### Week of September 27, 2026

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offertory      | \$5,042.00        |
| ACH Giving             | \$4,670.00        |
| QR Code Giving         | \$225.44          |
| <b>Total Offertory</b> | <b>\$9,937.44</b> |

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Budgeted Weekly             | \$10,192.31     |
| <b>Deficit for the Week</b> | <b>\$254.87</b> |

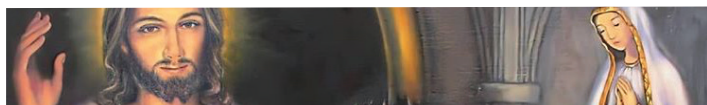
|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Budgeted Year to Date       | \$132,500.03      |
| Actual Year to Date         | \$122,627.30      |
| <b>Deficit Year to Date</b> | <b>\$9,872.73</b> |

### Support Our Mission

Together in Christ, we strive to actively seek and welcome all people in a community that expresses God's love. Help us foster faith & fellowship within our community.

Make A  
Paperless  
Donation





## Vatican Display of Eucharistic Miracles Save the Date: October 10-13

In celebration of the feast of Saint Edward the Confessor, we invite you to experience an inspiring journey through a series of artistic displays that vividly highlight the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Spend some time experiencing captivating photographs and compelling scientific evidence, all thoughtfully curated to deepen your understanding and perspective of Christ. The time will be informative and uplifting. This international exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Mary Our Mother Foundation. We welcome you to come and reflect with your fellow parishioners. Come take part in the legacy of Saint Carlo Acutis.

If you are able to lend a hand during the exhibit, we would appreciate the help. Please call the Saint Edward Parish Office if you can volunteer. The exhibit will be held in the St. Edward Church Family Center. 531 Jordan Lake St. Lake Odessa, MI.

### Hours:

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sat. 7-9 p.m.         | Sun. 9-Noon         |
| Mon. 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. | Tues 11 a.m.-2 p.m. |

## October is the month of the Holy Rosary

We will be praying the Rosary together before each of the 4 p.m. and 10:15 a.m. weekend Masses in October, beginning 30 minutes before Mass time. If you would like to lead one or more of the Rosaries, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of church.

## Health Support Group Sessions

Any who have been touched by Cancer or other illnesses are invited to join our **Health Support Group** discussion on October 10th at 9:30 a.m. at Bittersweet Bakery.

## Lessons and Carols - November 29th, 2026

For its second year in a row, multiple churches in Ionia County are coming together for Lessons and Carols this Advent Season. This year, the First Presbyterian Church of Ionia will host this inclusive Advent Service for all of Ionia County. These Lessons and Carols stem from the heart of the Advent Walk, which ended during Covid.

We are looking for participants who are willing to serve as lectors, singers, instrumentalists, or anyone who can volunteer in preparing the reception, as we are asking for cookie donations. If you are interested, please email Tiffany at [tferguson@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:tferguson@ssppcatholic.com).

## Loving Hands of Christ: A Grief Support Series

Our next meetings will begin on October 3rd and 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Office living room. Questions? Please call Vanessa in the parish office.



## Harvest Dinner & Raffle 2026

Our Harvest Dinner this year will be a parish potluck on the day of the raffle, beginning after the 12 p.m. Spanish Mass. The Knights of Columbus will provide the chicken and drinks, but all salads, side dishes, rolls, and desserts will be welcome additions! The raffle drawing will be held at 2 p.m. Be sure your returns are in the parish office by noon on the 18th so we can prepare them for the drawing!

**Where:** Apostles Hall

**When:** 1-3 p.m. Sunday, October 18

## Are You Interested in Bringing Millions of Monicas to Our Parish?

Several mothers in our parish are interested in starting a Millions of Monicas prayer group, a beautiful ministry inspired by the perseverance of Saint Monica. Before we can begin, we are looking for a few additional mothers to serve as co-leaders and help establish the ministry.

Millions of Monicas is not a support group or discussion group. It is a dedicated hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, uniting mothers in hopeful, faithful prayer for the return of their children to the practice of their Catholic faith. As we prepare to begin this beautiful ministry in our parish, we are seeking donations of handheld sized crucifixes, (new or gently used). These crucifixes will be used during our prayer gatherings as a focal point for prayer as we ask Christ to draw our loved ones ever closer to His Sacred Heart. If you have a crucifix you would like to donate, please contact the parish office. If you would be interested in helping launch this ministry as a co-leader, please contact: Vanessa Booth in the Parish Office.

*"Nothing is far from God." – St. Monica*

Millions of Monicas Is Coming to Our Parish. Millions of Monicas is a prayer ministry that brings together mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and aunts to pray for the return of their children to the practice of their Catholic faith through the powerful intercession of St. Monica.

## Faith Formation is Back!

**We're excited to kick off another year of Faith Formation!** 🙌 Faith Formation began last week, but it is not too late to register! All children in Grades K–High School are invited to join us on Sunday mornings for a wonderful year of learning, growing, and living out our faith! Classes are held in our school from **9:00-10:00 a.m.** Come grow in faith, build friendships, and discover more about God together! Registration forms are on the table in the back of church or online. Join us for the parent/adult formation opportunity in Apostles Hall while the students are in class. This is open to anyone who would like to join us as we explore our faith using the FORMED app. For more information, please contact the parish office.

### October

4 Faith Formation Class K-High School

11 Faith Formation Class K-7th

11 Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session Confession begins at 3 p.m. in the church.

Session will be held from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

18 Faith Formation Class K-High School

25 Faith Formation Class K-High School

### November

12 **Rescheduled** Confirmation Mass – Cathedral of St. Andrew at 7 p.m.

Pre-Register for  
Faith Formation Here



## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Needed

Have you served in this ministry in the past and would like to return? We are currently in need of additional volunteers to help with this important ministry.

The first step is to attend the diocesan Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, presented by Aaron Sanders, Director of Worship for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This initial formation covers the theology of the Eucharist as well as the norms and responsibilities of the ministry. To register, please visit the Worship section of the Diocese of Grand Rapids website and sign up for one of the quarterly training sessions. (This training will be offered at SSPP Church in Ionia on November 14th at 10 a.m.)

If you have already completed the Diocesan training, we invite you to attend parish training on Friday, October 2nd or Monday, October 5th at 6 p.m. in the Church. This training is for all trained Extraordinary Ministers of Communion so that we can review our procedures and implement a few small changes. If you have any questions, or if you have already completed this training and need to be added to the list, please contact the parish office.

## Focus on Life: Annual Benefit Dinner 2026 with Special Guest Speaker Danny Earl

Flat River Right to Life is a nonprofit organization of diverse and caring people united to protect the precious gift of human life at all stages. For more information, see the article on our SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church Facebook page. The event will be held at St. Joseph Church – 409 S. Bridge St. Belding, MI 48809. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and program at 6:30 p.m.

## Practical Home Plumbing

Bill & Nancy Wilson, owners of Wilson's Plumbing & Heating, will teach you the basics. This hands-on workshop is the perfect time to get your plumbing questions answered and learn some best practices. Join us for this FREE workshop on Oct. 12th, 6:30 p.m. at Clavers Companions Inc, 401 W. Main St., Ionia

## Theology Over Lunch

Join us after the 12:10 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, October 14th in the Veritas Room for our next Theology Over Lunch with Fr. Eugene! Take a break, share a meal, and nourish your faith as we gather for an engaging conversation about our Catholic faith. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, ask questions, and grow together in faith and fellowship. A lunch sign up sheet is in the back of church; We hope you'll join us for this special time of food, faith, and fellowship with Fr. Eugene.

## Knights' Corner

Brother Knights, our monthly business meeting is this Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Veritas Room. We have a lot going on this month so plan to come early and pray the rosary with us at 7:00! The MI Tootsie Roll Drive will be held October 9-11, and we have three locations to staff with volunteers. Also, the parish Harvest Dinner Potluck will be Sunday, October 18th, and we Knights will help with set-up and clean-up duties. Please help where you can and call me with any questions.

Vivat Jesus!  
Ron Speckin, Grand Knight

