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 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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

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

February 2, 2025
The Presentation of the Lord

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. en español

Weekday Mass Schedule
 English: Mon & Wed, Mass at 12:10 p.m.
 Tues, No Mass or Service
 Thurs, Mass at 8:00 a.m. (school year)
 Fri, No Mass or Service

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.

Love for God

In our reading from the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 10 last week, Moses spoke to the people, saying:

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord, your God, ask of you but to fear the Lord, your God, and follow his ways exactly, to love and serve the Lord, your God, with all your heart and all your soul, to keep the commandments and statues of the Lord which I enjoin on you this day for your own good?"

Think!

The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to the Lord, your God, as well as the earth and everything on it. Yet, in his love for your fathers, the Lord was so attached to them as to choose you, their descendants, in preference to all other peoples, as indeed He has done now.

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and be no longer stiff-necked. For the Lord, your God, is the God of gods, the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes; who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him. So you too must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. The Lord, your God, shall you fear, and him you shall serve; hold fast to him and swear by his name. He is your glory...

Love the Lord your God, therefore, and always heed his charge, his statues, decrees and commandments...I set before you here, this day, a blessing and a curse; a blessing for obeying the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin on you today; a curse if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, but instead turn aside from the way I ordain for you today, to follow other gods whom you have not known."

We see these words that Moses spoke as also applying to us as Christians, for we have been baptized and are spiritual members of the Church, the family of God. We strive to keep God's commandments, for we love our Lord and God. No one who loves only himself is capable of loving God. If a person loves no one but himself, he seeks his own glory; but the person who loves God loves the glory of his creator.

So let us, who love God, rejoice in his glory as we look forward to joining with him in the greatness of heaven! 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

The Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

Saturday, February 1

4:00 p.m. Pat Brockman (Tom & Julie Bennett)

Sunday, February 2

8:00 a.m. Aloyse & Theresa Dietrich
 11:30 a.m. Bertha Meier
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, February 3—St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/Mk 5:1-20

11:00 a.m. Confessions
 12:10 p.m. Katie Fox (Her relatives in Germany)
(Blessing of throats after Mass)

Tuesday, February 4—Weekday

Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26-28, 30-32/Mk 5:21-43
 No Mass or Service

Wednesday, February 5—St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18/Mk 6:1-6

12:10 p.m. Angela Priest
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

Thursday, February 6—St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-4, 9-11/Mk 6:7-13

8:00 a.m. Dorothy Springsteen (Hemenway family)

Friday, February 7—Weekday

Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9/Mk 6:14-29
 No Mass or Service

Saturday, February 8—St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 6:30-34

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-8/Ps 138:1-5, 7-8/1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 5:1-11

Saturday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 9

8:00 a.m. Sister Donna
 11:30 a.m. Bill Bushong (Bennett & Cope families)
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF FEB.2

GENERAL CLEANING:

**Kip Geldhof, Colleen Pierce,
 Ann Buck, Paula Geldhof**

VACUUMING:

Shannon Andrews, Debra Sochor

Sunday, February 2—The Presentation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8
 6:00 p.m. Following Christ (AH)

Monday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting (VR)

Wednesday, February 5

6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thursday, February 6

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

Friday, February 7

Saturday, February 8

9:30 a.m. Marriage prep. session (PO)
 11:00 a.m. Marriage prep. session (PO)
 1:30 p.m. Baptism prep. session (PO)

Sunday, February 9—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8
 6:00 p.m. Following Christ (AH)



OUR PARISH OFFERING: January 25 & 26, 2025

Regular Offertory Collection	\$6,677.00
Electronic Giving	1,310.00
Total	\$7,987.00
-5% Tithe	-399.35
Net Total	\$7,587.65

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69

Deficit for the Week: \$1,820.69

Catholic Charities USA (L.A. Fire Relief): \$1,281.00

School Annual Appeal: \$540.00

School Support Fund: \$20.00

Flowers: \$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.

Rebuilding Our Pastoral Council

In light of the current diocesan "Rooted in Christ" pastoral planning process, our parish is working to reestablish the monthly meetings of our Pastoral Council. The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to work with the Pastor as a consultative body. Through prayer and study, they seek to help the pastor decide how the parish can best meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the community.

A current issue is the declining number of priests. Fr. Tom is responsible for presiding at Masses here and at St. Edward's Parish in Lake Odessa. He currently presides at six Masses per weekend—well over the number prescribed for one priest. We need to find a better solution.

We ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve on the Pastoral Council. We need parishioners to be active on the council so that future decisions reflect the voice of the community, and are made with prayer, discussion, and discernment.

If you would like to nominate a parishioner to serve on the council, or if you yourself would like to serve, please contact Toni McKay at the parish office. We hope to begin meeting soon.

February 8 & 9, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

8:00 a.m. Lector: Steve O'Mara
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein
 EMs: Julie Bennett, Veronica Meyer,
 Laurie Tjalsma
 Greeters: Dave O'Mara

Please pray for:

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

Our monthly business meeting is this Tuesday, February 4th, in the Veritas Room. Join us for the rosary at 7:00 and the meeting following at 7:30. With the season of Lent on the horizon, we have a lot to discuss. Join us if you can!

End of Year Statements

Would you like a copy of your parish contribution statement for 2024? Please call the parish office (616-527-3610) and we will mail it to you.

Blessing of Throats on the Memorial of St. Blaise – February 3

Fr. Tom Brown will be blessing throats after the 12:10 p.m. Mass on Monday, February 3.

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mary and Joseph must have been proud when their village “all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at his words.” But they probably felt shame when the same people drove him out of town. Like Mary and Joseph, the highs and lows of parenting are our path to being a Holy Family.



Join us as we raise money, food donations, and awareness of hunger in and beyond our community. On February 8 & 9, representatives from SS. Peter & Paul Parish and School will be collecting donations before and after our weekend Masses which will be donated to the Ionia Food Pantry. For information on how you can be involved, please contact Vanessa Booth at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com. Thank you for your donations of time, talent and treasure.

Save these Dates & Beat the Winter Blues!

Wednesday, February 19: BINGO!
Following Mass @ 1:00 p.m., Veritas Room
Bring a lunch-time snack and a \$5 gift.
Friday, February 28: EUCHRE TOURNAMENT!
6:00 p.m., Apostles Hall
Bring a dish to pass.
Details for how the tournament will be run will be announced soon!

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray for the success of the upcoming Souper Bowl of Caring donation drive. May all of those experiencing hunger find their fill. May those who are able to donate do so, and do so generously.

Exploring Priesthood Discernment Opportunities



Discernment is a time of obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. 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. Feel free to just show up, or email preynolds@grdiocese.org to let us know you are coming. If you have questions, you may also email our Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr. Rob Mulderink: frrob@lukespot.com.

Discernment Meeting Dates:
February 16, March 23, & May 4
12:30-1:30 p.m.

St. Luke University Parish
10144 42nd Ave.
Georgetown Twp. MI 49428

Touched by Mercy

Those affected by suicide are invited to **Touched by Mercy** on March 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Life Process Center, Lowell Campus, 11650 Downes St. NE. Join us for this day of reflection led by Sister Colleen Ann Nagle FSE, MA, LPC. Lunch is included. Cost is \$65. Register at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/TBM2025>. Scholarships are available.



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



Faith Formation

Classes are held on Sunday mornings in the school from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. It's never too late to register!

- Feb. 2 Faith Formation Classes K-8
- Feb. 8 & 9 Souper-Bowl of Caring
(Donations for our local food pantry collected before & after all Masses)
- Feb. 9 Faith Formation Classes K-8
- Feb. 16 No Faith Formation Classes
(Midwinter Break)

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

Saint Exchange

Students in the Faith Formation program will be participating in a saint exchange leading up to Valentine's Day. We are asking for any donations such as saint cards, medals, etc., that you may have to help them with this exchange. Please drop off donations at the parish office or contact Vanessa Booth. Thank you in advance for helping us teach our students more about the lives of the saints.

Grief Support Group

Have you suffered the loss of a loved one or experienced a loss in your professional or personal life? We invite you to join our next grief support group series, which begins on February 22 and meets in the parish office living room from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Each of the sessions offers a topic of discussion, as well as time to reflect, listen, and share if one chooses. We want you to know that are not alone and we are here to walk the journey with you. For more information, please contact Vanessa at vbooth@ssppcatholic.com or 616-527-3610.

Health Support Group

Are you or a family member struggling with cancer or another serious health issue. No matter where you are in your health journey, we are here for you. Our support group is now reaching out to invite anyone who is facing a serious health challenge. Team members of the Ministry of Consolation will be offering Health Support gatherings on the third Saturday of each month. Our next group will be on Saturday, February 15, at Bigby Coffee beginning at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Vanessa at 616-527-3610, or vbooth@ssppcatholic.com.

Anchor – Middle School Youth Event

Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School
Cost: \$40 per person
(Optional additional costs: \$10 lunch & \$10 T-shirt)
Register by February 21 at AnchorMichigan.com

Join hundreds of 6th-8th grade youth from Michigan to powerfully encounter Jesus. National speakers such as Catholic influencer Emily Wilson, Brian Greenfield, music by Encounter Worship, and Bishops from across Michigan will lead the day. There will be plenty of fun, alongside opportunities for Mass, confession, praise and worship, and prayer. Families, youth and school groups are encouraged to sign up today!

2025 Kepha Men's Conference

Registration is now open for the 2025 Conference! Sign up for this powerful event. This year's speakers are Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC; Trent Horn; and Fr. Jeger Fickel, pastor of St. Mary-St. Paul Parish in Big Rapids.

Be renewed in your faith and empowered to be the man God is calling you to be.

Date: Saturday, March 8
Location: Our Lady of Consolation, Rockford, MI
Time: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Confessions: Available before the Conference: 6:45-7:45 a.m.
Registration & more information: buildingalegacy.org
Cost: \$40 for men ages 23 & up
\$25 for students ages 13-22
\$23 for family (minimum 4 tickets)
Max. capacity: 750—1st come, 1st served

2025 Kepha Women's Night

"Empowered by TRUTH to Make a Difference in the World"

Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,
1935 Plymouth Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Cost: \$10 (buildingalegacy.org)

Join Trent Horn, (Catholic Answers host, author, & podcaster), for an evening of music, prayer, and sisterhood.

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):

Register today for a life-changing **REFLECT weekend retreat** at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt on February 21-23. Cost is \$230 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.