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Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Veritas Room  
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# SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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

Website: [www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org](http://www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org)  
 Email: [parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com)

**January 19, 2025**  
**Second 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](mailto: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.

A week ago, it was the last day of Christmas. Just as the shepherds returned to their flocks and the Magi returned to their homes, we too had to "leave the stable" and return to our lives. This is what we call ordinary time. Like us, Jesus lived a fairly ordinary childhood and adolescence. In fact, it seems so ordinary that the Bible says nothing about it except for the incident at the temple in Jerusalem when he was 12 years old. Scholars often refer to these years as the hidden life of our Lord. But now things are changing rapidly for Jesus. And for Mary. At some point Joseph had died. Jesus never married, which is very unusual for his society. He must have continued working as a carpenter to support himself and his widowed mother. But now at 30 years of age, he has left home, was baptized by his cousin John, spent time in the desert, and has gathered his first disciples.

Back at home, Mary has been adjusting to changes as well. First, her husband died, and now her son has left home. Unlike today, when we can quickly visit over long distances thanks to modern transportation or at least are just a phone call away, Mary must have had little contact with her beloved son. The Bible makes no mention of her at the river Jordan for Jesus' baptism. Immediately following that, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and nights. It is doubtful that Mary had any idea where he was. Was she lonely without her son after all these years? Surely the house must have seemed empty and quiet. Now she has received an invitation to a wedding! As she traveled the road, did she know her son would be there as well? Probably not. But she must have wondered...and hoped! And he was! How she must have rejoiced. But then a problem developed...

The wedding feast at Cana, following the custom of the time, must have lasted for several days. Food and wine in great quantities would have been consumed as songs and toasts, probably similar to those found in the Song of Solomon, were made to the new couple. Then, at this high point of the celebration, they ran out of wine. A huge embarrassment for the wedding family. What a social faux it must have been! Quietly and without drawing any attention, a very concerned and compassionate Mary steps in. She hurries to her son. "They have no wine!" she announces to him. Our Lord's response may seem harsh to our ears. "O woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Here the problem of translation rears its head. The literal phrase, "what to me and to you" is a Semitic formula that lacks any friendly tone found in English. Some scholars have suggested, "Dear woman, what is that to you and me?" as a more accurate way to express in our language the exchange between Jesus and Mary.

Now comes the part I really love. What all this comes down to is, Jesus has said it is not yet his time. Jesus knows that if he intervenes, everything will change. But this is mom asking. And his mother trusts him completely. Even though it is not his time, this is his mother asking for him to do something, anything to help. "Do whatever he tells you," she instructs the servants. They must have wondered what was going on. Their confusion deepens as Jesus acts. "Fill these jugs with water, and then take some to the head waiter," he instructs. Can you hear their thoughts? Water! Why? What they need is wine, not water! But they obey. And Jesus, for the sake of his mother and the young couple, changes both time and water. It was not his time, but he changes time. At his mother's request to do something, he changes it to his time as he miraculously changes also the water into wine.

This wedding at Cana is a tremendous example not only of our Lord's compassion and power, but also of a mother's intercession. We often pray to Jesus for our families and friends. This is a good thing. Keep it up. But I often wonder. Since it wasn't his time, if anyone other than Mary had approached him with this request, what would Jesus have done? We will never know. But we do know what he did for his mother. So we too, in addition to our prayers to Jesus, also address prayers to Mary, asking her to pray to her Son for us.

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

**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

**Monday, January 20—St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr**

Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 2:18-22  
 11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Intention of Trinitarian Sisters of Mary (Chris Bewell)

**Tuesday, January 21—St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr**

Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9-10/Mk 2:23-28  
 No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, January 22—Weekday**

Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 3:1-6  
 12:10 p.m. Respect for all human life  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

**Thursday, January 23—St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin**

Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-10, 17/Mk 3:7-12  
 8:00 a.m. People of Saints Peter & Paul Parish

**Friday, January 24—St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor**

Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8, 10-14/Mk 3:13-19  
 No Mass or Service

**Saturday, January 25—The Conversion of St. Paul**

Acts 22:3-16/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18  
 8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 11:00 a.m. 1st Reconciliation (CH)  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8-10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**Saturday, January 25**

4:00 p.m. Don Gardner (Mike & Joan Boog)

**Sunday, January 26**

8:00 a.m. Saints Peter & Paul School Family  
 (Catholic Schools Week Mass)  
 11:30 a.m. Eugene Dietrich  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**Sunday, January 19—Second 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)

**Monday, January 20—Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

No School  
 6:30 p.m. Monday Night Group (PO)

**Tuesday, January 21**

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

**Wednesday, January 22**

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

**Thursday, January 23**

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

**Friday, January 24**

**Saturday, January 25**

9:30-11:30 a.m. 1st Reconciliation Retreat (VR)  
 1:00 p.m. K of C Free Throw Contest (Gym)

**Sunday, January 26—Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 9-11 a.m. CSW Breakfast (AH)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8  
 6:00 p.m. Following Christ (AH)  
 6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING: January 11 & 12, 2025**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$5,378.70
Electronic Giving	3,095.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,473.70</b>
-5% Tithe	-423.69
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$8,050.01</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Deficit for the Week: \$1,333.99**

School Support: \$241.00  
 School Annual Appeal: \$220.00

*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.*



**Jubilee 2025 Prayer for Hope**

Father in heaven,  
 may the faith you have given us  
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
 and the flame of charity enkindled  
 in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
 reawaken in us the blessed hope  
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
 into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
 May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
 and the whole cosmos  
 in the sure expectation  
 of a new heaven and a new earth,  
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
 reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
 throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
 be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

**January 25 & 26—Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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

11:30 a.m. Lector: Shannon Andrews  
 Altar Servers: Raelynn Christensen,  
 Shyla Johnson  
 EMs: Monica Mabe, Barb Mulnix,  
 Theresa Scholtens  
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

**Please pray for:**

- |                 |                      |                        |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 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 |                        |
| Glen Alvord     | Jennifer Lewis       |                        |
| Heather Rensi   | Mary O'Connor        |                        |

*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](http://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	

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF JAN. 19**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

Pat Duffy, Gwen O'Mara, Janis Neustifter

**VACUUMING:**

Bruce Sibert, Joe Peckins



**Knights' Corner**

This week we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held every year from January 18 through 25. I think that most of us probably have friends, family members, or co-workers who are wonderful examples of Christian faith in another tradition. Hopefully we have been good examples of our own Catholic faith to them! It can be very enriching to share our faith with others, to talk about what we believe, and maybe even pray with and for each other. A final thought on Christian Unity was written over a century ago by Cardinal Mercier of Belgium, and it certainly is still true today. "In order to unite with one another, we must love one another; in order to love one another, we must know one another; in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another."

**Build community one bowl at a time.**

**"Soup's On for All!" fundraiser**

**Monday, January 27, 6:30 p.m. at The B.O.B.**

When you are hungry, where do you turn? For many in West Michigan, God's Kitchen is a sustaining life-line and a source of relief for the hunger they face.

In 2023, God's Kitchen and food pantry served more than 70,000 meals in response to the need for nutritious, filling meals in West Michigan. And the need only continues to grow.

On January 27, 2025, Catholic Charities West Michigan hosts its annual Soup's On For All! fundraiser supporting the God's Kitchen and food pantry programs to make these meals possible. Every dollar raised helps provide meals to those in need and encourages food security within West Michigan neighborhoods.

Tickets for Soup's On For All! 2025 are now available! Visit [soupsonforall.org](http://soupsonforall.org) for more information.



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

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

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that the students and staff of Saints Peter and Paul School will be examples of peace, just as Martin Luther King Jr. was. May we heed his call to action against all forms of discrimination.

**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.

**Youth Group Night**

Our first Youth Group Night of 2025 is scheduled for next Sunday, January 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Students in Grades 8-12 are welcome—and encouraged to bring a friend.

—Kevin Heinlein

**Diocesan Mass Commemorating the Anniversary of Roe v Wade**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids will observe a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** on **January 22**. As Catholics, we are deeply committed to, and concerned about, the need to protect human life from the time of conception to natural death.

Bishop Walkowiak will celebrate Mass at the **Cathedral of Saint Andrew at 7 p.m.** in observance of this day. All are invited to attend! Those attending Mass are invited to bring a donation for baby pantries in Grand Rapids and Muskegon run by Catholic Charities West Michigan.

Many prayer resources and ways to participate in this solemn anniversary can be found on the diocesan website, [GRdiocese.org](http://GRdiocese.org). Please join us in praying for an end to abortion.

**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.

**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

At Cana we get a good insight into Mary's parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand or manipulate. She merely pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the best decision.



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

*Wednesdays 6-7 p.m. in the Basement Chapel*



*Faith Formation*

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

- Jan. 19 Faith Formation Classes K-8
- Jan. 25 1st Reconciliation Retreat 9:30-11:30 a.m. (VR)
- Jan. 26 Faith Formation Classes K-8
- Feb. 2 Faith Formation Classes K-8

For more information about Faith Formation, please contact Vanessa Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.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@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

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

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? Register today for a life-changing **REFLECT weekend retreat** at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on February 21-23, 2025. Take a chance and get involved. You won't regret it! Cost is \$230 for meals and a single room. Visit [www.ReflectRetreat.com](http://www.ReflectRetreat.com), e-mail [reflect.michigan@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.michigan@gmail.com), or call (586) 770-1772 for details.



**Knights of Columbus  
Free Throw Contest  
Saturday, January 25th**



All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the 2025 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest.

The competition will be held on Saturday, January 25th in the SS. Peter and Paul gym. Check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m. Competition will start at 1:00 p.m.

Winners are eligible to take part in the District competition on Sunday, January 26th, at St. Patrick, Parnell, 4351 Parnell Ave NE, Ada MI 49301

**Good luck and we will see you there!**

**Monday Night Scripture Study Group**

We resume our study of *Spes Non Confundit, Hope Does Not Disappoint*, on Monday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish office living room. This document is 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).

**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](http://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](http://buildingalegacy.org))

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