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434 High Street, Ionia, MI 48846
 Phone: 616-527-3610

Website: www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org
 Email: parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com

October 20, 2024
 Twenty-Ninth 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.

Following Jesus

"...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many..." (Matt 26:26-28).

To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As his disciples, we are to learn from him and to follow his example of how to live. We are, therefore, called to be of service. Just as God sent his Son into the world with a mission, so also each one of us has a mission, a purpose in life. This mission is our vocation. It doesn't matter if we are young or old, lay or ordained, single or married. Each one of us has a mission, a job God created us to do. God created you in a specific time and a specific place with a set of gifts and talents to accomplish a specific mission. No one else can do it for you. Only you! This vocation you have has many responsibilities, but it also has its rewards. One is the wholesome feeling of self-worth that should be yours. Since you are important to God, you are indeed a very important person! Others may not rate you as such. Others may not see you as gifted and blessed. They may see you as just average. Your job may be relatively humble. You may be tempted to feel inferior from time to time. Yet remember that money, position, popularity---all these measures the world uses to measure success--- are nothing to God. If you are seeking to do his will, then every least action you do has everlasting value. No matter how the world sees you, every breath you draw is precious to God.

Because you were created by God out of great love and given a mission, a purpose in his plan, you are very important to God. In a human sense...God needs you. Our view of human life is sacred. **Every** human life. It is not pride. It is not vanity. Pride is declaring my independence from God and proclaiming that I am responsible for my own achievements. Vanity is a stupid preoccupation on God's lesser, natural gifts of looks or talents. It is not humility to pretend that we are of little importance, or that life is meaningless, or that I would not matter if I never existed. It would be belittling God's wisdom and goodness. Yes, without God we can do nothing. It is just as true that God's love has made us great. He has raised us up, given us a share in his divine life and an important role in life. Such is the greatness of God's endless love.

Your mission, your vocation, has another benefit. It is freedom from serious worry. If you believe that God really loves you (He does!) and that He wants what is best for you (He does!) and that He is all powerful (He is!) then you cannot worry very much or for very long. God already knows what is best and is able to accomplish anything. As St. Paul wrote, "If God is for us, who can stand against us?" So you cannot lose as long as you put your faith in God and try to do your best with the knowledge and the gifts God has given to you.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom

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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45

Saturday, October 19

4:00 p.m. Jack Wirtz (Jo Wirtz & family)

Sunday, October 20

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Stout (Hemenway family)
 11:30 a.m. Ken & Kate Miller (Karen Miller & sons)
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass
 2:30 p.m. Baptism of Camila Merced Alonso

Monday, October 21—Weekday

Eph 2:1-10/Ps 100:2-5/Lk 12:13-21
 11:00 a.m. Confessions
 12:10 p.m. Nicole Geldersma-Silva (George A. Wright)

Tuesday, October 22—St. John Paul II, Pope

Eph 2:12-22/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 12:35-38
 No Communion Service

Wednesday, October 23—St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Eph 3:2-12/(Ps) Is 12:2-6/Lk 12:39-48
 12:10 p.m. Henry & Kate Overbeck (Lillian Overbeck)
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)
 7:15 p.m. Choir practice (CH)

Thursday, October 24—St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Eph 3:14-21/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19/Lk 12:49-53
 8:00 a.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

Friday, October 25—Weekday

Eph 4:1-6/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 12:54-59
 7:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, October 26—Weekday

Eph 4:7-16/Ps 122:1-5/Lk 13:1-9
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-6/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Saturday, October 26

4:00 p.m. Living & deceased of Patrick & Carol Lewis families

Sunday, October 27

8:00 a.m. Ann & Frank Piselli (Bill & Elena Keller)
 11:30 a.m. Bertha Meier
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF OCT. 20

GENERAL CLEANING:

Maria Cardenas, Teresa Nuñez, Carolina Velasco

VACUUMING:

Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

Sunday, October 20—Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-9
 3:00 p.m. Harvest Raffle drawing (AH)
 6-8 p.m. Discovering Christ (AH)

Monday, October 21

10:00 a.m. MCC Loss Prevention Visit
 6:30 p.m. Monday Night Group (PO)

Tuesday, October 22

Wednesday, October 23

6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)
 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

Thursday, October 24

3:45 p.m. Life Fit (VR)
 Autumn Celebration & Chili Dawg Challenge (Main St., Ionia)

Friday, October 25

Saturday, October 26

9:30 a.m. Marriage Prep. Session (PO)
 10 a.m. EM Training (St. John the Baptist Hall Hubbardston)

Sunday, October 27—Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes K-9
 2-8 p.m. Discovering Christ Retreat (St. Edward Family Center, Lake Odessa)

Jesus says greatness is measured by giving one's self in service.

OUR PARISH OFFERING - October 12 & 13, 2024

Regular Offertory Collection	\$6,036.19
Electronic Giving	3,380.00
Total	\$9,416.19
-5% Tithe	-470.81
Net Total	\$8,945.38

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69
Deficit for the Week: \$391.50

School Support Fund \$216.45
 Mission Sunday \$50.00

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.

When praying the Rosary, you might wish to use these Pro-Life Intentions offered by the USCCB (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden

For all who are suffering from abandonment or neglect, that compassionate individuals will come forward to offer them comfort and aid.

The Scourging at the Pillar

That the victims of violence, torture, and slavery will be delivered from their suffering, find healing, and know that God is close to them.

The Crowning with Thorns

That the persecution of Christians will end in a new era of tolerance and respect for the religious freedom and conscience rights of all.

The Carrying of the Cross

For all who labor under burdens that seem too great to bear—due to illness, age, poverty, cruelty, or injustice—that our prayers and aid will lighten their crosses.

The Crucifixion

For an end to the death penalty, and for the release of all prisoners of conscience and all who have been wrongfully convicted.

October 26 & 27—Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Phill Wizorek
 Altar Servers: Levi & Logan Haskin
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Sue Wizorek
 Greeters: Volunteers

8:00 a.m. Lector: Veronica Meyer
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein
 EMs: Julie Bennett, Kevin Heinlein, Denise Peabody
 Greeters: Deb Porter

11:30 a.m. Lector: Monica Mabe
 Altar Servers: Shyla Johnson, Lillian Mabe
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe, Theresa Scholtens
 Greeters: Volunteers

Please pray for:

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

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

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

Cara Brownell	Nik Discher	Rachel Wilson
Andrew Bucholtz	Kevin Heinlein	Allen Wizorek
Lauren Christensen	Anna Johnson	



Knights' Corner

Last weekend our council held its annual Tootsie Roll Drive. Thanks to our members who spent time standing outside one of our local stores collecting donations, we brought in approximately \$1,100. These funds will help support Special Olympics, Freedom Acres, and the special education programs in our local schools. Thank you to all who participated or donated to this effort!

Mount Olivet Cemetery

On December 1st our cemetery will be closing for the winter. If you have any items on graves that you would like to protect from winter winds and weather, please retrieve them soon.

Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish Hall

342 S. Washington St., Hubbardston, MI 48845

Would you like to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in our parish? All Communion ministers, whether they serve Communion in church or bring the Communion to the sick or homebound, are required to be trained on diocesan norms. The next opportunity for this will be at St. John the Baptist Parish Hall in Hubbardston on Saturday, October 26, at 10 a.m. Training will be by Dr. Aaron Sanders, the diocesan Director of Liturgy. If you are interested in being trained, please go to www.grdiocese.org/ministries/worship. Scroll down to Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and click on "Register Here" for the session at St. John the Baptist. Then simply enter your first name, last name, phone number, email address, and whether you are new to this ministry or already scheduled. If you need help signing up or have questions, please call our parish office at 616-527-3610.

Advent by Candlelight

An Advent evening for women:

Beautifully decorated tables, dinner, prayer, music, special speaker, and community!

Monday, December 2nd, 6:00 p.m., Apostles Hall
Cost: \$12 - Dinner catered by Olivera's

Please prayerfully consider hosting a table of guests for this spectacular evening! We'd love to have 10 to 12 host tables, and we need your help! For information and guidelines for hosting a table, to reserve your table, or to make an individual reservation, please contact Toni at the parish office.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for the families around the local area that receive IM Kids 3rd Meals and all of those individuals who have donated to the jelly drive at the school. May all those faced with hunger feel the generosity of their communities.

Annual Collection for World Mission Sunday —this weekend, October 19 & 20

We are called to offer our prayers and financial help for the Church's missions around the world. There are extra envelopes for this collection on the table in the back of church. If you write a check, please make it payable to SS. Peter & Paul Church and write "Mission Sunday" on the memo line.

Our 2024 Harvest Raffle drawing for prizes totaling \$2,550 is on Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m. in Apostles Hall.



Be sure your raffle returns are in the parish office by noon on October 20th so we'll have time to process them for the drawing.

From the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Some of you may remember the newspaper from 2022 entitled the "Michigan Catholic Tribune." We have become aware of its presence again here in Michigan including within our diocese. In 2022, the newspaper was mailed to random households within the diocese, both Catholic and non-Catholic. The Tribune falsely presents itself as a Catholic publication and includes politically-related content meant to assist Catholic voters in casting their ballots. The publication is **not** in alignment with *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*.

This publication and its accompanying website are not endorsed by nor are they affiliated with the Diocese of Grand Rapids or the Catholic Church.

The diocese did not share mailing information for this publication. We never sell parishioner contact information.



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



Faith Formation

Classes are on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. for Kindergarten through High School. It is never too late to register. Join us today!

- Oct. 20 Classes for all grades
- Oct. 27 Classes for all grades
- Nov. 3 Classes for K-8
- Nov. 3 Confirmation 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids. Arrive by 2 p.m.
- Nov. 10 Classes for all grades
- Nov. 10 1st Reconciliation Parent & Student Meeting 10:15 a.m. in classroom

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 are on Saturdays from 9:30—10:30 a.m. every other week in the parish office living room. Our next 2 sessions are on October 19 and November 2.

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. The next session will be held on Saturday, November 9, at 10 a.m. at Biggby 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



Children's Liturgy of the Word

(CLOW) is being offered during the 4 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses. **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 invite new and existing volunteers to contact Barb Montgomery at lkydog67@yahoo.com or Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com for more information.

Ionia Ministerial Association
Friends of Jesus Fund
Fundraiser at El Mariachi Restaurant
412 West Main St., Ionia

Come and have lunch or supper at El Mariachi on Tuesday, October 29, between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 10% of all food and beverage revenue will go to support the Friends of Jesus Fund, which helps local people with emergency shelter, rent assistance, utilities, and other pressing needs.

The Ionia Ministerial Association started the Friends of Jesus Fund in November 2016 as a way for the churches to work together to answer calls for help. In a typical month, we receive around 65 calls and are able to help 20 or so families. The average amount of assistance is approximately \$120, and in the course of a year we distribute almost \$30,000.

We are very grateful to the Velasco family and El Mariachi Restaurant for their generosity and willingness to host this event. Bring your family, friends, and appetite, and help spread the word. Let's fill the restaurant on October 29 as we help those in our community who most need our help!



Curious about the Catholic faith?

OCIA, the ministry of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) holds its weekly sessions on **Sundays 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!

October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

We invite you to join us as we pray the Rosary together, beginning 30 minutes before the start of the 4 p.m., 8 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. weekend Masses in October. **Volunteers are needed to lead the Rosary.** If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of church, or call the parish office at 616-527-3610.

