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Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Veritas Room  
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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](http://www.saintspeterandpaulionia.org)  
 Email: [parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:parishoffice@ssppcatholic.com)

**February 9, 2025**  
**Fifth 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.

## Coming to Church

In a reflection for Mass last Wednesday it was written: "There is bitterness, and then there is something worse than bitterness, that is, a 'bitter root.' A bitter root springs up and produces such evils as hatred, racism, unforgiveness, resentment, deception, violence, and cruelty. Because a bitter root is so productive of things which are destructive, it defiles many. This in turn can contribute to people choosing to fall away from the grace of God."

We know that all Christian denominations encourage members to attend faithfully every week. As far as I know, we are the only one that carries it a step further to say it is a sin to deliberately skip Sunday Mass. But in our modern society, many choose not to attend and don't see anything wrong with it. Our Catholic Church's insistence is very old. It carries back century after century to the very early days of Christianity. St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote in a letter to the Ephesians, "Try to gather together more frequently to give thanks to God and to praise Him. For when you come together frequently, Satan's powers are undermined, and the destruction that he threatens is done away with in the unanimity of your faith. Nothing is better than peace, in which all warfare between heaven and earth is brought to an end."

This assumes, of course, that we have developed a perfect faith and love toward Jesus Christ. Showing up bored, or wishing this will get over quickly so I can get to what I really want, or doing this just to keep Mom and Dad (or whomever) off my back is not helpful and, in fact, will produce the opposite effect. We need faith and love in our relationship with God. When these two are found together, there is God and everything else concerning right living follows from them. No one professing faith sins, for sin is a rebellion against God. No one possessing love hates. A tree is known by its fruit. So those who belong to Christ will be known by what they do. For the work we are about is not a matter of words here and now, but depends on the power of faith and on being faithful to the very end. It is better to remain silent and to be in good conscience than to speak but not to be. Teaching is good if the speaker also acts.

Now there was one teacher who "spoke and it was made." Even what He did in silence is worthy of the Father. He who has the word of Jesus can truly listen also to his silence, that he may act through his speech and be known by his silence. Nothing is hidden from the Lord. Even our secrets are clearly known by Jesus!

Our Lord received anointing on his head at his baptism in order to breathe incorruptibility on the Church. Do not be anointed with the evil order of the teachings of the prince of this world, that he may not lead you captive away from the life that is set before you by the Church. Why do some fail? It is because they see the teachings of Jesus as a stumbling block instead of as salvation and life.

May 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

**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

**Monday, February 10—St. Scholastica, Virgin**

Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35/Mk 6:53-56

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish

**Tuesday, February 11—Our Lady of Lourdes**

Gn 1:20—2:4/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13

No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, February 12—Weekday**

Gn 2:4-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23

12:10 p.m. Laurie Haruska (Barbara Haruska)  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (BC)

**Thursday, February 13—Weekday**

Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30

8:00 a.m. Margaret O'Malley (Townshend family)

**Friday, February 14—SS. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop**

Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37

No Mass or Service

**Saturday, February 15—Weekday**

Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10

8:30 a.m. Scriptural Rosary  
 1:30 p.m. Baptism of Raegan Elizabeth Staup  
 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

**Saturday, February 15**

4:00 p.m. Pat Brockman (Kevin & Sharon Van Ett)

**Sunday, February 16**

8:00 a.m. Ray Dietrich  
 11:30 a.m. Deborah Kaminski (Ron Kaminski)  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español

**Sunday, February 9—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes K-8  
 6:00 p.m. Following Christ (AH)

**Monday, February 10**

6:30 p.m. Auction Meeting (on Zoom)  
 Monday Night Group (PO)

**Tuesday, February 11—World Day of the Sick**

5:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting (VR)  
 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Library)

**Wednesday, February 12**

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

**Thursday, February 13**

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

**Friday, February 14—Valentine's Day**

**Saturday, February 15**

10:00 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby Coffee)

**Sunday, February 16—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

No Faith Formation Classes  
 OCIA (PO)  
 12 noon-9 p.m. Following Christ Retreat (AH)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING: February 1 & 2, 2025**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$7,865.22
Electronic Giving	4,435.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,300.22</b>
-5% Tithe	-615.01
Net Total	\$11,685.21

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$2,492.53**

School Annual Appeal: \$30.00  
 School Support Fund: \$15.00  
 Flowers: \$275.25

*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.*

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF FEB. 9**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

Jane Hemenway, Laurie Tjalsma

**VACUUMING:**

Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan

**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 celebrates 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 15 & 16, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 p.m. Lector: Pat Rinker  
 Altar Servers: Kaylynn/Kenna/Kinleigh Wizorek  
 EMs: Garry & Mary Lou Mulick, Mary Perrien  
 Greeters: Volunteers

8:00 a.m. Lector: Pete Fox  
 Altar Servers: Paul & Sam Meyer  
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

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

***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	Matt Lang	616-527-3610
Cemetery Sexton	Aaren Perry	616-527-3610

**SS. Peter and Paul School (616) 527-3561**

[www.ssppatholic.com](http://www.ssppatholic.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**

At our meeting this week we set the dates for our Lenten Fish Dinners. We will be serving them on the four Fridays of March, with the possibility of adding another week if we have enough help. Stay tuned!

We approved donations of \$150 to the RAVE shelter and to the Friends of Jesus help fund. Your support makes these donations possible—thank you!

Congratulations to our February raffle winners: Heath Werner, Jessica Drown, John Curtin, and Gloria Keast.

**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.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience Opportunities**

This Valentine's Day, give your spouse the gift of time away together enriching your marriage and your faith at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience! Upcoming experiences are being held February 28-March 2 at Center for Ministry in Saginaw; April 4-6 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt; June 16-18 at Center for Ministry in Saginaw; and August 1-3 at Augustine Center in Petoskey. Apply today at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or contact Amy & Joe Kopacz at 517-667-0433 for more information.



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](mailto: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 both teams competing in the Super Bowl this weekend. Please ask God to bless the athletes with the courage to play fairly and respectfully and to be good examples for our students and others who look up to them.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:frrob@lukespot.com).

**Discernment Meeting Dates:**  
February 16, March 23, & May 4  
12:30-1:30 p.m.  
St. Luke University Parish  
10144 42<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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)
- Feb. 23 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).

**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](mailto: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 Biggby 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](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

**Vacation Bible School**

We are planning our next Vacation Bible School for this summer. We need your help in choosing the best days and times to fit your schedule. Please complete a 5 question survey to help us plan a successful VBS in 2025! Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSTBKTT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSTBKTT). Questions? Please email [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto: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](http://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**

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 and prayer.

**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

In today's gospel Jesus asked Simon to start by "going a short distance." Later he asked Simon to "go into deeper water." The first step toward reconciliation is usually a "short distance," which gives us the courage to go further "into deeper water." Reconciliation starts with the first short step!