



SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

September 20, 2026

20 de Septiembre de 2026

Visit Us Visítenos

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
Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Prayer Chain for Immediate Need

Please call 616-522-0279 or
616-527-0438 to be added to the
conversation.

A parish
clustered
with St.
Edward,
Lake Odessa

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Letter from Father Eugene Una carta del Padre Eugene

Living in Love & Loving All the Time

Eric Roth is the author of the book titled "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." Adapted from the classic 1920s story by F. Scott Fitzgerald about a man who is born in his 80s and strangely ages backward. The author is fascinated by the impact of time.

He said, "We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with different points of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again."

Every moment can be an opportunity to make life exciting, to be fulfilled with hope, and to express love in its truest form. Both time and the expression of love are experiences in our lives. They are aspects of our way of life that can guide us in reflecting and meditating on how our life has been, is becoming, or on how we see love manifested throughout time.

As time passes, life will not always seem joyful and happy. As we grow older, we become more aware of what time reveals to us—and what time reveals, hopefully, is an understanding of what love truly means. Our experiences can lead us to see the ultimate example of love—Jesus, the Christ. All the saints understood this, and they lived with loyalty, obedience, and love for God. They demonstrated that everything we endure here on earth is just a brief moment in time, leading us to eternal joy with God, where only love is to be seen.

Ultimately, we are called to see time and love united for a shared purpose—living in love and loving all the time.

Our Parish Prayer List, Please Pray for:

Feleciana Alcaria, Ericka Baer, Sharon Baer, Dawn Baldwin, 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, 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

Vivir en Amor y Amar Todo el Tiempo

Eric Roth es el autor del libro titulado 'El curioso caso de Benjamin Button'. Basado en el cuento clásico de los años 20 de F. Scott Fitzgerald sobre un hombre que nace en sus 80 y, de manera extraña, envejece al revés. El autor está fascinado por el impacto del tiempo.

Dijo: 'Podemos hacer lo mejor o lo peor con él. Espero que hagas lo mejor de ello. Y espero que veas cosas que te sorprendan. Espero que sientas cosas que nunca antes habías sentido. Espero que conozcas personas con puntos de vista diferentes. Espero que vivas una vida de la que estés orgulloso. Si descubres que no es así, espero que tengas el valor de empezar de nuevo.'

Cada momento puede ser una oportunidad para hacer la vida emocionante, para llenarse de esperanza y para expresar el amor en su forma más pura. Tanto el tiempo como la expresión del amor son experiencias en nuestras vidas. Son aspectos de nuestra forma de vivir que pueden guiarnos a reflexionar y meditar sobre cómo ha sido nuestra vida, cómo está convirtiéndose o cómo vemos que el amor se manifiesta a lo largo del tiempo.

A medida que pasa el tiempo, la vida no siempre parecerá alegre y feliz. A medida que envejecemos, nos volvemos más conscientes de lo que el tiempo nos revela — y lo que, con suerte, revela es una comprensión de lo que el amor realmente significa. Nuestras experiencias pueden llevarnos a ver el ejemplo supremo del amor: Jesús, el Cristo. Todos los santos entendieron esto y vivieron con lealtad, obediencia y amor a Dios. Demostraron que todo lo que soportamos aquí en la tierra es solo un breve momento en el tiempo, que nos conduce a la alegría eterna con Dios, donde solo se debe ver amor.

En última instancia, estamos llamados a ver el tiempo y el amor unidos por un propósito compartido: vivir en amor y amar todo el tiempo.

CHURCH ON FIRE In the Spirit

*"I have come to set the Earth
on fire, how I wish it were
already Blazing!" Luke 12:49*

We encourage you to attend all three evenings.

September 27, 28, & 29

Saints Peter & Paul Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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

Dear Parishioners,

Saints Peter and Paul School is trying something new for a fall fundraiser this year! We are simply collecting donations from our families, friends and neighbors! The funds raised will be used to support some of the activities that make Saints Peter and Paul so special, including Mother's Day Tea, Manners Dinner, ice-cream socials, celebrations, all school field trips and more!

As a parishioner, you can help us reach our goal! Please consider asking your friends and neighbors to help support our special school. Be sure to turn your form and donations into the school or parish office, no later than Monday, September 21st.

We appreciate your support and prayers!
Mrs. Jenny Leik, Principal
SS. Peter and Paul School

Maps Testing: Students have been working hard on completing the fall NWEA MAPS testing. The testing window is open until October 2nd. Please be sure that your student is eating a good breakfast each day and arrives at school on time to reduce the number of make-up tests that we need to complete. Scores for the fall session will be available at Parent/Teacher conferences, but can be requested prior to conferences.

Mark Your Calendars: Since the very beginning of the Chili Dawg Challenge, SSPP has been downtown with a booth! That tradition will continue this year! The annual downtown event will take place on Thursday, October 22nd! Watch for a Sign Up Genius to come out in the next few weeks for volunteers! Last year we won 3rd place for the Best Judged Dog!

ICA Donations: Thank you to all of our students who participated in the Ionia Community Awareness Change Drive. The generosity of our families and students is amazing!

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Fall Fundraiser

Student Name	 \$500	Total Collected \$ _____
		Make checks payable to Saints Peter and Paul
		\$100 Cash Prize
		\$50 Amazon Gift Card
		SSPP Hoodie
		MY GOAL
		 HOODIE SIZE Incidate Youth or Adult Size (only if donations reach \$200)

thank you!

JOIN OUR KNITTING CLUB

5th - 8th Grade
Tuesdays in the Library
2:30pm to 4:00pm

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN
 Basic Knitting Techniques • Reading Patterns
 • Project Completion • Troubleshooting

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
 Size 8 knitting needles • Acrylic or Cotton
 Yarn (Lions Brand or similar) • Snack

Please contact Mrs. Johnson at 616-755-3193, if
you have any questions

Knitting Club: Mrs. Johnson is starting a brand new knitting club for interested students in 5th through 8th grade! Knitting Club will be held on Tuesdays from 2:30pm-4:00pm. Please see the flyer for more information and the materials that will be needed!

SS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our Parish Staff

Parish Office: 616-527-3610

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

Website: 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

Liturgies This Week

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20-24, 27/
Mt 20:1-16*

Saturday, September 19

4:00 p.m. Sr. Teresita Tauyan, FAS
(Nelfa Ferguson)

Sunday, September 20

10:15 a.m. Intention of Tom Reinhardt
(Joan Blyth)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, September 21

– St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13

No Mass

Tuesday, September 22 – Weekday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

No Mass

7:00 p.m. K of C leads Rosary for Priests (CH)

Wednesday, September 23 – St. Pius of Pietrelcina

Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

No Confessions

No English or Spanish Masses

11:30 a.m. Rosary for Prison Ministry

6:00 p.m. Adoration

Thursday, September 24 – Weekday

Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Lk 9:7-9

No Mass

Friday, September 25 – Weekday

Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1-4/Lk 9:18-22

No Mass

Saturday, September 26

– SS. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

Eccl. 11:9 – 12:8/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Lk 9:43-45

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-9/Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32

Saturday, September 26

4:00 p.m. Intention of Chad Wickerink
(Joan Blyth)

Sunday, September 27

10:15 a.m. Paul Dieterle (Hemenway family)

12:00 p.m. Misa en español

September 19 & 20, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Sue Wizorek
Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe
EMs: Ronda Kapp, Mary Lou Mulick,
Phill Wizorek
Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:15 a.m. Lector: Kevin Kenney
Altar Servers:
Jacquelynn & Harper Bailey
EMs: Sam Meyer, Theresa Scholtens,
Laurie Tjalsma
Greeters: Dave O'Mara

September 26 & 27, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Cecilia Luke
Altar Servers: Adah Drown
EMs: Julie Bennett, Phill & Sue Wizorek
Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

10:15 a.m. Lector: Dan Lower
Altar Servers:
Alexis/Hans/Kendra Heinlein
EMs: Shannon Andrews, Sam Meyer,
Theresa Scholtens
Greeters: Deb Porter

Events This Week

Sunday, September 20

9-10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8
4:30-6 p.m. Fall Confirmation Candidate/
Sponsor Session (VR)

Monday, September 21

6:30 p.m. Priests' Convocation
Bible Timeline (VR)

Tuesday, September 22

1-2 p.m. Priests' Convocation
OCIA (PO)
5:30-6:30 p.m. OCIA (PO)

Wednesday, September 23

5-6 p.m. Priests' Convocation
Hispanic Confirmation Class (VR)

Thursday, September 24

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

Friday, September 25

Saturday, September 26

Sunday, September 27

9-10 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8
6:30 - 8 p.m. Church on Fire Parish Retreat (CH)

(VR) Veritas Room / (PO) Parish Office

God's Housekeepers September 20

General Cleaning

Jane Hemenway
Laurie Tjalsma

Vacuuming

John & Kathy
Curtin



A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another.

Our Parish Offering

Week of September 13, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$5,607.00
ACH Giving	\$3,870.00
QR Code Giving	\$270.44
Total Offertory	\$9,747.44

Budgeted Weekly	\$10,192.31
Deficit for the Week	\$444.87

Budgeted Year to Date	\$112,115.41
Actual Year to Date	\$104,982.42
Deficit Year to Date	\$7,132.99

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



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



The Gospel of Matthew

Join Dr. Tim Gray and Doctor Michael Barber as they begin studying the Gospel of Matthew by introducing St. Matthew and looking at chapter 1 of this incredible gospel. Our parish has a free Formed subscription just for you!

Visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more. *Have you signed up yet?* The next time you see a staff member let us know what you think about it. *Have you enjoyed your free formed subscription?*



Fly for the Knights: Fall Color Tour

For a second year in a row, soar over Ionia county with a skilled pilot and enjoy the brilliant fall colors as the birds see them - all while supporting a great cause. All proceeds above operating costs support the Knights of Columbus - Father Fierle Council #944.

What to Expect:

A thrilling ride in a small aircraft.
Breathtaking views of Michigan's fall foliage
Delicious fall treats
A safe and family-friendly experience

Location: Ionia County Airport
468 E Sprague Road; Ionia, MI 48846

Date & Time: Saturday, October 3, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rain Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per guest (2 person minimum) 15 minute airplane ride around Ionia County. This includes your scenic airplane ride, cider, doughnuts, and viewing of other aircrafts.

Notice: Scheduling and signing the waiver will be done on our Website or Facebook page electronically this year.

Payments will be collected the day of the rides. Cash, Check, Venmo, or Apple Pay are the only accepted payments this year. Please make all payments payable to Clear2Aviate LLC. Follow us on Facebook @Clear2Aviate or visit our website clear2aviate.com for up-to-date weather information beginning on Thursday, October 1, 2026 after 2 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Brad at 517-743-1390.

Reserve your
Fall Color Tour
Ride Time Online



CROP Hunger Walk

You can help make a difference in local and global hunger by walking in our CROP Hunger Walk this year on October 4. With a week or two to go, our congregation has a number of walkers participating. Won't you join them? To sign up to be a walker, contact Pat Rinker to get a Donation Envelope. If you can't walk, please sponsor a walker.

517-898-5676 CROP HUNGER WALK – 800.CWS.CROP – Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk. Checks payable to CWS/CROP.

Loving Hands of Christ: A Grief Support Series

Have you experienced the loss of someone you love? Grief can touch our hearts in many ways, and every loss is different. Whether your loss is recent or happened long ago, you don't have to walk through the journey alone. Loving Hands of Christ will offer a safe, caring, and compassionate place for anyone who has suffered a loss. Together, we can share our stories, listen to one another, find comfort, and remind each other that even in the midst of grief, there is hope.

Our next series will begin on October 3rd at 9:30am. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth in the parish office at 616-527-3610.

SSPP Annual Harvest Raffle

Have you received your Harvest Raffle tickets? We ask that you do your very best to sell your tickets (or buy them yourself and increase your odds of winning!). All funds raised go to the operating expenses of the parish, and this fundraiser is a vital part of our annual budget. Just like last year, we will be having a parish potluck on the day of the raffle, beginning after the 12:00 Mass, at approximately 1:00 p.m. The Knights of Columbus have volunteered to provide chicken for the main dish, but all salads, side dishes, rolls, and desserts will be welcome additions.

The raffle drawing will be held at 2:00 p.m. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$750, third prize is \$500, and three winners will receive a prize of \$100. One "Early Bird" winner will be drawn from the pool of all those who return all their tickets stubs, with the money, to the parish by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12. If you sell more than one batch of tickets, you will be entered for each batch of 20 that you sell. Thank you for your continuous support. We look forward to seeing you at the potluck and drawing on October 18th. Maybe this will be your year to win!

Faith Formation is Back!

We're excited to kick off another year of Faith Formation! 🎉

Faith Formation begins **September 20th** and is open to students in **Grades K–High School**. Come grow in faith, build friendships, and discover more about God together!

Pre-register today and get ready for a wonderful year of learning, growing, and living out our faith! Classes are held in our school from 9:00–10:00am. Registration forms are on the table in the back of church or online.

We will be adding a 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 Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

September

20 Fall Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Session 4:30–6:00 p.m.

27 Faith Formation Class K–High School

27 Parish Retreat 6:30–8:00pm at SSPP Church

November

10 Confirmation Mass Cathedral of St. Andrew at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Register for
Faith Formation Here



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Needed

Have you ever considered serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? Or 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 at SSPP on November 14th at 10am in the church.

If you have already completed the Diocesan training, we invite you to attend parish training on Friday, October 2nd or Monday, October 5th at 6pm 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.

Volunteers Needed for the Parish Retreat

We are looking for volunteers to help provide light refreshments for each night of our Parish Retreat. If you are able to lend a hand please sign up at the back of the church or contact Karen Meyers at 616.902.0618

Health Support Group Sessions

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



Join us in welcoming our new Knights of Columbus members!

We are grateful for their willingness to serve our parish, support those in need, and live out their faith through charity, unity, and fraternity.

New Members – Nik Discher, Zach Dick, Matthew VanCamp, and Matthew Meyer.

May God bless them abundantly as they begin this new journey of faith and service. Congratulations, gentlemen, and welcome to the Knights!

