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 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846
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Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

September 15, 2024
Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Pastor: **Fr. Tom Brown**
 616-527-3610, ext. 12
 616-755-1742 (evening)

School Principal: **Mrs. Jenny Leik**
 616-527-3561, ext. 18
 Email: jleik@ssppcatholic.com

Parish Office Hours
 Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule
 Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8 & 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. (bilingual)

Weekday Mass Schedule
 English: Mon & Wed, Mass at 12:10 p.m.
 Tues, Communion Service at 7:30 a.m.
 Thurs, Mass at 8:00 a.m. (school year)
 Fri, Mass at 7:30 a.m.

Reconciliation Schedule
 English: Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.
 Monday 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

For questions regarding Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, or any other sacrament, please call the parish office: 616-527-3610.

Prayer Chain
 If you have a prayer request for immediate need, please call 616-522-0279, or 616-527-0438.

Eucharist and Confession

For the last several weeks, we have thought and prayed about the greatest gift we have been given, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. It is such a tremendous gift! How do we prepare for it? Michael Brown has much to say. One very important gift is the presence of confession in our lives. He writes: "It is through the radiance, the fire of Jesus, that our sins are burned away. That is why so many envision fire falling from the sky. The Lord purifies with heavenly flames that issue from his heart. They come from the furnace of his love. Our evil is evaporated in the Presence of Christ and is especially dispelled through Confession."

"Confession prepares the way for the Eucharist and breaks the bonds of Satan. In verbally admitting our faults, we are declaring a humility that immediately chases away Satan. He cannot stand to be in our midst. He is the prince of pride. He cannot bear to stand in the presence of humility. He is powerless when a person is humble. He has no legal right to hold terrain. When we confess sins we are renouncing sins, which means we are renouncing the devil. When we renounce the devil in the Name of Jesus, he has no choice but to leave. His chains are broken. His hold on our minds and hearts is lessened or expelled altogether."

"During Holy Communion, demonic infestations are often chased from our very bodies or from around our family and friends. The stronger the confession, the more demonic resistance is cleared. The more demons that are expelled, the more peace we have. That is why before receiving Holy Communion, we should pray to the Holy Spirit to reveal any hidden faults we have never acknowledged and then take these to the confessional. A good time for such soul searching is during Adoration or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament. We should ask the Holy Spirit to allow us expiation of the slightest sins. Go back to Scripture and note the many things that are listed by St. Paul as infractions, things we don't usually take to be of much consequence. Jealousy. Outbursts of anger. Selfishness. They are listed for us in Galatians 5:19-21 along with lewd conduct. After we remember all of our past transgressions and after we pray to heal all those we have hurt, we must maintain vigilance against repeating them. Confession should be a practice to keep ourselves pure because when we are pure, when Christ has wiped the slate clean of those many sins, Holy Communion and Adoration become even more potent. They take on a special radiance. They sweep to the very bottom of existence and purge faults that will otherwise cause a long purgatory."

"There is nothing more enjoyable than the experience of being spiritually clean. Nor is there anything more important for a soul's destiny. At least once a year, during Lent, we should prepare for a special confession and search for hidden faults we did not realize during the year. When we finally recognize that we have been doing something offensive to God, we confess and are given a new inner peace. That peace comes through liberation from past bondages. Holy Communion becomes a powerful tool of deliverance. It's like the Lord snipping a rope that had been tying up part of us. There is a feeling of strength and cleanliness. There is liberation. Jesus said, 'If you live according to my teaching, you are truly my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'"

---from Secrets of the Eucharist by Michael Brown

We are one body in Christ!



The Week Ahead...

AH = Apostles Hall **CH** = Church
CR = Cornerstone Room **PO** = Parish Office
SC = School **VR** = Veritas Room
BC = Basement Chapel

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 50:4-9/Ps 116:1-6, 8-9/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Saturday, September 14

4:00 p.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish

Sunday, September 15

8:00 a.m. Ken Peabody & Bruce Hoeksema (Tom & Julie Bennett)

11:30 a.m. Luz Eneida Reyes (Eneida Kenney)

1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, September 16—Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-10, 17/Lk 7:1-10

11:00 a.m. Confessions

12:10 p.m. Brian Camacho (Tom & Julie Bennett)

Tuesday, September 17—St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 7:11-17

7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, September 18—Weekday

1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22/Lk 7:31-35

12:10 p.m. Jim Hayden (Colleen Hayden)

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

Thursday, September 19—St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

8:00 a.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish

Friday, September 20—Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1, 6-8, 15/Lk 8:1-3

7:30 a.m. Lori Haruska (Barbara Haruska)

Saturday, September 21—St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

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

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary

2:00 p.m. Burial Service for David LaBrosse II (Sunset Memorial)

3:00 p.m. Confessions

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-8/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Saturday, September 21

4:00 p.m. Bessie Cadwell (Hemenway family)

Sunday, September 22

8:00 a.m. Dennis Spitzley (Liz Currie & family)

11:30 a.m. Earl Allen (Johanna Allen)

1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF SEPT. 15

GENERAL CLEANING:

Pat Duffy, Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter

VACUUMING:

Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

Sunday, September 15—Twenty-Fourth Sunday

8:00 a.m. RCIA (PO)

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)

10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes begin for K-9

2:00 p.m. Hispanic Farewell for Fr. Gino (AH)

All are welcome!!

Monday, September 16

6:30 p.m. Monday Night Group (PO)

Tuesday, September 17

5:45 p.m. Community Awareness Mtg. (AH)

Wednesday, September 18

6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (AH)

Thursday, September 19

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

Friday, September 20

Saturday, September 21

9:30-10:30 a.m. Grief Support Session (PO)

10:00 a.m. Marriage Prep. Session (PO)

2:00 p.m. Burial Service for David LaBrosse II

Sunday, September 22—Twenty-Fifth Sunday

9-10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship (AH)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes for K-7

4:30-6 p.m. Fall Confirmation Sponsor/ Candidate Session (VR)

6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ (AH)



OUR PARISH OFFERING - September 7 & 8, 2024

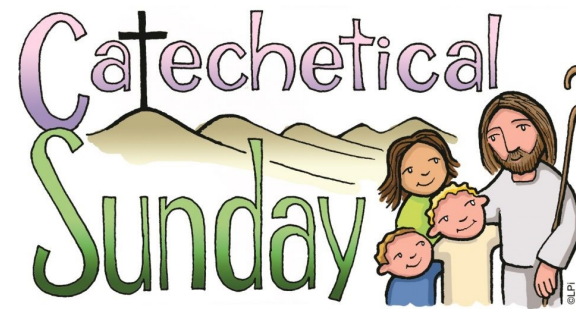
Regular Offertory Collection	\$7,012.26
Electronic Giving	1,310.00
Total	\$8,322.26
-5% Tithe	-416.11
Net Total	\$7,906.15

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69

Deficit for the Week: \$1,485.43

School Support: \$149.00

Please note that the offertory collection is only part of the income needed to operate the parish. Other funds come from school tuition, fundraising, Mass stipends, educational trust fund interest, sale of votive candles, etc.



The U.S. Bishops have designated September 15, 2024, as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. We are grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize other adults, youth, and children in our Faith Formation and RCIA Programs, in our Catholic School, and in other parish evangelization efforts.

September 21 & 22—Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Pat Rinker
 Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin
 EMs: Mary Perrien, Phill & Sue Wizorek
 Greeters: Volunteers

8:00 a.m. Lector: Veronica Meyer
 Altar Servers: Claire/Gabe/Anna Cusack
 EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Denise Peabody
 Greeters: Dave O'Mara

Prayer of Blessing for Catechists

Lord God,
 source of all wisdom and knowledge,
 you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us
 and to proclaim his message of faith, hope, and love
 to all nations.

In your goodness
 bless our brothers and sisters
 who have offered themselves as catechists
 for your Church.

Strengthen them with your gifts
 that they may teach by word and example
 the truth which comes from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Book of Blessings

11:30 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson
 Altar Servers: Raelynn Christensen, Lillian Mabe
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe,
 Theresa Scholtens
 Greeters: Pamela Pontius

Please pray for:

Lesley Williams	Russinda Rohde	Terri Nurenberg
Lois Walker	Landon Battle	Jessica Fritz
Tom Repik	Marsha Packer	Cole LeBarre
Gert Bennett	Jack & Sue LaPeer	Travis Eveleth
Steve Barber	Elizabeth Voet	Charles Timm
Reagan Crooks	Tamera Pierce	Larry Lafler
Amanda Baer	Angie Cedillo	Arlene Stanton
Ed Blyth	Jo Wirtz	Pat MacLachlan
Nancy Betz	Witney Fockler	Jim & Barb Mulnix
Jim & Sue Huver	Becky Wagner	Ken and Sherry North
Doug Zeeck	Amanda Eveleth	Nathan Lower
Randy Tripp	Martha Misak	Finnly Hunt
Mike Peckins	Jennifer Durden	Jerry & Maribeth Fritz
Glen Alvord	Beth Buffey	Tom White
Julie McClintock	Tom McClintock	Pamela Coggan
Heather Rensi	Chuck Tarpey	Joe Drysdale
Cherie Flinn	Renee Wagner	Nichole Munsell
Pamela Pontius	Michelle Richard-Mix	Jace Peterson
Anita Hozeski Scott	Sheila Jobbitt	Georgia Sibert
Karen Miller	Jennifer Lewis	
Pat Brockman	Mary O'Connor	
Pat McKinstry	Kym Coryell	

We continue to pray for all who need healing. If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the parish office. Be sure you have the consent of the person or a family member. Names will remain on the prayer list for three months. Requests may be renewed.

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Staff (616) 527-3610

Permanent Deacon	Zenon Cardenas	616-527-8942
Secretary	Cecilia Luke	ext. 10
Office Manager	Adam Rewa	ext. 11
Pastoral Services	Toni McKay	ext. 13
Music Director	Whitney Crooks	616-527-3610
Faith Formation	Vanessa Booth	ext. 21
Maintenance	Rod Bergeron	616-527-3610
Cemetery Sexton	Aaren Perry	616-527-3610

SS. Peter and Paul School (616) 527-3561

www.ssppcatholic.com		
Principal	Jenny Leik	ext. 18
Secretaries	Joann Johnson & Amie Heinlein	ext. 23

SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Pastoral Council

Shannon Andrews	Deb Campbell	Deb Trierweiler
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SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Finance Council

Chris Christensen	Kip Geldhof	Denise Peabody
Tom O'Connor	Dave O'Mara	Vanessa Booth

SS. Peter & Paul School - Board of Education

Tracey Bergeron	Kevin Heinlein	Ryan Walter
Cara Brownell	Anna Johnson	Rachel Wilson
Lauren Christensen	Deb Trierweiler	Allen Wizorek
Nik Discher		



Knights' Corner

Calling all men! Membership in the Knights of Columbus is a faith-filled experience. Join with our bishop and other Catholic men to support the good works of the Knights in matters of charity, fraternity, unity, and patriotism. Our bishop is asking every practicing Catholic man over age 18 to prayerfully consider becoming a member of this exemplary organization. Members of our local council will be available after Mass this weekend to share information and answer questions.

Tom O'Connor, Grand Knight
616-550-3865

Night of Prayer for Priests

From September 23 to 27, the priests of our diocese will gather for their annual convocation. The Diocese is asking all the parishes to have an hour of prayer specifically for them, and one of the suggested times is **Wednesday, September 25, from 6 to 7 p.m.** This, of course, is when our parish has Eucharistic Adoration each week. We would like to encourage everyone to make a special effort to attend Adoration that night and lift up our priests and our bishop in prayer. There is a special vocation, a life in service for us all, and they can certainly use our prayers. We will have Adoration in the church that night, rather than the chapel, so we'll have plenty of room.

Children should have the opportunity to learn their faith from a Bible that is at their own level. **THANK YOU for helping us build our Bible library in the Faith Formation Program.** We are still accepting donations that you drop in the collection basket or bring to the parish office. If you write a check, please make it payable to SS. Peter & Paul and write Faith Formation Bibles on the memo line.

I would also like to THANK all of our wonderful cookie bakers! **Faith Formation** Registration last week was a wonderful success. **Classes start this Sunday, September 15, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. in the school.** Please come early if you still need to drop off your registration forms. For more details, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

(CLOW) will be offered during the 4 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses again this year, beginning September 14 & 15. **Volunteers of all ages** are invited to consider helping the children of our parish hear the Word of God at their own level in a fun, interactive way. We need your help! We invite new and existing volunteers to contact Barb Montgomery at lkdog67@yahoo.com or Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for our lady Panthers volleyball team, through the intercession of St. Sebastian, for protection from injury and guidance in their commitment to their sport.

And for the prayer tree:

Please take one or more cards from the tree found in the back of our church. Each card has the name of one of our school families. Pray for that family—that they may flourish throughout this school year.

Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk

You can help make a difference in local AND global hunger by walking in our Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk this year on October 6. Our parish already has a number of walkers participating, and we invite you to join them. To sign up to be a walker and get a donation envelope, please contact Pat Rinker at 517-898-5676. If you're unable to walk with us, consider sponsoring a walker. Make your check payable to CWS/CROP and mail it to the parish office. For more information, visit: [Ionia Area CROP Hunger Walk](#)

Are you ready for Youth Group?

We will be starting the year off with a fun-filled Sunday evening on September 29th at 6 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Come and have fun learning about Christ in your life. Students from 8th through 12th grade are invited. See you there!! —Kevin Heinlein

Curious about the Catholic faith?

OCIA, the ministry of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) begins its weekly sessions this **Sunday, September 15, at 8:00 a.m.** We meet in the parish office living room, which can be entered through the stairway entrance off the parish office driveway. We invite you to come and see what Catholic Christians believe, what we do in striving to live our faith, and how we journey into becoming missionary disciples of Christ. If you've wondered about the Catholic faith, have questions, are feeling called to become Catholic, or are simply curious, we invite you to join us! No need to RSVP. Simply come and see what God has in store for all who turn toward him. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our Catholic faith with you!



*Come rest awhile
in the Lord's presence.
Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.
in the Basement Chapel*



Faith Formation

Classes are on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:15 for Kindergarten through High School

- Sept. 15 Classes begin
- Sept. 22 Classes for Kdg.— Grade 7
- Sept. 22 Fall Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Session 4:30— 6 p.m.
- Sept 29 Classes for Kdg.— Grade 8
- Sept 29 Confirmation Rite of Enrollment during 11:30 a.m. Mass
- Nov.3 Confirmation at 3 p.m. at Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids

For more information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610, or email vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Ministry of Consolation

Grief Support Series

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We invite you to attend this support group series. Each session offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. We are here to walk the journey with you. Sessions will be on Saturdays from 9:30—10:30 a.m. every other week in the parish office living room, beginning on September 21.

Health Support Group

Are you or a family member struggling with cancer or another serious health issue? Team members of the Ministry of Consolation invite you to join them for their monthly Health Support gatherings. Their next session will be held on Saturday, September 14, at 10 a.m. at Biggy Coffee in Ionia. All are welcome!

For more information about either of these Ministry of Consolation opportunities, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Walkowiak invites all couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries to join him on **Sunday, October 20, at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or calling Paloma Olvera at 616-288-0908.



DISCOVERING CHRIST
begins Sunday, September 22!
Register today!

Who will benefit from Discovering Christ?

Active Catholics, as well as nominal and inactive Catholics, non-Catholics, the unbaptized. Participants in this program move from just knowing about Jesus to actually encountering Him in a life changing way. Everyone is welcome!



Register Today! 3 ways:

1. Scan the QR code and complete the online registration form.
2. Access the online registration form at the link provided on our parish website (www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org), MyParish App (SS. Peter & Paul), or Facebook page (Saints Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church), and complete the form.
3. Complete a paper registration form, available in the church, and deposit in the basket provided on the Discovering Christ info table or the collection basket, or drop it off/mail to the parish office (434 High St., Ionia, MI 48846). You can also email a scanned copy to tmckay@ssppcatholic.com.

Discovering Christ Schedule:

Sunday Evenings, September 22—November 10
SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 434 High St., Ionia
(SSPP School Cafeteria)

Retreat Day, Sunday, October 27, 2-8 p.m.
St. Edward's Parish, 531 Jordan Lake St., Lake Odessa

Participant Testimony:

Atheist professor, Dr. Gloria Sampson, returns to the Church after 52 years.

The community she found through Discovering Christ helped answer many of the questions she had about the Catholic faith. "It was the availability of people to ask questions informally, not having to go directly to a priest with what seemed to me to be really stupid and dumb questions. They were there, they could answer them, they could bring forth things that I hadn't even thought about."

At the end of the series, there was an invitation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. She went and when she walked out of the confessional "felt free, felt ready to fly." She also returned to the Eucharist. She shared, "When I received the Eucharist for the first time after 52 years . . . I had to control myself to keep from weeping out of happiness." Now I actually feel an urge to evangelize." I tell my story in the hope that maybe it will help someone else come back to the Church. God is within us and He comes through us so that we can give to others."