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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)

**March 16, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

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, 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.

Prayer is something that we acknowledge is very important. Yet, far too often, we relegate it to the bottom of our list rather than the top. We know we should pray to God every day. But do we? We should pray to God because we love him. But again, love is not something that is simply taught. Love of God isn't something we learned from someone else. Nor did we learn how to rejoice in God's light, or how to desire to live, or how to love our parents. When we were first born, we didn't just immediately love our parents. It took time. We were born with reason planted inside us, like a seed containing the ability and the need to love. It took time to grow. We experienced our parents' love for us. We experienced their giving us clothing, food, shelter, hugs, and love. So it is with God's love for us.

We are born with this desire for love within us. Not just love of parents, but also love for God. We have within us from God the ability to fulfill his commands. We have no reason to resent them, as if it was more than we could pay back from what we have received. When we use our God given ability correctly, we lead a life of holiness and virtue. If we don't, then we fall into sin. Sin, then, is the misuse of powers given to us by God to do good.

Because God gave us this ability to do good, we can say the same thing about love. We have within us the ability to love God. Each one of us can learn this. Look at this planet. It is a wonderful place to be born, and it is natural to desire things that are good and pleasing to the eye. A sunny day, warm air, clean water, beautiful plants, and the ability to make sounds that are musical and pleasing are but a few of the many gifts God gives to us. Other gifts come from God as well, such as the ability to build things, to sell items, and to create wealth.

Somehow, all these gifts from God have escaped us. We took them for granted. Even worse, we began to battle with others to hoard more and more items for ourselves. Finally, God our loving Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. He came to reveal God's love for us and to show us how to live.

This is what our faith is all about. It reveals his love and the creation of the world. We learn how to love God. Having loved him and followed Jesus in this life, we are then welcomed into eternal life. This is our only way into eternal life. To reject Jesus and his teaching is to reject God and, therefore, eternal life with him in heaven.

Do you want to live longer? Do you want more than the decades of life here on earth? Do you wish to live forever? Then we must embrace Jesus. To love Jesus means we follow his teachings, obey his commandments, and learn to love him as he has and continues to love us. Learning to love Jesus means we pray. But what is prayer? How do we pray?

St. John Damascene taught, "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." St. Therese of Lisieux said, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven; it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

"Teach us to pray!" the disciples of Jesus asked. And He taught them how to pray. Learning to pray will be our topic in the coming weeks. It is important. It is the desire of our hearts.

God bless you,  
 Fr. Tom



*Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*



**The Week Ahead...**

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

**Second Sunday of Lent**

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17—4:1/Lk 9:28-36

**Saturday, March 15**

4:00 p.m. Katie Fox (Cathy Pierce)

**Sunday, March 16**

8:00 a.m. Melvin Finkler  
 11:30 a.m. Bill Bushong (Jack & Carole Hausserman)  
 (OCIA Rite of Sending at 11:30 Mass)  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español  
 3:00 p.m. OCIA Rite of Election (Cathedral of St. Andrew)

**Monday, March 17—St. Patrick, Bishop**

Dn 9:4-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38

11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Roman Stoj (Margaret Stoj)

**Tuesday, March 18—St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor**

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, March 19—St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/

Mt 1:16, 18-21  
 11:00 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. People of SS. Peter & Paul Parish  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

**Thursday, March 20—Lenten Weekday**

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

8:00 a.m. Sylvester & Pauline Blundy (Marie White)

**Friday, March 21—Lenten Weekday**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

7:30 a.m. Living & deceased of Patrick & Carol Lewis families  
 2:00 p.m. School Stations of the Cross  
 6/7 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English/in Spanish

**Saturday, March 22—Lenten Weekday**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15/Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

**Saturday, March 22**

4:00 p.m. Keith Morley (Hemenway family)

**Sunday, March 23**

8:00 a.m. Herb Cusack (Luke Cusack)  
 11:30 a.m. Bertha Meier  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español  
 3-5 p.m. Confessions

**GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS—WEEK OF MARCH 16**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

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

**VACUUMING:**

**Ray Korytkowski, Lon MacLachlan**

**Sunday, March 16—Second Sunday of Lent**

No OCIA Inquiry Session today  
 9:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 9:30-1:30 K of C Pie Sale (parish garage)  
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes for all grades  
 2:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion prep. (VR)

**Monday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day**

6:30 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study (PO)

**Tuesday, March 18**

5:45 p.m. Community Awareness Meeting (AH)  
 6:30 p.m. Liturgy Commission Meeting (PO)

**Wednesday, March 19—St. Joseph's Day**

1:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Bread Luncheon (PO)  
 6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
 6:30 p.m. Meitler Meeting (AH)  
 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

**Thursday, March 20**

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

**Friday, March 21**

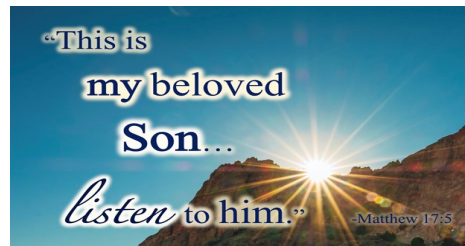
5-7 p.m. Fish Dinner (AH)

**Saturday, March 22**

9-11 a.m. Grief Support Session (PO)

**Sunday, March 23—Third Sunday of Lent**

9:15 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes for all grades  
 2:00 p.m. Hispanic 1st Communion Prep. (VR)



**OUR PARISH OFFERING: March 8 & 9, 2025**

Regular Offertory Collection	\$4,694.11
Electronic Giving	1,390.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,084.11</b>
-5% Tithe	-304.21
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$5,779.90</b>

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Deficit for the Week: \$3,723.58**

School Support Fund: \$235.94  
 Catholic Relief Services: \$150.00  
 Flowers: \$25.00

*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.*

**Lenten Opportunities**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation—Confession**

Monday, 11 a.m.-12 noon: March 17, 24, 31  
 April 7, 14

Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12 noon: March 19, 26  
 April 2, 9, 16

Thursday, April 3, 5-8 p.m.: **The Light Is On for You**  
 (Confessions available here, and at many other parishes in the Diocese as well.)

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 p.m.: March 15, 22, 29  
 April 5, 12

Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: March 23  
 April 6

**Stations of the Cross** are celebrated on the Fridays of Lent (March 14, 21, 28; April 4 & 11)  
 English at 6:00 p.m. Spanish at 7:00 p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration** is offered **in the church** from 6 to 7 p.m. on these Wednesdays of Lent:  
 March 19, 26; April 2 & 9

**Lenten Soup & Bread Luncheons** will be held in the parish office living room following the Wednesday 12:10 p.m. Mass or Communion Service on March 19, April 2 & 9. Call Toni McKay at 616-527-3610 if you can donate soup or bread.

**The Knights of Columbus are offering Fish Dinners** in Apostles Hall on the last 3 Fridays of March. (March 14, 21, & 28), 5-7 p.m.

**March 22 & 23, Third Sunday of Lent**

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

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

8:00 a.m. Lector: Walt Downes  
 Altar Servers: Paul & Sam Meyer  
 EMs: Kevin Heinlein, Cheryl & John Hildebrandt  
 Greeters: Dave O'Mara

**Please pray for:**

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

*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.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**

Thank you to everyone who bought or helped make pies! Please be sure to pick up your order this weekend, March 15 & 16, in the parish garage: Saturday 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. or Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you missed out, we may have a few pies left. Call the parish office to check.

Thank you also to everyone who worked at or came and enjoyed our Fish Dinner last Friday. After this week, there are only two left. Don't miss out!

**Evening of Worship with the Opportunity for Confession**

Holy Spirit Parish, Grand Rapids, invites you to an Evening of Worship with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance on Saturday, March 29, from 6:45-8 p.m. In addition to reflective music, the following priests will be available to hear your confession: Fr. Mark Peacock, Fr. Nick Baker, Fr. David Sacha, Fr. Larry King, Msgr. Lou Stasker, and Fr. David Jameson. Please contact MacKenzie at [mcooble@hsparish.org](mailto:mcooble@hsparish.org) with any questions.

**St. Mary Parish Lenten Mission**  
402 Amity St., Lowell, MI  
**"The Mystery of Friendship"**

**Part 1 – Sunday, March 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**"Why Christian Friendship?"**  
(Dinner included)

**Part 2 – Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
**"How to form lasting Christian friendships"**  
(Dinner included)

Presenters: Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist

**Please RSVP for food planning purposes**  
by emailing or calling the parish:  
[office@stmarylowell.org](mailto:office@stmarylowell.org) or 616-897-9820

**Bibles for SS. Peter & Paul School Students**

As our students have begun their Lenten journey, they are trying to focus on God's Word through daily scripture reading. The school staff would like to give children their very own bibles to continue their growth in faith. The bibles that we like to use are published by Saint Mary's Press and run about \$30. If you are interested in donating to this cause, please send your donation, labeled "Bibles", to the school office. We appreciate your consideration and continued support.

**Please note that Friday Masses will resume on Friday, March 21:**  
**7:30 a.m. at SS. Peter & Paul, and**  
**9:00 a.m. at St. Edward's.**

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray that, as we continue our Lenten journey, we may be safe from all temptations of the world. May the Lord protect us so that we may not be led astray as we continue to pray, fast and give alms.

**Becoming Catholic: An Invitation to Come & See**

No matter where you are in your journey of faith, there is a place for you here with us. Come see for yourself what we're all about. Inquiry sessions are on Sundays (except March 16) at 10:15 a.m. in the parish office living room. Contact Toni McKay at the parish office for more information and to register.

**What is Eucharistic Adoration?**

Eucharistic Adoration (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Holy Hour) is a dedicated time of prayer spent in the presence of Jesus in the Consecrated Host, displayed in a monstrance that is placed on the altar. Our focus is on the Eucharistic Host, the real presence of Jesus - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is a time for personal prayer - a time of reverent silence, to be with Jesus and listen to what He wants for us and from us, and a time for us to talk with Him in the silence of our hearts.

During Lent, SS. Peter and Paul offers Adoration on Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Church. A challenge for all of us is to spend more time in prayer during Lent. Adoration is one opportunity for us to grow in prayer.

*If you have any questions about Adoration and/or other elements of our Catholic faith, [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com) is an excellent, reputable resource.*

**Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit**  
**March 22-28**

March 22: 5-8 p.m.; March 23: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.;  
March 24-28: 5-8 p.m.

**Our Lady of Consolation Parish**  
4865 11 Mile Rd, Rockford

Come and learn about 70 Church-approved Eucharistic Miracles through a self-guided exhibit, and deepen your love for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist! This amazing opportunity showcases miracles from around the world, designed by the soon-to-be *Saint* Carlo Acutis. Check our website for times and more information: [olcparishrockford.com/parish/miracles/](http://olcparishrockford.com/parish/miracles/)



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



**Faith Formation**

**Classes are held on Sunday mornings in the school from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. for Kindergarten through high school. It's never too late to register. Join us today!**

- March 14 Fish Dinner 5-7 p.m. (Servers of all ages needed in Apostles Hall)
- March 16 Faith Formation Classes for all grades
- March 23 Faith Formation Classes for all grades
- March 30 Faith Formation Classes for all grades

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

**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 Grief Support Group series, which meets every other Saturday in the parish office living room from 9 to 11 a.m. Our next session is on Saturday, March 22. 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 Booth at 616-527-3610 or [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com).

**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 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, March 15, at 10 a.m. at Biggby Coffee. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Vanessa Booth at [vbooth@ssppcatholic.com](mailto:vbooth@ssppcatholic.com) or 616-527-3610.

**Thank you, El Mariachi Mexican Grill**

This past Tuesday, the Velasco family donated 10% of their restaurant proceeds to the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl. If you ate at the restaurant on that day, we thank you, too! \$240 was donated, and this will help feed people both locally and around the world through the work of Catholic Relief Services.

**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.

**Lenten Soup Supper and Presentation**  
**Monday, March 24, 6:00 p.m., Apostles Hall**  
**"Lord, Change Our Hearts: The Spiritual Practice of Almsgiving"**

with  
*Dr. Tim Gray, The Augustine Institute Show: An Interview with Dr. Gary Anderson on Catholic Almsgiving (video)*

and  
*Rebekah Kevic, SS. Peter & Paul Parishioner Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Presentation*

Soup Makers and Bread Bakers Needed! If you are able to donate soup and/or bread, scan the QR Code, or contact Toni at the parish office.



*PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be gathering for a Lenten Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, March 26, in light of offering this Lenten Soup Supper.*

Don't Miss Our  
**Lenten Fish Dinners**  
on the Last Three Fridays of March

**March 14, 21, and 28**  
**5:00—7:00 p.m.**



\$12.00 for Adults  
\$10.00 for Seniors  
\$6.00 for Children, ages 6-12

Maximum price of \$35 for families with minor children

Fried fish, roasted potatoes, macaroni & cheese, vegetables, french fries, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert

Take outs available!

Proceeds to benefit SS. Peter & Paul Church and School



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**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and he was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family. Pray before each meal and, if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.