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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

January 12, 2025 The Baptism 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. (bilingual)

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, Mass at 7:30 a.m. on January 10

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.

John the Baptist and Jesus

We all remember with great joy the story of Jesus coming to earth. How Mary said yes to God's angel and then traveled to see her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth's unborn son John leaped for joy inside his mother's womb. How did the unborn John sense the approach of the Son of God? And this was just the beginning of his story. John was born, and his parents named him John, just as the angel had directed. Although John and Jesus were cousins, we don't hear anything about their growing up together, except that they didn't spend any time with each other. It is roughly 90 miles on foot to get from Mary's house to Elizabeth's. That would be like walking from Lansing to downtown Detroit. Add in no phones and no mail, and it's not surprising they never met each other. Until we get to this weekend with the Baptism of the Lord.

St. Luke gives us an extraordinarily precise date for the beginning of John's ministry. He writes, "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness." He went throughout the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He was "the voice of one crying out in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord." Many are surprised and ask John how they can do it! In addition to his baptisms, John preached changing their lives. Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise. Tax collectors were told to stop collecting more than was prescribed. Soldiers were told not to practice extortion and to be satisfied with their wages. So John continued to preach and teach the people.

Some thought John might be the Messiah. But John was firm. NO! I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. I baptize you with water. He will do so with the Holy Spirit and fire. John testified further saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God."

When Jesus comes to John the Baptist for his baptism, John tries to talk him out of it, saying "I need to be baptized by you and yet you are coming to me?" But Jesus insisted that John allow it for now. So it was. After Jesus was baptized, He came up out of the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him and they saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." Many saw and heard it.

These words and many more are familiar to us. We have heard of them, read them, and listened to homilies about them. But the real question is, have we taken them to heart? Do we believe? Are we putting these words from God into practice in our lives?

May God bless you!
 Fr. Tom

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

JANUARY 12, 2025

We are one body in Christ!



The Week Ahead...

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1-4, 24-25, 27-30/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Saturday, January 11

4:00 p.m. Dennis Finkler

Sunday, January 12

8:00 a.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish
 11:30 a.m. Catherine Verdun
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

Monday, January 13—St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9/Mk 1:14-20
 11:00 a.m. Confessions
 12:10 p.m. Sherry Roberson (Tim & Jane Hemenway)

Tuesday, January 14—Weekday

Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2, 5-9/Mk 1:21-28
 No Mass or Service

Wednesday, January 15—Weekday

Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Mk 1:29-39
 11:00 a.m. Funeral Mass for Patricia Brockman
 (No 12:10 p.m. Mass today)
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

Thursday, January 16—Weekday

Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-11/Mk 1:40-45
 8:00 a.m. Peter & Edith Brown

Friday, January 17—St. Anthony, Abbot

Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3-4, 6-8/Mk 2:1-12
 No Mass today, or on Fridays going forward,
 until further notice. See article in bulletin.

Saturday, January 18—Weekday

Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary
 1:30 p.m. Baptism of Arabella Rose Kobera
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Saturday, January 18

4:00 p.m. Fritz Sutter (Tom & Julie Bennett)

Sunday, January 19

8:00 a.m. Dennis Spitzley (Jack & Carole Hausserman)
 11:30 a.m. Mary Ellen Thome (Mildred Brown)
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF JAN. 12

GENERAL CLEANING:

Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

VACUUMING:

Chris & Pilya Christensen, Joe Thelen

Sunday, January 12—The Baptism of the Lord

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

Monday, January 13

6:30 p.m. Rooted in Christ—Pastoral Planning
 Process Meeting (AH)

Tuesday, January 14

6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Library)
 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus meeting (VR)

Wednesday, January 15

6:30 p.m. Rooted in Christ—East Deanery
 Planning Committee Meeting (AH)
 6:30-8 p.m. TOPS (VR)
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thursday, January 16

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

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

10:00 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby)
 11:30 a.m. Marriage Prep. Session (PO)

Sunday, January 19—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



OUR PARISH OFFERING: January 1-5, 2025

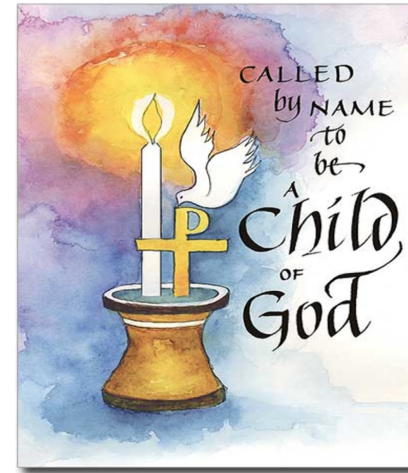
Regular Offertory Collection	\$7,721.00
Electronic Giving	1,680.00
Total	\$9,401.00
-5% Tithe	-470.05
Net Total	\$8,930.95

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69
Deficit for the Week: \$406.69

School Support: \$27.00
 School Annual Appeal: \$20.00
 Christmas Baskets: \$1.00

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD



On this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we celebrate all those who were baptized in Saints Peter & Paul Church during the past year. May they, and all the baptized, walk always as children of God!

January 18 & 19, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lector: Phill Wizorek
 Altar Servers: Autumn/Kendall/Kyle Cusack
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Mary Perrien
 Greeters: Volunteers

11:30 a.m. Lector: Nancy Wilson
 Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey
 EMs: Shannon Andrews, Monica Mabe,
 Barb Mulnix
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

8:00 a.m. Lector: Jamie Meyer
 Altar Servers: Paul & Sam Meyer
 EMs: Cheryl & John Hildebrandt, Laurie Tjalsma
 Greeters: Dave O'Mara

Please pray for:

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	
Glen Alvord	Jennifer Lewis	
Heather Rensi	Mary O'Connor	
Cherie Flinn	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.

Nora Marie Hamberg	Wyatt Steven Selfridge
Glenna Rose Miller	Ava Berin Curtin
Evelyn Mabel Moser	Jordan Dean Bauer
William James Crawford	Lincoln Joseph Hansen
Quinn Marie Host	James Francis Desrochers
Brady Alexander Host	Camila Merced-Alonso
Mia Annaleah Dolan	Levi Alan Darnell
Isaias Hernandez-Duran	Shane Patrick Mulford
Ismael Garcia-Duran	Junia Faye Mulford
Arya Arlene Lamoreaux	Saoirse Galadriel Mulford
Maren May Konyndyk	Lucas Xavier Mulford

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

Even though we did not have our monthly business meeting this past Tuesday as we ordinarily would, we did have our first raffle drawing of 2025. Congratulations to our winners: Denny Hybarger, Jo Wirtz, Roger Cardenas, and Trevor McClintic!

We will have our meeting this Tuesday, January 14th. We hope to see you there for the rosary at 7:00 and the meeting at 7:30!

**Rooted in Christ
Pastoral Planning Process Meeting**

Monday, January 13, 6:30 p.m., Apostles Hall

As Bishop Walkowiak announced earlier this year, it has been more than a decade since the Diocese of Grand Rapids held a pastoral planning process. It is now time to create an updated plan to assess the needs and resources of our local church, and to explore opportunities for growth and evangelization.

The process involves data collection, parish visits, and dialogue to identify challenges and opportunities facing our parishes, schools, and the diocese.

On Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. we will have a meeting in Apostles Hall for anyone who would like to learn more about how this process will affect our parish. Our parish representatives, Ray Voet and Laurie Tjalsma, will present the key findings for the East Deanery and create an understanding of the present reality and projected future. We will also discuss "possibilities for future ministry" and identify those that are priorities for our parish. The priorities that come out of our parish meeting will be brought back to the deanery-wide planning committee.

Our Epiphany Concert was a huge success!

We had over 100 people in church, including our dedicated musicians. Thank you to all who attended and donated. We have almost enough money to cover an organ tuning. If you'd like to contribute, please let me know. Save the date for next year's concert: January 4, 2026! Our Mary concert will be happening in May as well. Blessings - Whitney

*Please Note ***Friday Masses*** Please note* Beginning on January 17th and going forward, there will be no daily Masses on Fridays at SS. Peter & Paul and St. Edward's until further notice. Fr. Tom Brown and his sisters will be taking turns caring for their mother, and Fridays are Fr. Tom's days.

Panther Prayer Corner

Please pray that as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, those seeking entry into the Catholic Church have the support of our faith and school community.

Monday Night Scripture Study Group

There will be no session on January 13. We will resume on Monday, January 20, with *Spes Non Confundit, Hope Does Not Disappoint*, Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025.

Join us as we enter the Jubilee reflecting on Pope Francis' message of Hope. "In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of this Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those pilgrims of hope who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local churches. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' (Jn 10:7-9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as 'our hope'. (1 Tim 1:1)"

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus was publicly affirmed by his Father: "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed affirmation, and so do our children.

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.

Faith Formation Classes for Grades K-8

Sundays 10:15—11:15 a.m.

January 12, 19, & 26; February 2 & 9

First Reconciliation Retreat

Saturday, January 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Veritas Rm.

It's not too late to register!

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

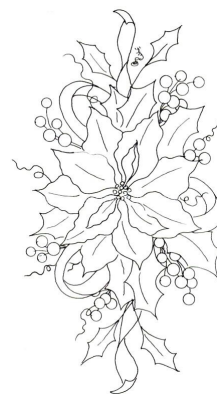
Eucharistic



Adoration

*Come rest awhile
in the Lord's presence.*

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In Memory of:

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- Sharon Bartley
- Mitchell Bennett
- Jerry Blundy
- Leo & LeeAnn Bowen
- Mary Breeze
- David Lee Cahill II
- Jon Caswell
- Bob Chapin
- Ethel Chapin
- Zach Charles
- Ricki Chowning
- Julia & Robert Christensen
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- Roy & Dee Cook
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- The Curtin Family
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- Chrisanne Lundstrom
- Kim Mailand
- Maria Elena Martinez
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- Pat McKee
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- Joseph Meyers
- Gay Lynn (Lower) North
- Jo Ellen O'Connor
- John & Mary V. O'Connor
- Rex P. O'Connor
- Marie O'Mara
- Tom & Norma O'Mara
- Kathy Page
- Al Pearson
- Francis & Dolores Peckins
- James Peckins
- John Peckins
- Robin Petersen
- Shirley Peterson
- Vern & Mary Pinnow
- Ted Plocharczyk
- Jim & Katie Poole
- Joseph & Doris Pung
- Kaci Renucci
- Manuel & Thelma Renucci
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- Joseph Rosenburg
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- Ellis & June Shotwell
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- William & Katherine Spitzley
- Ray & Aldona Springer
- Hailey Anne Stanton
- Claude Strickling
- Chuck Tarpey
- Elmer & Mary Therese Thelen
- Martin & Martha Thelen
- Pat & Dewey Tjalsma
- Bill Trueblood Sr.
- William Walker
- Christina Woodcock
- Ruth Woodcock
- Jack Wymer

In Honor of:

- Gert Bennett
- Pam & Alan Coggan
- Carol Cope
- Freund & Stoj families
- Mary E. O'Connor
- Lorna Weitzel

