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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 9, 2025**  
**First 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, 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.

## First Sunday of Lent

This weekend is the fourth and fifth day of Lent already. How are we doing? When we listen to the Gospel during this holy season, we keep hearing that we are called to follow Jesus. To really follow, which means we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Him. There are no ifs, ands, or buts. There is no Christianity without a cross. Remember the rich young man who wanted to follow but didn't want to let go of his wealth? He went away sad and Jesus commented on how hard it was for the rich to follow him. There is no Christianity without a sacrifice. Jesus speaks of this when He says, "Whoever does not take up his cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple." A Christianity in which we remove the cross of mortification and penance because we see these as undesirable would be a Christianity in name only. It would not keep the doctrine of the Gospels, nor would it inspire people to follow in Christ's footsteps. It would be a Christianity without redemption, without salvation. Unfortunately, too many times we want the joy of Easter without the sorrow of Good Friday.

Remember some of the many stories we have heard of the great Christian heroes? We admire them, but at the same time we really don't want to be like them. We think they are nuts! They WANTED to die for Christ. They WANTED to be arrested. They wanted to be convicted of loving Christ and sent to die. It didn't matter how. Cross or lions, sword or starvation, or some other method....it didn't matter to them. Just as long as they died for Jesus Christ. How did they ever get to that point in their lives? The answer is simple. It was out of a deep love for Jesus. So deep that nothing mattered except being in the presence of God.

But how does one ever reach that point? We all want to bring joy to God. But how? It all begins with our attitude. Consider a small example. One woman I know loves to cook. LOVES it! She could spend all day, every day cooking and baking. On the other hand, I cannot stand it. I will do almost anything to avoid even a minute in the kitchen. She loves it because all she sees is the joy on the faces of those loving to eat her cooking. All I see are piles and piles of dirty dishes and the labor involved. She sees the final result. All I see is the work involved. It's a matter of attitude. It is the same with Christianity. Do we see just the labor, or do we see the end result of God's joyful love?

So as we consider this season of Lent, what do we see? What do we really love doing for others? For some, it is the joy of a full stomach. For others it is warm clothing. For others it is spending time with others and listening to them tell stories of long ago. Or something else. For all of us it is something different. The question for each one of us is, what can I do to bring joy to another person? Whatever it is, doing that for another will also bring a smile to God's face. And to bring a smile to God's face is worth the sacrifice.

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

**First Sunday of Lent**

Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

**Saturday, March 8**

4:00 p.m. Alice Carusello (Christine Bewell)

**Sunday, March 9**

8:00 a.m. Sr. Phyllis  
 11:30 a.m. Eugene Dietrich  
 1:00 p.m. Misa en español  
 3-5 p.m. Confessions

**Monday, March 10—Lenten Weekday**

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

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

**Tuesday, March 11—Lenten Weekday**

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15  
 No Mass or Service

**Wednesday, March 12—Lenten Weekday**

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

No Confessions or Mass  
 12:10 p.m. Communion Service  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour (CH)

**Thursday, March 13—Lenten Weekday**

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12

8:00 a.m. Sr. Villana VanMullekom (parish staff)

**Friday, March 14—Lenten Weekday**

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26

No Mass or Service  
 7:50 a.m. School Stations of the Cross  
 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English  
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish

**Saturday, March 15—Lenten Weekday**

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

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

**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)

**Sunday, March 9—First Sunday of Lent**

2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins!  
 9:00 a.m. OCIA (PO)  
 10:15 a.m. OCIA Inquiry Session (PO)  
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Classes for all grades  
 6-8 p.m. Youth Group Night (CR)  
 6:00 p.m. Following Christ—final session (AH)

**Monday, March 10**

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

**Tuesday, March 11**

6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting (Library)

**Wednesday, March 12**

10:00 a.m. Priests' Day of Recollection (GR)  
 1:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Bread Luncheon (PO)  
 6-7:30 p.m. TOPS (VR)  
 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice (CH)

**Thursday, March 13**

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

**Friday, March 14**

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

**Saturday, March 15**

10:00 a.m. Health Support Group (Biggby)  
 2-5:30 p.m. K of C Pie Sale (Parish Garage)

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

No OCIA Inquiry Session today  
 OCIA (PO)  
 9:15 a.m. K of C Pie Sale (Parish Garage)  
 9:30—1:30 K of C Pie Sale (Parish Garage)  
 10:15-11:15 a.m. Faith Formation classes for all grades



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

Regular Offertory Collection	\$10,827.52
Electronic Giving	4,615.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,442.52</b>
-5% Tithe	-772.13
Net Total	\$14,670.39

Budgeted Weekly: \$9,807.69  
**Surplus for the Week: \$5,634.83**

School Support Fund: \$40.00  
 Catholic Relief Services: \$5.00

*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 10, 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 8, 15, 22, 29  
 April 5, 12

Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: March 9, 23  
 April 6

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

**Eucharistic Adoration** will be offered in the church from 6 to 7 p.m. on these Wednesdays of Lent: March 12, 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 12 & 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 first four Fridays of Lent (March 7, 14, 21, & 28), 5-7 p.m.

**March 15 & 16, Second Sunday of Lent**

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

8:00 a.m. Lector: Pete Fox  
 Altar Servers: Alexis & Kendra Heinlein  
 EMs: Julie Bennett, Veronica Meyer,  
 Laurie Tjalsma  
 Greeters: Deb Porter

11:30 a.m. Lector: Dan Lower  
 Altar Servers: Evan & Jacquelynn Bailey  
 EMs: Vanessa Booth, Monica Mabe,  
 Theresa Scholtens  
 Greeters: Chris & Pilya Christensen

**Please pray for:**

- |                 |                      |                        |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Connie Waterman | Heather Rensi        | Mary O'Connor          |
| Dorr Bissell    | Cherie Flinn         | Kym Coryell            |
| Colson Skilling | Pamela Pontius       | Terri Nurenberg        |
| Jim Zook        | Anita Hozeski Scott  | Jessica Fritz          |
| Roy Shaw        | Karen Miller         | Travis Eveleth         |
| Martha Brooks   | Pat McKinstry        | Charles Timm           |
| Denise Ward     | Russinda Rohde       | Larry Lafler           |
| Shirley Weber   | Landon Battle        | Arlene Stanton         |
| Judy Dick       | Marsha Packer        | Pat MacLachlan         |
| Cindy Hardy     | Jack & Sue LaPeer    | Jim & Barb Mulnix      |
| Diana Kujala    | Tamera Pierce        | Ken and Sherry North   |
| Mark Dawson     | Angie Cedillo        | Nathan Lower           |
| Tony Burns      | Jo Wirtz             | Finnly Hunt            |
| Lesley Williams | Witney Fockler       | Jerry & Maribeth Fritz |
| Lois Walker     | Becky Wagner         | Tom White              |
| Gert Bennett    | Amanda Eveleth       | Pamela Coggan          |
| Ed Blyth        | 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       |                        |

*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](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 MARCH 9**

**GENERAL CLEANING:**

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan

**VACUUMING:**

Julie Bennett, Bridgett Flanigan





**Knights' Corner**

At our meeting this week we finalized plans for our Lenten Fish Dinners and for the pie sale. We look forward to seeing you in Apostles Hall on the Fridays of March for some good fish, and on March 15 & 16 at the parish garage for the pie pick-ups!

"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others." Saint Peter Chrysologus

Congratulations to our March raffle winners: Cara Brownell, Diane Grummet, Sonora Dow, and Mike Weger.

**Knights of Columbus Pie Sale**

Saturday, March 15, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
 Parish Office garage



Apple, Cherry & Blueberry pies  
 \$12 each or 3 for \$30

Order your pies after Mass in the back of church or by calling the parish office—(616) 527-3610. All proceeds support the charitable work of K of C Council 944. Thank you!

**Lenten Confession Schedule**

Monday, 11 a.m.-12 noon: March 10, 17, 24, 31  
 April 7, 14

Wednesdays, 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 8, 15, 22, 29  
 April 5, 12

Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: March 9, 23  
 April 6



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

**Panther Prayer Corner**

Please pray for the staff and students of SSPP as we continue on our Lenten journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through these practices, may we all remember the merciful love and compassion that God shows to all.

**Ionia Area CRS Rice Bowl Fundraiser  
 El Mariachi Mexican Grill, Ionia**

Bring your appetite, your family, and your friends, and spread the word! This **Tuesday, March 11**, from **11 a.m. through 7 p.m.**, 10% of all food and beverage revenue at El Mariachi Mexican Grill will be donated to the CRS Rice Bowl. These funds will help support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services to feed the hungry throughout the world. We are very grateful to the Velasco family for their generosity and willingness to host this event! Let's fill the restaurant for lunch and dinner, and raise funds and awareness as we answer the call to feed the hungry in the local and global community.

**NO GREATER LOVE  
 A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion**

Monday Night Bible Study—Lenten Video Series  
 Five Monday sessions (began on March 3)  
 6:30 p.m., Parish Office living room

Filmed in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's love for us. Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary as Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of his suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God' immeasurable and unconditional love for you.

To reserve your study materials, (\$28 for Textbook & Study Guide), contact Toni at the Parish Office.

**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.

**Time to Spring Ahead!**

Spring weather or not, it's time to spring ahead. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour at bedtime on Saturday night, or you may be an hour late for Sunday Mass.



*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 9 Faith Formation Classes for all grades —Stations of the Cross in the church
- 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 2 sessions are on Saturdays, March 8 & 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. [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 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.

**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.



**CHILDREN'S  
 Liturgy of the Word**

You may have noticed that the number of children participating in Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) continues to grow. We are overjoyed to see so many new and returning faces each week. CLOW is a wonderful opportunity for children to hear the Word of God on their level in an area (the sacristy) where they can ask questions and discuss ways to carry the scriptures with them throughout the week.

God on their level in an area (the sacristy) where they can ask questions and discuss ways to carry the scriptures with them throughout the week.

With the increase in numbers, the groups have sometimes gotten a little louder and at times can be heard in the church. For that we sincerely apologize and ask for your patience as our volunteers work through this. We do ask that children aged 5 and under be accompanied by an older sibling or parent who can help supervise them.

We would like to THANK our volunteers who selflessly leave their pews to help lead the children of our parish through the readings, as well as the older children who continue to come to CLOW to help the adults. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Meghan McGillis or Vanessa Booth.

Don't Miss Our  
**Lenten Fish Dinners**  
 on the First Four Fridays of Lent

**March 7, 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



Sponsored by  
**Knights of Columbus  
 Council 944**



**Youth Group Night**

Our next Youth Group Night is scheduled for Sunday evening, March 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Students in Grades 8-12 are welcome. Bring a friend!  
 —Kevin Heinlein