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

December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

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.



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS
 Office of the Bishop

December 15, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City to commence Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope. He has asked bishops to open the Jubilee Year in their local dioceses on the following weekend, December 29, the Feast of the Holy Family.

It is fitting that the opening of the Jubilee Year follows the holy season of Advent, a time when we reflect deeply on our reason for Christian hope. If the Eternal Word had not "become flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14), we would be hopeless, but "Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1655).

We too are pilgrims like those involved in the Nativity story: Joseph and Mary, the shepherds, and the magi. May this Jubilee be an "intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ," (Spes non Confundit, 6) just as all of them experienced on that night 2,000 years ago.

I invite all of you to the opening Mass for the Holy Year. The liturgy will begin at 3 p.m. in the Catholic Central High School gym where we can gather and process together as pilgrims into the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

I look forward to walking with you as Pilgrims of Hope during this upcoming Holy Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Walkowiak

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
 Bishop of Grand Rapids

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18/(Ps) Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Saturday, December 14

4:00 p.m. Deceased members of Caswell & Stephan families (Elaine Caswell)

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Aloyse & Theresa Dietrich
 11:30 a.m. Melvin Finkler
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

Monday, December 16—Advent Weekday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17/Ps 24:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
 11:00 a.m. Confessions
 12:10 p.m. Tom Repik (Tom & Kitty Lower)

Tuesday, December 17—Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
 No Mass or Communion Service

Wednesday, December 18—Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 12:10 p.m. Intention of Milena Jasnic (Christine Bewell)
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

Thursday, December 19—Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 8:00 a.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish

Friday, December 20—Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38
 7:30 a.m. Intention of Donald Trump, his family, & his cabinet (Christine Bewell)

Saturday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor

Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday, December 21

4:00 p.m. George & Florence (Beaulieu) Berckley (Lillian Overbeck)

Sunday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Roy & Dee Cook (Kurt & Laurie Tjalsma)
 11:30 a.m. Phillip & Eileen Lower (Tom & Kitty Lower)
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass
 3-5 p.m. Confessions

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF DEC. 15TH

GENERAL CLEANING:

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

VACUUMING:

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Family School Council Meeting (SC)
 10:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)
 Faith Formation K-12: Advent Party

Monday, December 16

6:30 p.m. Santa's Secret Shop (VR)
 Monday Night Group (PO)

Tuesday, December 17

5:45 p.m. Santa's Secret Shop (VR)
 Community Awareness Meeting (AH)

Wednesday, December 18

1:00 p.m. Parish Staff Meeting (PO)
 6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

by 8:30 a.m. Flowers for homebound arrive (sacristy)

Saturday, December 21

9-10 a.m. Delivery of Food Baskets (garage)

Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. No Faith Formation—Christmas Break
 OCIA (PO)
 2:30 p.m. Help decorate church for Christmas
 3-5 p.m. Confessions



OUR PARISH OFFERING - December 7 & 8, 2024

Regular Offertory Collection	\$8,687.57
Electronic Giving	1,705.00
Total	\$10,392.57
-5% Tithe	-519.63
Net Total	\$9,872.94

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69
Surplus for the Week: \$584.88

Campaign for Human Development: \$60.00
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$2,834.00
 Christmas Baskets: \$520.00
 School Support: \$198.00

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.

Advent Confession Times

Saturday, December 14 3 – 3:45 p.m.
 Monday, December 16 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Saturday, December 21 3 – 3:45 p.m.
 Sunday, December 22 3-5 p.m.
 Monday, December 23 11 a.m.—12 p.m.

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 21
 4:00 p.m. Mass
 Sunday, December 22
 8:00 a.m. Mass
 11:30 a.m. Mass
 1:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass

Christmas Masses

Tuesday, December 24
 4:00 p.m. Mass with Children's Choir
 8:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass
 10:00 p.m. Mass with Adult Choir
 (preceded by Adult Choir at 9:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 25
 9:00 a.m. Mass

December 21 & 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. Lector: Phill Wizorek
 Altar Servers: Jaclyn Rewa
 EMs: Cecilia Luke, Garry & Mary Lou Mulick
 Greeters: Volunteers
 8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Veronica Meyer,
 Laurie Tjalsma
 Greeters: Deb Porter

11:30 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson
 Altar Servers: Charlotte & Lillian Mabe
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe
 Theresa Scholtens
 Greeters: Volunteers

Please pray for:

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

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

In the middle of all the activities we have been involved with lately—serving breakfasts, the Advent Evening, hosting the spelling bee, moving totes for the Christmas baskets, etc., we have another opportunity this Thursday for some quiet prayer and reflection. The monthly hour of adoration that our diocesan chaplain has asked us to hold for vocations will be held this week at St. Charles Parish in Greenville. This will be held on December 19th from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience Opportunities

Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas by committing to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences will be held January 17-19 at St. Lawrence Parish in Utica; February 28-March 2 at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw; and April 4-6 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Apply today at wwme.org, or contact Amy & Joe Kopacz at 517-667-0433 for more information.

Cherish Marriage 2025

Join other couples from across the Diocese of Grand Rapids for a night to strengthen your marriage. The annual Cherish Marriage event is planned for Friday, February 7, 2025, at Watermark Country Club. The evening runs from 6 – 11 p.m.

Peter & Debbie Herbeck from Renewal Ministries will be the keynote speakers. Registration is now open at CherishMarriage.net. Don't delay; this event always sells out.

Exploring Priesthood Discernment Opportunities 2025

If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet each month with other young men in high school and college to gather and discern God's will for your life. Meetings are held at St. Luke University Parish, 10144 42nd Ave., Georgetown Twp., MI 49428 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on the dates shown below. You may RSVP to preynolds@grdiocese.org to let us know you are coming—or just show up.

If you have questions, you may also contact Fr. Stephen Durkee, Director of Priestly Vocations, at sdurkee@grdiocese.org, or Fr. Rob Mulderink, Associate Director, at frrob@lukespot.com.

2025 Discernment dates are January 19, February 16, March 23, and May 4.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray that God will work through our school community to increase the strength of will for doing good and that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming.

Christmas Flower Memorials

You are invited to honor your loved ones, living or deceased, by offering a Christmas Flower Memorial. Pick up a form from the table in the back of church, write the names of those you wish to be remembered, and make a suggested donation of \$10 per name. Requests and donations should be in the parish office **by Sunday, December 15**. The names of those honored will be published in our church bulletins during the Christmas season.

Coffee and Rolls?

We would like to begin having Coffee and Rolls after the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass on a regular basis again. To do this we need a few more individuals (or small groups) who would be willing to host. If you would be willing to give this a go, please contact the parish office. Our goal is to have enough volunteers so that people would only be scheduled every six weeks or so. Looking forward to hearing from you!



More Volunteers Welcome!!!

We will soon be preparing new schedules for our **church cleaning teams, vacuuming teams, collection counting teams, and bulletin stuffing teams for 2025**. New volunteers are **always** welcome, but this would be the PERFECT time for you to consider joining a team, forming a new one, or letting us know that you need to step down. Please call Cecilia at the parish office (616-527-3610) for more information or to volunteer.

Our Children's choir will be singing at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. We hope you can join us! - Whitney

Here is the rehearsal schedule:

Dec 8, 15, 22: 10:45—11:15 a.m. in the choir loft
 December 18 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the choir loft
 December 24 Arrive at 3:15 for the 4 p.m. Mass
 January 5 Sing our special song at the Epiphany Concert at 3 p.m.

Come help decorate the church for Christmas!
 Sunday, December 22, 2024
 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass (about 2:30 p.m.)
 All are welcome!



Faith Formation

Classes run from 10:15-11:15am on Sunday mornings for Kindergarten—High School. It is never too late to register – join us today!

Dec 15 Faith Formation Classes K-12. Advent Party

Dec 22 & 29 No Classes – Christmas Break

Jan 5 Faith Formation Classes K-12

Jan 12 Faith Formation Classes K-8

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

Sacraments

Is there a Sacrament that you meant to prepare your child to receive but were unable to? We would love to talk to you and work with your family to help with the preparation. Please contact Vanessa at (616) 527-3610 or vbooth@sspccatholic.com.

Health Support Group

Are you or a family member struggling with a 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, December 14, at 10 a.m. at Bigby Coffee in Ionia. All are welcome!



Thank you! All our families have been adopted, but there are still several ways you can help:

- Donate non-perishable food items for the families' food totes. Leave them at Mary's altar in the church by Thursday, December 19.
- Donate new games or toys for ages 1-12. Leave them at Mary's altar by Thursday, Dec. 19.
- Make monetary donations via cash or gift cards. Place in a labeled envelope and bring to the parish office by Thursday, December 19.
- Help move food totes from the parish office basement to the garage on Friday, December 20, to prepare for pick-up day.
- Help load food totes into adopters' cars on delivery day (Saturday, December 21, 9-10 a.m., at the parish garage. Totes are heavy!)
- Deliver food totes and gifts for adopting families who are unable to do so themselves.

MONDAY NIGHT SCRIPTURE STUDY

"The Advent of Christ: Scripture Reflections to Prepare for Christmas"

JOIN US in our season of preparation - ADVENT! Contact Toni at the parish office to reserve your study materials. It's not too late!

Christmas Card Exchange

Save a stamp! Parishioners may drop their Christmas greeting cards in the box in the back of church **from now through December**. Use first and last names when addressing the cards. Please do not place anything inside the cards/envelopes except your wishes. Cards in the mailbox will be sorted and placed in alphabetical order on the same table. Be sure to check each week for cards sent to you!

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.

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!

Midnight Mass and Concert to be broadcast from the Cathedral of St. Andrew on FOX 17 and online

The Prelude of Carols followed by Midnight Mass will be broadcast live from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on FOX 17 and on the diocesan website, grdiocese.org, on Christmas Eve. The concert begins at 11 p.m. followed by Mass at midnight.

On Christmas morning, there will be a replay of the Mass on FOX 17 at 7 a.m.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give NECESSITIES to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.