

# THE SHAMROCK

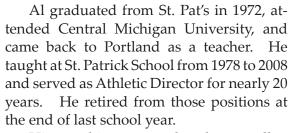
ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 20 NO.2 SPRING 2009

# Al Schrauben Nominated for National Award

hamrock girls basketball coach, Al Schrauben, will be traveling to Minnesota in June, as one of eight coaches in the country who will be vying for the title of Girls Basketball National Coach of the Year. Al learned recently that he had been nominated by the Michigan High School Coaches Association, and had already won at the regional level. He and his wife, Carla, will go to the ceremony in Minneapolis in June, where

the national winner will be announced.



His coaching career has been stellar, spanning 24 years. During that time, he has posted a 482-114 record, had 12 teams go to the state finals and brought home six state championship trophies.

# Websites Can Be Useful Tools

The parish website has undergone an extreme makeover, and is now easier than ever to use. In addition to information about the parish and its programs, the site also contains the weekly bulletin, an upto-date calendar of parish events, and homepage announcements that keep everyone informed about what's going on at St. Patrick's.

The school website continues to be a useful tool for anyone who is interested in what's happening there. You'll find athletic schedules, teacher profiles, weekly columns from Mr. Hodge, photo albums, back issues of the school and alumni newsletters, and much, much more.

www.portlandstpats.com www.stpatrickportland.com

# **New Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Te would like to welcome Guine (pronounced Gwen) Norman, who arrived in December to fill the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator. Guine grew up in Lansing, as part of a large Italian family who are, "musical, in-your-business, loud but loving". She originally considered a career in classical vocal music, but ultimately came to realize that while music is only a PART of her life, her faith IS her life. She enrolled at Franciscan University and earned a BA in theology and catechetics.

In addition to her love of music, Guine also loves books and movies, traveling, cooking and laughing with friends.

There are a lot of good things happening with Youth Ministry at St. Pat's, and with Guine in charge, those things will be challenging and exciting. She invites the youth of St. Patrick Parish to stop in for a visit.

Dear Editor,

Recently I was cleaning and found materials from dear ole St. Patrick's School. What a blessing. Great memories!

In 1951 I started coaching and teaching at St. Pat's for \$28.95 a week. I paid \$5 a week for a room with Harry and Val Barnhart and paid Queenie and Albert Guidi \$6 for food. Gas was 19 cents a gallon-there were NO taxes and NO FICA!

Next year, God willing, I will turn 80. Today I am a substitute teacher for 6th grade. God has blessed me with a terrific wife and so many other gifts-faith, family, friends and food, including the Eucharist, which we receive daily.

It was sad to hear that Iim Schaffer had passed away. When I was at Aquinas College (1964-1968) I recruited Jim as a student, basketball and cross-country runner. He was a very good Catholic gentleman... and has now joined his parents, Unk and Mary Jane in heaven.

God has blessed you with St. Patrick's School. Never give it up. The devil will be working to have St. Pat's fail. Prayer is very important, and remember that God always answers our prayers. The answer might be 1. Yes-right now 2. Yes-but not right now 3. Yes, but I have a better idea.

Congratulations for being disciples of Christ. Keep it up-Catholic education forever!

> Coach Dick "Red" Dornbos Granger, Indiana

Dear Shamrock,

We recently had our 30-year class reunion and it was wonderful! I would like to stay in touch with my former classmates through email, so will you please print my email address and tell all of my 1978 classmates to write!

Sandy (Fedewa, 1978) Baker honeypot196042@yahoo.com Phone (269) 795-2263 Cell (269) 908-6592

#### **NEW ADDRESS**

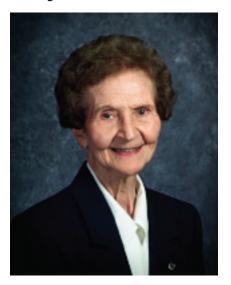
Markus Schroeder, who attended St. Patrick as an exchange student in the late 80's, has sent us updated address information. He also reminds any former friends and St. Patrick's alumni who visit Munich that they are always welcome to give him a call! His address is Erni-Singerl Str. 36, 81249 Munich, Germany. His e-mail is schroeder. markus@allianz.com,



Al Schrauben and Dick Dornbos. Photo was taken at the Reunion of Champs in 2005.

### Patricia Ann Kidder, IHM

Aug. 27, 1929 - Dec. 24, 2008



Sister Patricia Ann Kidder, IHM, who served as the elementary principal of St. Patrick's School from 2006-2008, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Christmas Eve at the age of 79.

Sister Patricia was one of six daughters born to Francis and Anna Kidder of Akron, Ohio, and was given the name Edna. She attended elementary and high school at St. Mary's Catholic School. She became a member of the IHM in 1947.

Sister Patricia Ann earned a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. She taught for 27 years in schools in Michigan and Illinois and was coprincipal, administrator and principal at IHM High School in Westchester, Illinois for six years.

From 1977 to 1981, Sister Patricia Ann ministered in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and in the fall of 1981, she began a 24-year ministry in the Cleveland Diocese.

Sister Patricia Ann is survived by her sister, Frances Mauren, and many nieces and nephews. Her sisters, Helen Cosgrove, Rosemary Keller, Agnes Kirkland and Patricia, preceded her in death.

# In The Spotlight

### Jane Finkbeiner

Jane Finkbeiner came to work at St. Patrick School in 1990. Though she began as a part-time employee whose primary duties were on the playground and in the cafeteria, she eventually joined the custodial crew who keeps our school looking so good. Jane has three sons, Patrick, Derek and Brendan. In her spare time she enjoys gardening and scrapbooking.



rowing up in Westphalia, the daughter of Francis and Dolores Thelen, Jane was raised on a farm along with her five brothers and sisters. She was a tomboy, who with her brothers, often got into trouble for riding the pigs. She was also known as the Willie Horton of farm-yard baseball for her ability to hit the ball all the way across the dirt road.

Fortunately for St. Patrick's, Jane moved to Portland to raise her family, and was adamant that her three sons would attend a Catholic school. It was often a struggle financially to come up with the money to send them there, but according to her son, Derek, she would go without things for herself, to make sure that all three graduated from St. Pat's. "I was there to see my mom's tears when her 'baby' Brendan graduated in 2006," said Derek. "They were pouring down her cheeks, she was so proud."

Derek also commented on what it was like having his mom working at the school, while he was a student there. "It was hard at first, and I didn't like it—especially get-

ting detentions from my own mom! But, I got used to it and finally figured out that it was okay, and even had benefits. One of the things that I liked the most was not having to wait in line on pizza days. She would always have my pizza and pop waiting for me."

Derek continued, "The one thing that amazes me most about my mom is her dedication to her work and her family. I know that she loves the kids at the school as if they were her own, and I've seen the concern she has about the students that she interacts with every day.

"When she worked on the playground, she taught us lessons that we didn't even realize at the time we were learning—teamwork, fairplay, respect and that actions have consequences.

"I worked with my mom at the school for three summers during high school and I got to see her hard work first hand. I saw the blood, sweat and tears, and gained a new respect for her. I saw, truly, that she was not only working hard to provide for her family, but that she took a deep pride in the appearance and meaning of St. Patrick's School. For many years, her schedule was erratic—a few hours on, a few hours off—back and forth all day, from 7 in the morning until 8 at night. But, she rarely complained. She has definitely taught me a lot about hard work!"

According to Principal, Randy Hodge, "Jane is an extremely hard worker, is very positive, and loves having the opportunity to come to work everyday to see the students. I know that she used to see the kids more when she spent part of her day supervising lunches. She has expressed to me that she misses the daily contact with the students at lunch but still enjoys the opportunity to see them around the school every day.

Thank you, Jane, for the dedication that you have shown to St. Patrick's School through the years. You have touched the lives of many, many people and have given us a school building that we can be proud of. Westphalia's loss was definitely our gain!

# What's Happening?

#### **BIRTHS**

To Leah Russman (2003) and Matt Anthony, Jr. a daughter, Lillian Kathleen on January 20, 2009.

To Gary (1992) and Rocio Wohlschied of Lansing, a daughter, Griella Rose on December 29, 2008.

To Ryan (1996) and Sarah Honsowitz of Eagle, a daughter, Isabel Laurel on December 31, 2008.

To Jason and Sarah (Makowski, 2000) Fox, a son, Connor John on December 30, 2008.

To Bill and Angie (Russman, 1997) Witt, a son, Benjamin Patrick on October 2, 2008.

To Erin (Schrauben, 1996) and Tutt Gorman of Lexington, Kentucky, a daughter, Grace Louise on December 30, 2008.

To Stacy (Burcham, 1991) and Nate Parker, a son, Adam Nathan on June 9, 2008. He joins brother, Sean, 2.

To Tim (1996) and Kathryn Schneider, a son, Quinn Jameson and a daughter, Cora Elizabeth on January 8, 2009.

To Tony (2004) and Gail Weber, twin daughters, Marisa Tonya and Paige Nicole on August 2, 2008.

To Kurt (1997) and Mary Weber, a daughter, Kayla Joyce on September 2, 2008.

To Nikole (Sheaffer, 2002) and Brian (2002) Brown of St. Johns, a son, Kaeden Patrick on September 27, 2008.

To Dan (1995) and Nicole Thelen, a son, Tyler Dennis on November 12, 2008.

To Josh and Gina (Solgat, 2001) Huhn of Pewamo, a son, William Lee on November 26, 2008.

To Brad and Kasie (Hengesbach, 2001) Rockey, a son, Sawyer Louis on

September 11, 2008. He joins brother, Joey, 5, and sister, Keegan, 3.

To Jason and Richelle (Pohl, 1998) Miller of Lansing, a daughter, Ava Jaelle on December 23, 2008.

To Justin (1997) and Ann Marie Fox, a daughter, Allana Catherine, on December 18, 2008.

#### **ENGAGEMENTS**

Dawn Schneider (1993) and Chris Bulos will be married on April 18, 2009 at St. Patrick Church.

Mary Thelen (2001) and Jesse Diffin of Ashley will be married on May 16, 2009.

#### **WEDDINGS**

Carissa Schneider (1998) and Nathan Horan were married in a Christian ceremony on the beach in Ludington on September 26, 2008. The newlywed couple now reside in Lansing, where they are both employed as state troopers.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Richard and Betty Smith celebrated their 60th anniversary on October 9, 2008. They celebrated with a family dinner at Bennigan's in Okemos. They have been blessed with four daughters, nine grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.

Richard and Joyce (Patrick) Strang celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house, hosted by their children on September 28, 2008.

Joseph and Patricia Klein celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at a small ceremony with family and friends on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The couple was married on October 12, 1968, at St. Michael's Church in Grand Ledge. They have four children and three grandchildren

Joe and Sue Hengesbach of Lyons celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on January 25, 2009 with a small party. The couple, who have two sons, were married in 1984 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pewamo.

Ivan and Romayne Lay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their entire family in St. Ignace and on Mackinac Island, where they had honeymooned 50 years earlier. The couple was married on August 30, 1958, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westphalia. They have four sons, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

#### GRADUATIONS

Jessica Campbell (2004) graduated from Grand Valley State University in December 2008 with a bachelors degree in integrated science with an elementary education minor.

Kristen Schrauben (2001) graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in December. (P.S. Kristen, your family sent in a special congratulations and want you to know how proud they are of you!)

#### **OTHER HAPPENINGS**

Joyce (Schrauben, 1957) LaFleur of East Lansing received the 2008 Michigan's AARP Andrus Award for Community Service. This award is the most prestigious and visible volunteer award given out by the organization. Joyce was selected for her remarkable service and the impact she has had on the lives of others and on her community. She has been a very active volunteer with the AARP Tax-Aide program since 1999, serving in various capacities, including instructor, local coordinator and district coordinator. During last year's tax season, she supervised the preparation of 3,670 tax returns. "The enthusiasm and dedication that Joyce has is contagious among her 31 volunteers,"

said Steve Gools, AARP state director. "She inspires others with her high level of energy and devotion."

Two St. Pat's classmates, who worked together at the Portland Post Office for over 30 years, have retired. Tom Russman (1973) and Mike Cook (1973) hung up their mail bags in February, after long and successful careers delivering mail to people and businesses in the Portland community.

#### IN MEMORY OF

Nicholas (Perry) Lawless, 88, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on September 13, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Kathleen Irene (Fedewa) Lawless, and an infant daughter, Kay. He is survived by his sister, Jean Wernette; children Terrence (Vicki) Lawless, Barbara (Darrell) Mitchell, Brian (Patty) Lawless, and Beth (William) Emelander; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Reynold A. Martin, 81, passed away on September 21, 2008. He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson Lee Martin; sister Arlene Martin. He is survived by his wife Mary; children, Kathleen (Kurt) Pitch, Arlene (Carl) Randall, Terry Martin, Jerry (Sharon) Martin, Daniel Martin, Kenneth (Laurie) Martin, Mary Ann (George Hilton) Fowler, and David Martin; 17 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; brother, Hilary (Donna) Martin; 3 sisters, Irene (Mike) Schafer, Bernie (Bob) Pung, and Rita (Jerry) Schrauben.

Marie (Russman) DeBaldo, 72, died on Sunday, September 21, 2008 as a result of an automobile accident. She is survived by her sons, Paul Jr. (Kristin) DeBaldo and David (fiancee, Crystal) DeBaldo and her precious grandsons, Quinn and Dylan. Marie was the sister to: Joseph (Peggy) Russman, John (Mary) Russman, Jim (Lynda) Russman, Janie Schrauben, Fritz (Anne) Russman, Kathie (Don) Chamberlain, and Tom (Kathy) Russman

Magdalene Strong, 86, passed on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bret in 1981 and sons-in-law Richard Pung and Bob Hensley. Sur-

viving are her children Judy Pung of Eagle, Barbara Jean Struble of Anchorage, Alaska, Stephen (Jacky) Strong of Dayton, Ohio, Gloria Hensley of Portland, Donna (Gary) Paquin of Burnips, Michigan, Agnes Krancich of Portland, Nancy Strong (Thomas Vemich) of Kalamazoo, Jim Strong of Lansing, Mary (Jim) Lyon of Eagle; 21 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandson and a great-great grandchild on the way; sisters Dorothy Wakley of Perry and Rosemary Pung of Eagle; sister-in-law, Mary Pohl of DeWitt and brother-in-law. Roman Feldpausch of Florida.

Gerald (Gerry) Weller, 60, passed away on November 12, 2008. Gerry was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Freddie and infant sister Kay. Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Ellen; daughters Kendra (Kyle) Binkley of Lansing, Becky (Brad) Durrant of Eagle, and Angie (Corey) Parkhurst of Lansing; three grandchildren; siblings Bill (Patti) Weller, Mike (Joan) Weller, Pat (Anita) Weller, Dan (Kathy) Weller, Terry (Jo Ellen) Weller, Loren (Cindy) Weller, and Teresa (Mark) Brenner; and brother-in-law, Larry (Deb) Scarborough.

James O. Fox, 82, passed away at the Mid-Michigan Hospice House on Monday, November 24, 2008. Surviving are his wife Josephine (Theis) Fox, whom he married on June 17, 1957; father of sons Robert (Sharon Rademacher) Fox and Richard Fox (deceased). He was the proud Grandpa of Michelle and Emilee. Also surviving are sisters, Connie Owen and Mary-Ann Thelen both of Portland and Wilma (Dan) Feather of Hastings; brother-inlaw Ed (JoAnn) Theis of Portland; sister-in-laws, Christine Smith and Rose Kolp of Westphalia and Catherine (Gerald) Haeck of Grand Ledge.

Herman J. Schrauben, Jr., 77, passed away on Saturday, December 6, 2008. On July 12, 1951, he married Jaclynn Gardner and she preceded him in death. On June 28, 1985 he married Carole (VanAmburg) Howland. Herm is preceded in death by his parents, sister Bernice Fitzmaurice and a grandson Joshua Bengel. Surviving are his wife, Carole; children Daniel (Melody) Schrauben of Portland, Dr. Douglas (Cindy) Schrauben of Mt. Pleasant, Cheryl (Jeff) Bosworth of Sunfield,

Jack (Terri) Schrauben of Portland, Brenda (Joseph) Smith of Portland, Terry "Chopper" (Jonda) Schrauben of Portland, Jim (Karen) Howland of Portland, Patrick (Jami) Howland of Portland and Kristin (Wayne) Rivet of Lansing; 21 grandchildren; siblings Gerald (Rita) Schrauben, Janet Sutherland, Kenneth (Donna) Schrauben, Roy (Carolyn) Schrauben, and Michael (Roberta) Schrauben; brother-in-law John Fitzmaurice; mother-in-law Mary Van Amburg; sister-in-law Marylou (Roger) Bullen; special friend Tom Sutherland.

Elizabeth (Betty) Spitzley, passed away on December 19, 2008, at home surrounded by her loving family after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Philip; children Steve (Vikki) Spitzley, Randy (Brenda) Spitzley, Debbie (Dave) Crumbaugh, Becky (Brian) Haskin, Doug (Lori Rhodes) Spitzley; 13 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; 4 brothers and a sister.

James J. Schaffer, 62, of Grand Rapids and formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully December 21, 2008, after a recent diagnosis of cancer. Jim was the Athletic Director at Kent City Community Schools. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Mary Jane Schaffer. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Mary; children, Sue, Patrick, Julie (Hector) Meza; granddaughter, Yasmine Meza; brother, Steve (Debbie) Schaffer of Lakeland, FL; sister, Mary Fran VanOstran of Williamston; and stepmother, Helen Schaffer of Oscoda.

Frederick May, 79, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away on Wednesday, December 31, 2008. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Gary May and many brothers and sisters. Surviving are his wife of 55 years; Germaine P. May; children, Linda Sue (Jim) Spring of Portland, Debbie (Richard) Cuthbert of St. Johns, Brian (Lisa) May of Portland, Connie (Paul) Hengesbach of Eagle, Scott (Jane) May of Eagle, and Kevin (Tracv) May of Kalamazoo: 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; brother, Leon (Jeri) May of Portland; sisters, Laurine Spitzley of Mulliken, and Sr. Joan May, SSR of Goodrich.

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# From the Principal

The school year is about 75% complete and everything is going well at St. Patrick School—in fact, we're having a great year. Over the past months I have had the opportunity to observe the school and the parish from a different perspective. I have talked to many parents and grandparents and these conversations have given me much insight into the history and traditions that make St. Patrick School home.

As the school year has progressed, there are two questions that people ask me on a regular basis. The question I get asked the most is, "Do you like your job?"

When I answer this question and tell people that I absolutely love my job they usually pause and stare at me for a few seconds. Then, they follow up with the second most frequently asked question, "Really?"

Really! I would like to tell you some of the reasons why I enjoy serving as the administrator at St. Patrick School as much as I do.

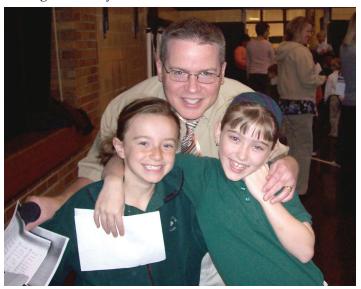
Let's start with the students. The students at this school are outstanding. They are well-behaved and perform at a high academic level. Their work ethic is unmatched. They represent themselves, their families, and faith extremely well. It is an honor to come to work and have the opportunity to serve these students each and every day.

People often wonder how a high school as small as ours can be so successful in athletics. The reason is because the work ethic and character of our student athletes is unprecedented around the state. That same work ethic means that our students are able to find gainful employment because St. Pat's has a good reputation and state-wide name recognition. These things affirm the decision that Michelle and I made to send

our children to St. Patrick School. We decided that sending our kids to St. Pat's would cost us the yearly amount in tuition—but the value of a diploma from St. Patrick School is priceless.

The second thing that makes my days enjoyable is the parents. The parents at St. Patrick's are very supportive. They have made a financial commitment to send their child here because they believe in our mission. I have found that if a student is having a problem at school, that problem is usually solved with a phone call or an e-mail to the parents. It is easy to work together with the parents—as partners—to make sure their children have a foundation for success when they graduate.

The group that I hear the most positive comments from is the grandparents! They have such nice things to say about the school and their grandchildren. They are proud that their own children followed their lead and chose a Catholic education for their grandchildren. We have many grandparents who volunteer time at the school and even more who regularly attend activities throughout the year.



Another group of individuals who make this a special place to work is the staff. I often feel guilty when people give me all the credit for how good the school year is going. The credit really goes to our outstanding staff. This includes our teachers, maintenance and custodial staff, and clerical staff. They come to work everyday ready to go, and the amount of time and effort they put forth exceeds anything that is asked or expected of them. We have a great school because we have a great staff.

The final group of individuals I would like to mention are all the people who serve on the many commit-

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## Lots Happening at St. Pat's

- February 3, 2009, was the grand opening of the St. Patrick School branch of the Portland Federal Credit Union. The student run branch provides St. Patrick School with a unique opportunity to offer financial education and money management skills to our students. Students in grades 2 12 as well as staff members are able to use the school run branch each Tuesday during lunch period.
- There will not be any major changes in the developmental kindergarten or kindergarten programs at St. Patrick School next year. Our kindergarten program will continue to be all-day sessions, five days a week. We will continue to offer half-day sessions for DK.

The morning session will run from approximately 8:30 – 11:30 and assuming there is enough demand, we will offer an afternoon session from approximately 12:25 – 3:25. Your child does not have to be five years old before December 1st to enroll in our DK program.



- Our kindergarten screening will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 9:00 3:00 in the Parish Hall. You may sign up for a screening by calling the school office at (517) 647–7551.
- Beginning next year, our juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to attend classes at the Heartlands Institute of Technology.
- We have purchased curriculum materials from Financial Peace University (the company founded by Dave Ramsey) so we can offer a Personal Finance class to our high school students. We are going to require Sophomores to take this class in the second semester of the school year. We have chosen this age and grade because this is the time in a high school student's life where personal finance begins to become important. They begin to get jobs and drivers licenses, and start to think about life after high school. We want to make sure our students are completely prepared for life beyond high school when they graduate.

# Standardized Scores Highest in Area

In December, Mr. Hodge released the St. Patrick High School 2008 American College Test (ACT) scores as well as the scores for the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). As you can see from the charts below, St. Patrick School scores are the highest in the county and well above the state average.

#### American College Test (ACT)

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of four subject area tests plus a 30-minute Writing Test. ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S.

High School	Composite	English	English &	Math	Reading	Science	Writing
Belding	18	17.1	16.5	18.5	17.5	18.6	6
Fowler	20.6	20.1	19.3	20.3	21.2	20.1	6.6
Ionia	19.2	18.1	17.8	18.7	19	20.2	6.6
Lakewood	18.7	17.2	17.2	19.1	18.5	19.5	6.6
Portland	19.4	18.1	18.3	19.9	19	19.9	7.1
PW	20.7	19.1	19.6	20.9	21	21.2	7.7
Saranac	20	19	18.4	20.2	19.3	20.9	6.4
St. Pats	21.4	20.7	21.2	22.2	21	21.3	8.2
State	18.8	17.6	17.5	19	18.8	19.5	6.6

#### Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

The MME is mandated for all high school juniors in the state of Michigan, and is tied to the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

High School	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing	English Lang Arts
Belding	39.0	46.5	45.9	70.4	33.3	42.1
Fowler	60.4	75.0	70.8	89.5	60.4	68.8
Ionia	47.9	65.8	65.7	78.6	43.3	53.9
Lakewood	47.8	64.1	60.4	85.2	37.4	50.8
Portland	55.7	63.6	58.6	86.7	40.0	52.9
PW	68.4	77.6	78.9	93.4	63.2	75.0
Saranac	61.0	69.5	74.4	91.5	51.2	63.4
St. Pats	71.4	81.0	81.0	90.5	61.9	66.7
State	46.2	61.9	56.6	79.9	41.1	52.3



# **NEW FOUNDATION**

by Mike Johnson, Business Manager

t the end of 2008, a sizeable bequest was given to the parish from the estate of Sue Crosby. The only stipulation was that it be used for youth in the parish Youth Ministry program. Because of Sue's love for the youth, it seemed most fitting to set up a special Foundation in her memory so that her bequest could benefit Youth Ministry in the parish both now and in the future.

An account has been established with the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan which is a Diocesan Foundation. Each year the interest will be disbursed, but the principle will never be used. This fund will assist youth who would otherwise be unable to attend special events in the Youth Ministry program.

With the establishment of the Suzanne Crosby Foundation, we now have three foundations available for parishioner contributions. They are the Father Flohe Foundation, the Suzanne Crosby Foundation and the St. Patrick Parish Foundation. The latter was established in the mid-1990's to fund special educational opportunities. Those opportunities can include not only the school, but evangelization, adult education, youth ministry and children's religious education as well.

# **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

by Mike Cook

For many years our parish has been blessed with Eucharistic Adoration each Monday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 7:00 p.m. During this time, the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament chapel is open so that anyone can come and

benefit from Jesus' real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. It is truly the best quiet time you can spend.

The only requirement to having Eucharistic Adoration is that someone be there at all times during these hours. Ideally, two people would be present at all times, and the best way to assure that, is to establish a schedule where individuals sign up for a particular time slot and then commit to being there each week during that hour. Sometimes folks team up and alternate covering an hour every other week.

You might be thinking that's a big commitment. Yup, it is, but the benefits for you, your family and the parish are amazing. You want to hear something else amazing? Jesus loves it when you come and regularly unload your fears, problems and faults on Him. Also amazing is that, after a while, you actually start looking forward to it. He does too.

Think about it. If you can commit to a one-hour time slot Monday or Wednesday please call Mike Cook at 517-647-2518 or 517-242-1352. If you can't, stop in and spend time with Jesus anytime you like. Five minutes, ten minutes or an hour, it's all good.

# **NEW PARISH GROUPS**

There's something for everyone at St. Patrick Parish. Two new groups have recently been formed:

The Hospitality Committee. This committee is made up of members who are committed to growing the Body of Christ here at St. Patrick Parish through social events— not for the purpose of raising money—but to help people to get to know one another better. They sponsored the Parish Picnic in Alton Park in the fall, serve coffee and donuts after designated Sunday masses, and have sponsored a monthly Game Day in the Parish Hall on Sunday afternoons.

*The Culinary Angels.* This is another relatively new group in the parish that provides meals for parishioners (and beyond) who have a short-term need.



# **New Things For Lent**

by Father Larry King

This year, during the Lenten Season, we are doing a couple of new things here at St. Patrick Parish. These endeavors have given our parishioners new opportunities to spend time in prayer and fellowship.

Stations/Soup Suppers. On Friday evenings during Lent, Stations of the Cross are being held at 6:00 p.m., followed by Soup Suppers in the Parish Hall. This event is headed up by Ken Schneider and his wife Karen Stevens, and is sponsored by our new Hospitality Committee.

Thanks to Ken and Karen, we've had a five-fold increase in people attending the Stations of the Cross! The Soup Supper features many different meatless soups—at least 10-12 different varieties each week—along with homemade bread and rolls. The soups are provided by anyone who wants to participate. I'd like to say thanks to all who are providing the homemade soups and the homemade bread. It is certainly helping to make our Lenten journey a holy time!!!

Evening Mass. Another new thing we are trying during Lent is having Mass on Tuesday evenings instead of Tuesday morning. I'd heard from a number of people over the last couple of years that it would be nice to have a weekday evening Mass for those who work during the day. Well, our first Tuesday evening Mass at 6:00 p.m. was attended by about 60 peopleagain, a number much higher than what we see at a regular weekday morning mass.

Since Tuesday evenings are normally meeting nights for several councils and committees, we are beginning the meetings a little earlier than normal, with Mass, and then go into the business portion of the meeting. We'll evaluate this change after Lent and see if this is something that would be beneficial for the parish if we were to make this a permanent change.

# Children's Liturgy of the Word

Plans are underway for a new program at St. Patrick's that will begin in the fall of 2009. Deacon Don Sobolewski and a group of volunteers are putting together a ministry for children from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The program is called the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place during the 9:30 mass. After Mass begins and the opening prayer is said, the children will leave together as a group. They will go to the choir room located below the sacristy, where, they will listen to the same readings that the rest of the congregation hear, but in language and vocabulary that they will more easily understand. The readings will be followed by a short reflection period that will include discussion, questions and answers, songs and simple activities. The children will return to their seats during the collection.

"It's important to understand that this is not a babysitting service," said Deacon Don. "Neither is it a catechism class. It is a worship experience, structured to help children better understand the Word of God."

Adult volunteers will be needed to facilitate the program. Ideally, there will be four teams of four who will rotate on a monthly basis. There will be no cost to either the volunteers or the families. Adult leaders must have attended a Protecting God's Children Awareness Session and they will have to have background checks completed.

"We may be ready to go by summer," said Deacon Don. "But, people go on vacations during the summer and have different schedules. When school starts in the fall, schedules get back on track. That's when we plan to start the program."

In the meantime, there's lots to be done—from recruiting and training volunteers, to converting a meeting/storage room to a kid-friendly worship and learning environment, to putting together materials and finalizing the schedule.

If you would like to help out in this important ministry, please call Deacon Don at (517) 647-6505 extension 409.

# LOHE OUNDATION



# Thank You Very Much!

by Kevin Schrauben, President

hank You! Thank You! On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to those who contributed to the Foundation over the past year, to those who remembered the Foundation as part of their memorial services, and to those who remembered the Foundation in their estate planning.

Because of your generosity, the Father Flohe Foundation was able to provide \$80 toward the tuition of every student attending St. Patrick's School for the 2008/2009 school year. Looking forward to 2009, we ask that you please continue to consider the Father Flohe Foundation in your planned giving. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to ensure the continuation of Catholic education at St. Patrick's.

# **FFF At A Glance**

The Father Flohe Foundation at a Glance (Data through June 30, 2008):

- Since 1988, the Foundation has received gifts from donors in excess of \$1.44 million
- Since 1989, the Foundation has provided approximately \$662,000 to the school.
- The Foundation awards the annual Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award to an alumnus of St. Patrick School who in their life has exemplified the high goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick's can achieve.
- The Foundation awards the annual Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship to a student who demonstrates good study habits, steady improvement and hard work to achieve.

- The Foundation provides funding for the Shamrock Newsletter.
- Since 2003, the Foundation has coordinated and provided a celebration for each of the graduating high school classes in honor of their 50-year reunion.

# **Planned Giving**

There are many ways an individual can continue to support the Fr. Flohe Foundation:

- Cash contributions
- Life insurance
- Memorial gifts
- Life income gifts
- Donations of stock or other liquid assets
- Bequests

The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization, which means your gifts may be tax deductible. Please consider making a donation to the Foundation to support Catholic Education at St. Patrick School. Clearly marked contributions to the Foundation can be made by mail, in Sunday offerings, or by dropping them off at the parish office. If by mail, please send to *Father Flohe Foundation*, 140 *Church Street*, *Portland*, *MI* 48875. If you have any questions regarding the foundation please contact Kevin Schrauben at 517-647-1892.

# 50-Year Celebration

Get ready St. Patrick graduating Class of 1959! The Foundation is in the midst of planning a celebration in honor of your 50-year reunion. The celebration will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Ask any of the graduates who attended previous celebrations and they will tell you what a great time it is.

Members of the Foundation will continue to be in touch to update you and your classmates as to the specific plans.

# Reunion Neus

# **REUNION ALERTS**

The 50-year reunion for the *Class of 1959* will be held on Sept. 12, 2009, at St. Patrick Parish Hall sponsored by the Father Flohe Foundation. If you have not received your letter about attending the reunion, please contact Sue Fox at 517-647-6674 or *fox mike@att.net*.

The *Class of 1969* will hold their 40-year reunion on August 22, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Oakwood Lounge in Pewamo. Guests will order off the menu and buy drinks at the bar. No reservations will be required. Information will be mailed to you in a few weeks. Contact Anne Russman at 647-4094 for more information.

The *Class of 1974* will celebrate their 35-year reunion on September 12, 2009, on the Michigan Princess Riverboat. Cost is \$46.00 per person, which includes the services of a captain and one crew member, the use of indoor seating, outdoor seating, the use of tables, and the use of the boat from 6:00 p.m.-midnight. J & K Steamboat will provide the following additional services: Dinner buffet, cash bar, easy listening music during dinner and post-dinner DJ for dancing. For more information, contact Pam Luna or Sharon Page.

The *Class of 1984* will hold their 25-year reunion on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Contact Brenda Smith at (517) 256-4367 for more information.

The *Class of 1989* will hold their 20-year reunion on August 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oakwood Lounge in Pewamo. Information has already been mailed out. If you did not receive yours or if you need additional information, contact Kaye Thelen at *thelenk@hotmail.com* or Lisa Lehnert at 647-6539.

The *Class of 1994* 15-year reunion will be Saturday, October 3, 2009. Invitations will be mailed in April. Contact Ben Cross at *precisionheatandair@yahoo.com* or (517) 930-2963 for more information.

# REUNION REPORTS

The *Class of 1978* celebrated their 30-year class reunion at the home of Doug and LouAnn Pline on October 4, 2008. A delicious dinner of chicken and pork with all the trimmings was provided by Doug and LouAnn. Nineteen classmates attended the reunion. A fun night of sharing memories and catching up with old friends was enjoyed by all.



The *Class of 1983* celebrated its 25-year reunion in August 2008 with a reception at the Wagon Wheel banquet hall. Twenty of the 52 classmates attended. The night was spent visiting with cherished friends and a great time was had by all.



# Upcoming Events....

Next issue of The Shamrock—Early October. Send in your news as soon as possible!

#### **LOST SHEEP**

Sometimes readers are surprised to find their own names or the names of their loved ones on the Lost Sheep list. Many times these people aren't lost at all, they have simply moved without letting us know. If we mail a newsletter and it comes back without forwarding information, we put that name onto the Lost Sheep list. To prevent this from happening, you can help us out by using the form on the back page to let us know when you move.

# Can You Help Us Find Any of These Lost Sheep?

1960 Peter Goodman

1961 John D. Pung

1964 Jim Pung

1965 Diane Hughes

1966 Mike Feldpausch

1968 Carolyn (Rowe) Embree

1970 Ted Goodrich

1972 Ken Brown

1973 Pat Stump

1974 Mark VanderHoff

1974 Sandy (Nowak) Johnson

1975 Susan Thelen

1976 Chris Pung

1979 Christine Bozung

1979 Michael Hendricks

1980 Angie Young

1981 Frank Winter

1990 John Huhtala

1993 Darci Hinds

1994 Laurie Sandborn

1995 Ryan Kammers

1996 Paul Theuerkauf

1997 Robert Weller

# The 2009 Shamrock Auction

Gee, Wally. This sounds like fun.



www.portlandstpats.com
(Click on Auction)

- Raffles
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- 50/50's
- Food & Drink
- Fun!



**Dress as your favorite TV Land Character!** 

Saturday, April 18, 2009. Doors open at 6:00! \$10 Admission includes food and drinks for the entire evening!

## School News (con't)

tees and commissions throughout our parish. There are so many individuals who go above and beyond to serve our parish. They put forth such a diligent effort because they realize how unique and special our parish family is and they want to work to ensure that our parish will continue as a successful entity.

Finally, I would also like to mention the support I get at home. Michelle, Savannah and Samuel are extremely supportive of all that I do. They realize the demands that this position has and they have been very unselfish in their support of me serving as the school principal.

I hope and pray for a strong and successful finish to the school year. It is my desire that the students and staff will not count the days until the end of the school but will instead make every day count. I also hope and pray that Lord willing, I will continue to serve the parish as administrator of this school for many years to come.



# St. Patrick Parish Festival

Visit the Parish Festival Website: www.portlandstpats.com (Click on Parish Festival)

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **FANTASTIC FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

#### **SUPER SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

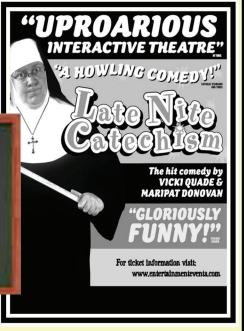
8:00 am-9:00 pm **Softball Tourney** 8:30-9:30 am 5K Race 9:00 am-6:00 pm 3-on-3 Tourney 10:00 a m-7:00 pm **Golf Outing** 10:00 a m-8:00 pm **Kids Games** 10:00 a m-11:30 pm Food Court 12:30-4:00 pm **Euchre Tournament** 3:00-6:00 pm **Guitar Hero Contest** Noon-Midnight **Gathering Tent** 

#### **SPECTACULAR SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

TBA Softball Championships
10:30 am Outdoor Mass
11:30 am-2:30 pm Chicken Dinner
11:30 am-3:00 pm Food Court
Noon-3:15 pm Music in the Tent
1:00-3:00 pm Kids Games/Activities
3:15 pm Raffles

### Special Presentation

Class will come to order on Friday, June 26 at 7 p.m. when Sister Mary Ignatius takes the stage at the St. Pat's Parish Festival.
One Show Only!



Call the Parish Office for Advance Tickets.

Complete information available on the website.

June 26-27-28

Always the weekend after Father's Day!

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING

(continued from page 5)

Vicki Lawless, 57, passed away on January 14, 2009, at home surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her parents. Surviving are her husband, Terry; children Ryan, Nick, and Mandy (Ryan) Johnston; four grandchildren; brothers Jack (Julie) Donovan and Mike Donovan; special cousin Theresa Curtis.

William Willemin, 76, beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away January 16, 2009, in Florida. Bill is preceded in death by his parents, sister Marilyn Stump, and a brother Richard "Dick" Willemin. Surviving are his wife Elaine "Bugsy" Willemin; sons Dr. Russ (Kathy) Willemin, Denny (Meg) Willemin, Dr. Doug (Laura) Willemin, Mike (Shari) Willemin and John (Chris) Willemin; 15 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; sister Janice Trierweiler.

Larry Spohn, 72, was called home by the Lord on January 20, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife Laura, brother-in-law Bill Willemin, in-laws George and Lena Benedict, stepmother Elaine Spohn and his goddaughter Susie Csepregi. Surviving are his children Mark (Marlys) Spohn, Steve (Shelly) Spohn, Ken (Sherri) Spohn, Jim (Doreen) Spohn and Joseph Spohn; eight grandchildren; one great granddaughter; sisters V.A. (Al) Goodrich, Elaine "Bugsy" Willemin, Doreen (Jack) Warder, Diane (Denny) Goff, Debbie (Dan) Grohs; brothers Dan (Margo) Spohn and Don (Karen) Spohn; brother-in-law John (Mary Lou) Tannery; and sister-inlaw Alice (Bob) Nephew.

Robert Hodge, 63, passed away on February 11, 2009. He was preceded in death by his father, Albert, niece Kelly Pline and brother-in-law, James Miller. Surviving are his sons Ronald and Robert (fiancee Meghan Frazer) both of Portland; mother Geraldine Hodge of Portland; sisters Irene Miller of Woodland, Connie (Chuck) Carr, Linda (Doug) Brown, and Jane (Keith) Pline all of Portland; brothers Gary (Barb) Hodge of Portland, William (Sharon) Hodge of Flint, Ronald (Sue) Hodge of Grand Ledge and Mike (Sherry) Hodge of Portland.

Rose Marvin, 85, passed away on Thursday, February 19, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel; son, Stephen; grand-daughter, Ashleigh Zimmer and six siblings. She is survived by her children, Elaine (Lee) Riley of Roscommon, Mary Ellen Marvin, Jane (Ron) Conley, Patrick (Teresa) Marvin, Ann E. (Bruce) Zimmer all of Portland and Eric Marvin of Kalamazoo; daughter-in-law, Rhonda Marvin of Laingsburg; sister Bonnie (Ted) Rademacher of Westphalia; 12 grandchildren; and 7 great grandchildren.

Robert Gross, 69, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather passed away on February 23, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Frederick Gross. Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Priscilla "Cil" Gross; children, Lynn (Michael) Winter of Portland, Robert L. (Holly) Gross, Jr. of California, Dawn (Adam) Holcomb of Portland, Deanna (Jim) Gromelski of Colorado, Steve (Kelly) Gross of Colorado, and David Secor of California; 16 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Sue (Tom) Lasky of Martin, Tennessee and Pamela (Terry) Christensen of Spring Lake.

Sister Joan May, 67, of Goodrich entered into eternal life on January 16, 2009, after a sudden and unexpected heart attack. She is survived by a sister, Laurine Spitzley of Mulliken; brother and sister-in-law, Leon and Jeri May of Portland, sisters-in-law, Marie May, Germain May, Germaine P. May and brother-in-law, Don Spitzley.

Stephen Ladisky, 54, went home to be with the Lord on January 14, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Elaine Lenneman; his brother, Joseph; his son, Eric; and his grandson, Stephen. He is survived by his brother, John Ladisky of Rose City; his sister, Paula (Dennis) Dryer of Portland; sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Bob Lenneman; and his two sons, Paul (Jessica) Ladisky and Dustin Ladisky, both of Portland.

## Mr. Hodge's Wish List

I have put together a Wish List of items that would be extremely beneficial to the students of St. Patrick School. Many of them are bigticket items that, unfortunately, are not in our budget right now.

If you would like to help out with any of these items, please contact me.

(Complete information about the Wish List, along with approximate costs can be found on our school website. Go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on Wish List.)

#### WHO IS WHO???





The little boy, attending mass at St. Pat's with his mother, watched as Father Larry and Deacon Don walked down the aisle and entered the sanctuary. As they turned and faced the congregation, the preschooler tugged on his mother's sleeve and whispered, "Which one's Deak and which one's Don?"

- 1. Skyward grading software
- 2. New fold-up bench tables for the cafeteria
- 3. A portable, wireless-internet computer lab
- 4 New computers for the teaching and office staff
- 5. Wireless internet through out the building
- 6. Multi-media projectors



After testing you with some pretty hard puzzles in the past few issues, it's time for a simple Word Search! No clues to figure out—just find the fifty words that are listed. All of the words relate to Catholic education, particularly Catholic education at St. Pat's. You can ignore the words in parentheses. When you've found all fifty of the words, the letters that are leftover will spell out the answer to the puzzle.

	н	N	T	S	P	S	E	H	M	0	S	P	T	E	В	L	P	S	L	S
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ı																				

#### ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form, by any of the means described on the back page, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by May 1, 2009. Cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner, who will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries. You must be 18 or older to enter. Limit of one entry per person.

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	_STATE	_ZIP
ANSWER:		

ACCREDITATION	HOLY CARDS
A.C.T.	HONOR ROLL
ALUMNI	HOT LUNCH
ATHLETIC.ASSOCIATION	JEAN DAYS
BELL.AWARD	JOAN (of Arc)
BINGO	(Our) LADY
BLEACHER	LAVATORY
BONFIRE	LOCKER
BOOKS	MASS
BUS	MATH
CAFETERIA	OFFICE
CARPOOL	PAPER DRIVE
CATECHICM	DDOM

CATECHISM PROM

CHEER RELIGION CLASS

CLASS RETREATS
DETENTION REUNIONS
DRESSCODE ROSARY
EXAMS SCHOOL PLAY

FAITH SHAMROCKS

FALL FESTIVAL SINS

FANS SPIRIT WEEK

FIRST COMMUNION STAGE
FUNDRAISERS THE PIT
GREEN TUITION
GYMNASIUM WHITE

**ANSWER TO FALL PUZZLE:** The fall puzzle was a Word Search with some pretty hard clues. The answer was: *Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened*.

The winner, drawn from all of the correct entries was Ashley Theis. She received a \$50 cash prize. Congratulations to Ashley, and thank you to all of you who entered the contest!

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St. Patrick Church Father Flohe Foundation 140 Church Street Portland, MI 48875

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Website: www.portlandstpats.com
(Click on Alumni Information>Shamrock News)

The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, donors to the Father Flohe Foundation and upon request. The members of the editorial staff are:

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Nancy (Bauer) Ingram	

#### **ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_Please make the following change to the address file:

\_\_\_\_\_Please add the following name to The Shamrock mailing list:

Information on a Lost Sheep:

Name Grad. Year

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_

ATTENTION PARENTS: If your adult children have established permanent addresses, but their issues of The Shamrock are still coming to your house, please contact us with their new information. See contact information in the box on the left, or fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket in an envelope, clearly marked SHAMROCK NEWS-LETTER.

If you are planning a wedding or reunion, or have another reason for needing a list of your classmates, contact Jan at the Parish Office Building (517-647-6505) or <a href="mailto:stpats@cablespeed.com">stpats@cablespeed.com</a>.