



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 21 NO.2 SPRING 2010

The State of the School

by Randy Hodge

ENROLLMENT. Enrollment at St. Patrick School has grown by 2% this school year. Considering the state of our current economy, this modest growth is very exciting. We receive inquiries almost daily from families who are exploring the possibility of sending their child(ren) to St. Pat's, and we are anticipating another increase in enrollment next year.

TUITION. We are continuously working to stabilize tuition. With assistance from the school's endowment fund, the Father Flohe Foundation, we have been able to do that in the short term. There was no tuition increase this year and we are budgeting for a modest increase for the 2010-11 school year. The Father Flohe Foundation is working hard to increase donations to the fund so that it will be available to further assist the school in continuing to reach this goal.

ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS. We instituted two new programs this year that should help to increase the enrollment at St. Patrick School. The first program, the *Shamrock Commitment* caps the amount of tuition for each new incoming freshmen class at the first child rate of tuition for the entire four years they attend St. Patrick High School. The second program, *Try Us, You'll Like Us*, gives families the opportunity to try us out without any financial risk. *Try Us You'll Like Us* is described in detail in the article on the right.

MARKETING. The public relations team continues to promote the positive virtues of our school and the value of a Catholic education. These virtues include: 100% graduation rate, 95% of graduating seniors go on to higher education, the highest test scores in the area, small class sizes,

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Try Us, You'll Like Us!

On November 7, 2009 the St. Patrick School Commission announced a new program that would be instituted in January. The program, entitled *Try Us, You'll Like Us!*, is simply a way to let new families try St. Pat's without any risk.

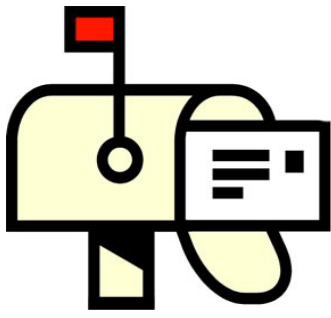
The family pays only a \$50 registration fee for each child enrolled, but pays no tuition for one quarter. If at the end of that quarter, the student and his/her family decide that they would like to remain at St. Patrick's, their tuition payments would commence.

"St. Patrick School has so much to offer, and we're sure that families will decide that it's the place that they want their children to be," said Principal Randy Hodge.

Try Us, You'll Like Us! can be used for any student in grades 1-11 who transfers to St. Patrick School at any time.

If you would like more information about the program, call Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551.





Mail Call

Thank you for all of your hard work putting together the newsletter. It is always well done and it is fun to find out what is going on at St. Pat's.

Pam Manning (1993)

Hi! To all the Shamrocks!

It was interesting to see a note from Sr. DePorres, SSJ in the last issue. She taught me in 8th grade in 1955 in Kalamazoo, then was a teacher at St. Pat's. Her room was right next to my first class there in 1966. How time flies!

Lou LaScala

Parishioners Make Good Use of Leftovers

It's no secret that we have a parish full of good cooks and good eaters. It's a rare event that occurs at St. Pat's without some kind of food being served.

Despite the fact that we're also a parish full of good appetites, oftentimes there is good food leftover at the end of these events, food that is divied up among the workers, sold in ziploc bags, or occasionally even dumped in the trash.

More and more of that leftover food is being put to a wonderful use, thanks to parishioners and good cooks, Romaine Lay and Phyllis Beard. Romaine and Phyllis volunteer every Wednesday

at the Hospice House in Lansing, where they cook a meal to feed a crowd. "We feed the patients, their families, visitors, and the staff," Romaine says. "It's usually at least 30 people who are there to eat."

The ladies buy the groceries for that meal out of their own pockets.

Over the past year, word has gotten out about what they are doing, and more and more groups at St. Pat's are donating their surplus food to them. Since they are very resourceful cooks, very little of that food goes to waste.

"A few weeks ago, we received pans of leftover scrambled eggs," Romaine said. "You'd think that there wouldn't be much that we could do with something like that. But, we fried up some sausage, mixed it with the eggs, covered it all with cheese--and made a great breakfast-type casserole. The people at the house loved it!"

They are grateful, too, to Michelle and Georgie at Cheeky Monkeys, who donate all of their leftover muffins and rolls to them.

Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, where the ladies volunteer, is located on the St. Lawrence campus of the Sparrow Health System in Lansing. It provides an option for terminally ill persons who are no longer able to be cared for in their homes. The facility has 21 private rooms and offers pain and symptom relief and control along with medical care and counseling services. Volunteers provide a variety of needs for the patients and families, allowing them to receive

Coming to us from New York City!
The only Michigan performance currently scheduled for 2010!

"A HOWLING COMEDY!"

CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES



Late Nite Catechism

Back by popular demand!

Friday, June 25

7:00 p.m.

In the Gathering Tent at St. Pat's Parish Festival!

Call 647-6505 for advance tickets.
\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

this end-of-life care at a lower cost and with less emotion strain than if they were in a traditional acute care facility.

Thank you to these super volunteers, and thank you to all of the groups at St. Patrick's who donate food to help them with their mission.



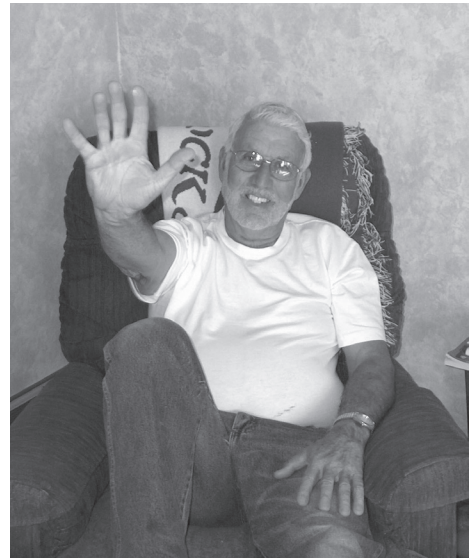
The Hospice House is open to visitors seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Families and visitors eat home-cooked meals, provided by volunteers.

In The Spotlight

In Memory of Dale Stiffler

by Sue Van Lente

We lost our dad in January. I've always thought that it would be sad to lose a parent, but know now that sad doesn't even begin to describe what it feels like. Those of you who have walked this path will know what I mean. Those who haven't---please cherish every single moment that you have with your folks. We thought we'd have our dad for another 20 years or more....it wasn't to be. Read more about our dad at www.caringbridge.org/visit/dalestiffler/mystory.



trips to Arizona, regular trips to the casino, and road trips---just because the road was there!

Dad was also always on call for any of his kids or grandkids who needed help or advice about how to fix something that was broken. No one could fix things like Dale Stiffler could! He had a sixth sense and a natural ability for trouble-shooting and repairing. None of us ever spent much money on repairmen...we just called Dad!

When we learned that Dad had an aneurysm that needed to be repaired, we were concerned---but not unduly so. He was strong as an ox and very active. We knew that this little bump in the road would set him back a little, but that within a couple of months he'd be up and at it again, fixing things and taking care of us.

It wasn't to be. Dad's surgery didn't go well and he nearly died the night of December 4. We think now that God wanted to take him then, but Dad said, "Not yet, God. My family needs time to adjust." And, God said, "Okay. Take a little more time with them. I can wait."

We got to spend six and a half weeks with him in the hospital. We watched him go through good days, full of conversation and hope, and bad. We took our turns at holding his hand and reassuring him that we were there and he was safe.

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My first memory of my dad is not really a memory at all, but a story that was told to me about when I was a baby. My parents lived in a very tiny little house, and my crib was in the corner of their kitchen. I was the first child, and have been told that I was a bit spoiled. Dad would sit at night and hold my hand, so that I could go to sleep.

Over the next five decades, he would step forward many times to physically or figuratively hold the hands of his family members

Dad and Mom were a typical 1950's couple, kind of like Ward and June Cleaver but without the necktie and pearls. She stayed home and cared for

the house and kids. He worked long and hard hours to provide support for their growing family. They put all ten of their kids through St. Patrick's Catholic School, always dropped an envelope in the Sunday collection, and made sure that no one ever left their table hungry.

During his working career, Dad missed out on a lot of kid events. But, back in the 50's and 60's that wasn't unusual. People back then knew that their kids wouldn't be damaged psychologically if their parents weren't at every single game. Dad was working second shift, and never even considered missing work to go to a ballgame.

But, when he retired in 1991, all of

that changed. Finally, after years of hard factory work, he had time to relax---and he made the most of the next 19 years! He and Mom became inseparable. You rarely saw one without the other. They attended games for kids, grandkids or great-grandkids nearly every night of the week. They also enjoyed winter

YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!



Dale Stiffler
Memorial Blood Drive



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

May 8, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Portland St. Patrick
Gymnasium

What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Bryan (1997) and Jamie Pung of Lansing, a daughter Sydney on November 27, 2009. She joins one sister, Taylor, 2.

To Kyle and April (Honsowitz, 2002) Nickols of Bellevue, a son Ethan Chad on January 20, 2010.

To Brenda (Hengesbach, 1995) and Bob Johnston of Sault Ste. Marie, a son Trenton Robert on August 15, 2009.

To Nathan and Carissa (Schneider, 1998) Horan, a son Xander Timothy, on December 12, 2009.

To Thomas and Jennifer (Pulling, 2002) Kreiner of Ionia, a son Caden James on June 29, 2004 and a daughter Kiley Marie on December 7, 2008.

To Andy and Erin (Brown) Martin, a daughter Olivia Laurine on August 31, 2009.

To Matt (2002) and Teresa (Weller, 2003) Knoop, a son Levi Michael on August 25, 2009. He joins one sister Alexis, 16 months.

To Chad (1995) and Jennifer Brown, a son Theodore Josiah on December 18, 2009. He joins one sister, Cozette.

To Pete and Erika (Stiffler, 1999) Hoppes, a son Alex Peter on December 31, 2009. He joins two sisters, Maya, 3 and Emma, 2.

To Mark (1998) and Heather (Hengesbach, 1999) Krieger of Eaton Rapids, a daughter Morgan Marie on December 31, 2009. She joins one brother, Logan, 2.

To Pete and Janet (Russman, 2000) Hengesbach of Sunfield, a son Darren Michael on November 25, 2009.

To Kurt (1999) and Kim (Krieger, 2000) Schafer of Holly, a son Peyton Daniel on September 10, 2009.

To Troy and Jodi (Pung, 1999) Thelen of Mulliken, a daughter Ember Lynn on September 27, 2009. She joins one sister, Ayla.

To Mike and Stacy (Sandborn, 1998) Feldpausch, a daughter Elena June on August 27, 2009.

To Grant (2004) and Tonya (Meyers, 2005) Keilen, a son Evan Grant on September 11, 2009. He joins one sister, Brooke, 3.

To Chris and Melinda (Fox, 2001) Fandel of Lyons, a son Emmet Kamby on May 15, 2009. He joins brother Aiden.

To Derik and Melissa (Burnham, 1998) Hebler of Ovid, a son Jack Robert on October 18, 2009.

To Bill and Jennifer (Fedewa, 1992) Schick of Grandville, a son Joseph Robert on January 15, 2010. He joins two sisters Jessica, 6, and Allison, 2, and one brother, Tommy, 4.

To Mike (1999) and Jess Bozung, a son Charles August on February 18, 2010. He joins one brother, Braden, 2

ENGAGEMENTS

Kelly Schrauben (2001) and Justin Mattila will be married on October 9, 2010.

Brett Klein (2005) and Tara Thelen (2006) will be married on June 26, 2010.

Pam Manning (1993) and Dave Dingwell will be married on July 3, 2010 in Grand Haven, Michigan.

WEDDINGS

Eric Simon (2002) and Megan Shaff of Middleville were married at Francis Park in Lansing on September 12, 2009.

Kyle Klein (2003) and Ashley Theis (2005) were married on August 15, 2009.

Jennifer Dutcher (2004) and Dave

Leik were married on May 23, 2009.

Jake Pung (1998) and Jaime Blackburn were married on October 24, 2009. They reside in West Olive, Michigan.

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Marilyn (Dutcher) Balderson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 24, 2009 with an open house, hosted by their children.

Dan and Julie (Smith, 1968) Leonard celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on October 18, 2009 with a family party.

Ted and Judy Stopczynski of Grand Ledge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 10, 2009 with a family Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed by an informal reception at their home.

Al and V.A. (Spohn) Goodrich celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 12 with a family gathering. The couple has nine children, 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren

Dick and Jane Pohl will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 7, 2010. The couple has four children and ten grandchildren.

GRADUATIONS

Doug Snitgen (1996) received his Master of Business Administration degree from Aspen University in January. Doug graduated with honors with a 4.0 GPA. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing from Western Michigan University. Doug and his wife Grace live in Portland with their two children, Joshua and Emily. He works as the Marketing and Key Account Manager at HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Becki (Stopczynski, 1993) Krieger has opened a new business in Port-

land, Perpetual Moments Photography Studio. The studio is located in the Kramer Building, adjacent to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. For more information, visit the studio's website at www.Perpetual-Moments-Photo.com.

Etta Mayhew celebrated her 103rd birthday on November 8, 2009. She currently resides at the Heartland Health Care Center in Ionia.

IN MEMORY OF

Marie Klein, 88, loving mother and grandmother, passed away on September 19, 2009. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Norman; son-in-law Bill Stajos. Surviving are her children, Lawrence (Rita) Klein of Portland, James (Jean) Klein of Portland, Jan Stajos of Dewitt, Thomas (Cathy) Klein of Portland and Colleen (Ron) Gladding of Portland; 13 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; sister, Monica Bengel; sisters-in-law, Mary Klein and Eleanora Klein; several nieces and nephews.

Marvin Fedewa, 78, passed away on September 22, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert. On September 26, 1951 he married his wife, Janet and she survives. Also surviving are his children Gary (Janet) Fedewa, Dan (Linda) Fedewa, Tony (Deb) Fedewa, Ann (Harold) Bouma, Marlene (Clint) Thomas, Jane (Dan) Schafer, Judy (John) Piasecki, Laura (Dan) Price, Marie (Bob) Schafer, Mark (Paula) Fedewa, Stan (Nancy) Fedewa, Dale (Mary) Fedewa, Connie (Bill) Vallier, and Carol (Don) Gunderman; 40 grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; sisters-in-law Bernita Pohl, Anna Thelen, Agnes Schneider, Mary Simon; many nieces and nephews.

Edwin Senecal, 68, of Delaware, Ohio passed away on September 27, 2009 after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Phyllis; daughter Christy (Jim) McLeod of Sunbury, Ohio; son David (Jasmin) Senecal of Delaware, Ohio; five grandchildren; three brothers; five sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kelly Barnes, 34, loving wife, mother, daughter and sister passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2009. She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Gary Barnes. Surviving are her husband

of 13 years, Greg Barnes; children, Rikki, Dominic, and Vincent; parents, Rick and Shirley Teachout of Portland; mother-in-law, Marcia Barnes of Portland; brother, Chad (Mary) Teachout of Portland; sister-in-law, Sheri (Russell) Smith of Lyons; nieces and nephews, Nicole and Jeremy Teachout and Tyler and Emily Smith.

Marilyn Koster, 80 passed away on October 11, 2009. She is survived by her stepson Scott (wife) Koster, three step-grandchildren and many cousins and friends.

Donald Hoffman, 87, passed away on October 13, 2009. He now joins in heaven his loving wife of 60 years June who preceded him in death. He is survived by his two daughters, Jeanie and Ed Utter of Holt and Vicki and Charles Stephens of Ionia; grandchildren, Maria and Lange Himebaugh of Anthem, AZ, Scott and Jennifer Stephens of Ionia, Chuck and Amie Stephens of Ionia, Gayle and Blaine Etcheverry of Sherman Oaks, CA, Kathy and Gregg Mahlich of Ionia, Mike and Jennifer Stephens of Newaygo, Jamie and Shannon Morehouse of Holt and Nicole Stephens of Ionia; great grandchildren, Alex Himebaugh, Jordan and Ryan Stephens, Taylor Stephens, Brandon and Cameron Mahlich, Jordan and Ashton Stephens, Austin, Diana, and Mary Morehouse, and Kaelyn Daugherty; one sister-in-law Viola Thelen of Portland; several nieces and nephews.

Marvin Lawless, 87, admired father, grandfather, and brother passed away on Friday, October 16, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Revella (Cook) Lawless; sister, Ruth Black; brother, Robert Lawless. Surviving are his children, Joseph Lawless of Clinton Twp, MI and Mary Jane (Larry) Helvie of Roscommon, MI; grandchildren, Karri Szyperski, Nicole Lawless, and Patrick Lawless; brother, Richard (Shirley) Lawless of Portland; several nieces and nephews.

William Shattuck, 79, passed away on Monday, October 19, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents Morris and Clara Shattuck; brothers Allan (Belva), Bob (Genet), and Wayne Shattuck. Bill is survived by his wife of 54 years, Germaine; children Kathy, Ken, Jack (Mary Kay), Jon (Jean), and Lee Ann; grandchildren Kraig (Lisa), J.D.,

Jessica, Stephanie, Ashley (Terry), Alan, Nick, Kellie, and Clara, Maria and Jacob; brothers Don (Doris) and Vern (Leota) and three sisters-in-law.

Philip Hughes, 86, of Kentwood passed away on October 23, 2009. He is survived by his children Diane Hughes of Kentwood, Sharon (George) Frye of El Paso, TX, and Ken (Cindy) Hughes of Edmore; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Richard Strang, 73, passed away on Sunday, November 1, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents, 4 brothers and a sister. Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Joyce (Patrick); daughter Kimberly (Michael) Fedewa; sons Mark Strang, Jeffrey Strang, Richard Strang and Barry (Leslie) Strang; loving grandchildren; sister Barbara (Gerald) Davis; sisters-in-law, Margaret Strang and Ruth Strang; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Eric Snitgen, 54 of Bedford, New Hampshire, passed away on November 17, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his mother, Annette. He is survived by his wife, Robin; his sons Andy and James; his daughter Kelly, his father and stepmother Gene and Donna Snitgen; brothers Dave (Jean) and Russ (Rosie); and sister Lois (Cliff) Sanders; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Eleanor Vallier, 71, passed away on December 6, 2009. Eleanor is survived by her husband of 50 years, John, six sons and a daughter. Rev. John F. Vallier of Grand Rapids, Robert (Karen) and their children Dyllan and Mathew of South Windsor, CT, Richard (Amy) of Lansing, Glenn (Tammy) and their children Brittni, Nolan and Haylee of Eagle, William (Connie) and their children Kelly, Beth and Richelle of Portland, Christopher (Jenny) and their children Cade, Charlie, Molly, Mason and Carter of Portland; daughter Renee (Michael) Haneghan and their daughter Rachael of Highlands Ranch, CO; She is also survived by a sister Elaine O'Neil of Potterville; 2 brothers-in-law, 4 sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

Julie Jarrad, 50, passed away on Sunday, December 13, 2009. She was an accountant for the Lansing Board of Water and Light for 26 years. She was

(Continued on page 14)



From the Principal

The winter skies are gloomy and the economy is bleak. However, St. Patrick School continues to be one of the brightest spots in Portland. It's hard to narrow down the "highlights" of the year to fit this space...I could fill this entire 16-page newsletter with school news, if the editors would allow it!

- Last August, the school staff participated in an all-day workshop presented by Dr. Marcia McEvoy, PhD, who is an expert in school bully and violence prevention. In September, Dr. McEvoy returned to St. Pat's for two additional days to train the students, and then spent an evening with the parents, too. Her program, entitled the "Four Pronged Approach to Violence Prevention in Schools" teaches students that bullying doesn't always involve heinous acts of violence. Bullying can also take the form of a look, gesture, word or action and does not have to be physical in nature. We don't have very many problems with bullies at St. Pat's, but it's nice to know that our students have this knowledge to take with them, outside of the school atmosphere.

- In October we held the Fall Festival. This annual event is sponsored by the Athletic Association, and the proceeds from it, which totaled over \$24,000 help support the Shamrock athletic program. Next year will be the 50th Annual Fall Festival, and the date will be 10/10/10. Look for some special events and raffles to celebrate the half-century mark! If you see any of the members of the Athletic Association, be sure to tell them thanks! They continue to raise all of the money for our sports programs---so that our athletes do not have to "pay-to-play."

- In January we were excited to welcome Dr. Frank Bernier to St. Pat's School for an evening seminar entitled College Planning 101. Dr. Bernier's mission is to help families through the college planning process, which begins as early as the eighth grade. The PR Committee of our School Commission picked up the tab for the seminar, so families were able to attend without cost. We were delighted to extend an invitation to families from neighboring towns as well, and all who came enjoyed the evening.

All in all, we're having a great year at St. Pat's. You can use our website to stay up-to-date about all of the wonderful things that are happening here!

Faith, Hope & Love

One of the most frightening words that a family can hear is the word cancer. One of the most frightening journeys that a family can travel is the road through cancer treatment. But, with faith, hope and love, families get through it---and are often a little wiser at journey's end.

St. Patrick student, Chloe Lay was affected by cancer four years ago, when her father, Denny Lay discovered a lump in his neck that was subsequently found to be malignant. Denny went through surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. He was very ill for many weeks. Chloe, who was five years old at the time, experienced the illness from a child's perspective, and in doing so, she learned the importance of faith, hope and love.

Chloe wrote a story about her daddy's illness, entitled Surviving Cancer with Faith, Hope and Love. She submitted the story as an entry in a contest sponsored by Educational Outfitters, the company that furnishes



The Lay family, four years after their experience with cancer.

many of the school uniforms worn by St. Patrick School students. The contest quoted St. Paul, "While all else will fade away, these three remain:

faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Students were instructed to tell what those words mean to them personally.

Chloe's entry was chosen as one of four first-place winners, earning her a top prize of a \$2000 tuition voucher. Her story, told from a child's perspective, and with a child's simplicity is a good lesson to all about the importance of maintaining an atmosphere of faith, hope and love.

To read Chloe's story, visit www.portlandstpats.com and click on Other Links>Chloe's Story.

State of the School (con't from p. 1)

advanced placement courses, two foreign languages taught, a disciplined—yet loving and nurturing environment, all-day kindergarten, and student-led weekly Mass. All of our marketing efforts are funded by the proceeds from the Catholic Schools Week pancake breakfast.

STAFF. We have an excellent staff, and have had very limited turnover the past two years. The staff is fully dedicated to their faith and to serving the students of our parish school.

ACCREDITATION. We continue to follow the accreditation guidelines as established by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS). We are in the final year of a seven year cycle. We will have a site team come visit our school in April to finish the cycle and receive accreditation for next school year.

All in all, the state of our school is very good. If you have questions or would like additional information, give me a call or stop in for a visit.

Pack the Pit!

(Reprinted from the R & O)

It was just like the old days, in more ways than one, when Portland St. Patrick opened their 2009-10 girls basketball season with a 49-14 win over Morrice on November 30.

Not only did the victory evoke memories of dominant seasons past, but the venue did, as well. The game was played at St. Pat's school gym, affectionately known as "The Pit," where the banners for those state championships are displayed.

St. Pat's head coach Al Schrauben remembers when all of the team's games were played on the tiny gym's linoleum floor, and not just this one-off special occasion.

"It's kind of fun," said Schrauben. I coached in here for about 15 years and this was fun. I'm glad we got to play one more time in The Pit."



The Shamrock girls basketball team played their home season opener at St. Pat's gym, also known as The Pit.

Win 25 Large!

A new raffle sponsored by the St. Patrick School Education Commission, Win 25 Large will pay out a \$25,000 Grand Prize, along with many other smaller prizes.

- Only 3500 tickets will be sold!
- Winner does not need to be present to win
- Drawing will be held on May 16, 2010
- Proceeds to support St. Patrick School
- For a complete list of ticket sellers, go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on Win 25 Large. Tickets are also available at the school office, Westside Grocery, the Wagon Wheel and Portland Party Store.

Call Ken Cook (517-647-2331) for more information.

Parishioner Participates in Vietnam Habitat Project

Sandy (Brown, 1988) Pearson, chief operating officer for Habitat for Humanity of Michigan was part of a group of more than 25 Michigan residents who recently participated in a volunteer project in Vietnam. The Michigan group joined nearly 3,000 volunteers from around the world to help build and repair 166 homes in Thailand, Vietnam, China, Cambodia and Laos.



Sandy said that the house she helped build was 450 square feet in size, built with locally-made cement bricks. The family members also helped build the house, part of the sweat equity that is part of Habitat for Humanity.

“We built a one-room house with indoor running water and an enclosed toilet closet—a great improvement for the family who had been living on a tiny, 14-foot boat where they washed dishes in dirty river water, she said.

Former President Jimmy Carter was also part of the volunteer contingency.

Parish Website

www.st.patrickportland.com

If you haven't already begun to use the St. Patrick Parish website, be sure to do so. It is a work in progress, as more and more useful information is added on a regular basis. The calendar feature has been expanded to cover school and athletic events, so it's literally a “one-stop” place to go for accurate information.

Some additional features that are in the works are:

- An interactive link to a youth ministry page.
- A link to the parish census data where you will be able to sign in and access your church data (sacramental records, personal data, contribution records, etc.).

- A way to send e-mails to persons serving with you on committees, obtain schedules, make contributions or volunteer.
- Videos of homilies, speakers and special events.

And, as always, if you have moved away or are on vacation, you can use the website to see recent bulletins, announcements, newsletters and other parish information.

If you have a suggestion for making the parish website more useful, please contact Mike Johnson (mikejohnson@cablespeed.com) at the business office.

Winter Gala A Night in Tuscany

The second annual Winter Gala was held on February 13, 2010 with a Night in Tuscany theme. Attendants felt like they had stepped into central Italy, as they entered the hall which was beautifully decorated to look like old-Europe.

The evening provided delicious food, plentiful drinks, raffles galore, dancing and entertainment—in the form of a wild and crazy Family Feud competition. The winners were the team of Tony and Gayle Thelen and Neil and Deb Miros.





KING'S COLUMN

Shuttle Service To Provide Assistance

by Father Larry King

Last spring, we took a survey at St. Patrick to identify unmet needs within the parish. Many people expressed a concern about the lack of transportation for the elderly and handicapped.

I am so pleased to announce that we found a way to respond to that need, and the service has already started!

We found a very economical transportation service that has recently begun in Portland. The service, Old Skool Transportation is operated by Tom Saint Amour, the son of Pastor Marilyn Danielson from the Congregational Church. Starting on Saturday, March 27th, they began picking up and bringing to Mass, any handicapped and elderly parishioners who would otherwise not be able to attend.

For now, we'll be offering this service at the 4:30 Mass on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. The service will be free for the riders, the parish will pick up the cost. The shuttle bus is handicapped accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. There will be assistance getting folks to and from the bus. We will also have someone at church to offer any assistance that may be needed during Mass.

The range of the bus service will be roughly within four miles of the church, but if you live a bit beyond that, or you're not sure how far from the church that you live, give us a call at the Parish Office. We'll do our best to try and accommodate anyone who is interested. If you sign up, and are unable to come to church on a particular Saturday, just let the shuttle service know. They will call you beforehand and let you know what time they will be picking you up.

Also, this is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to step forward and offer to be our "Shuttle Ser-

vants." Your duties would be to offer any assistance that might be needed as these elderly and/or handicapped parishioners join us for Mass.

You would need to arrive at church early (the bus will arrive about 4:15 p.m.); help to bring parishioners into church by way of the handicap entrance near the Chapel; possibly helping them get to the restroom if the need were to arise; and helping them get back onto the bus when Mass is over (bus pick-up will be at about 5:45 p.m.).

Those involved in this "Shuttle Servant Ministry" will be scheduled on a rotating basis. Depending on how many people step forward to join, it could mean that you would be scheduled once a month or once every other month.

Is the Lord calling you to join this new ministry? If so, give the Parish Office a call today (517-647-6505) and don't put it off! We're working to set up schedules right now!

Art & Environment Committee

Parishioners and visitors to St. Patrick's are always treated to a tastefully decorated church. The banners and adornments change with the seasons, and seem to appear out of nowhere, and most church-goers never give a thought to the people who work behind the scenes to make it all happen.

The Art and Environment Committee is a group of dedicated individuals who do their best to make the environment in which we celebrate the Eucharist warm and inviting. They strive to make it a place where we can all feel like we are coming 'home' to spend time in the presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist.

The group is made up of about 20 individuals who have varied creative talents. Among other things, they do all of the designing, sewing, floral arranging, organization, cleaning, manual labor and above all, have a willingness to do whatever it takes to create a heightened awareness of the festive, solemn or penitential nature of the various liturgical seasons.

The next time you attend mass at St. Pat's, take a look around and say a prayer of thanksgiving for this wonderful group.





From the President's Desk

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend our 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.

Looking forward to 2010, 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.

Planned Giving = Tax Advantages

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 and help continue to support Catholic Education at St. Patrick's School. Clearly marked contributions to the Foundation can be made by mail, in Sunday offerings, or by dropping off at parish offices. If by mail, please mail 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.

FFF At-A-Glance

- Since 1989, the Foundation has provided approximately \$683,000 to the School.
- Since 1988, the Foundation has received gifts from donors in excess of \$1,480,000
- The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization (contributions to Foundation are tax deductible).
- The Foundation awards the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award, which is awarded annually 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 Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship, which is presented each year 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 50th Reunion.

Class of 1960 50-Year Reunion

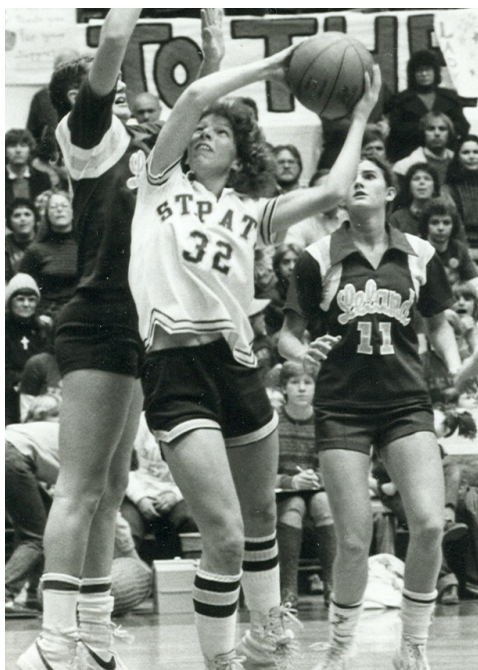
Get Ready St. Patrick graduating Class of 1960! The members of the Father Flohe Foundation are in the midst of planning a celebration in honor of your 50-year reunion.

The celebration will be held on Saturday September 11, 2010 at the Parish Hall. You'll be the guests of honor at a delicious meal; you'll have an opportunity to tour the school; you'll have a chance to step back in time and relive those days at St. Pat's. Ask any graduates who attended previous celebrations and they can tell you what a great time it is.

We hope to see all of the 1960 classmates there. We will continue to be in touch with you to update you and your classmates about the specific plans.

Former Shamrock Inducted Into FSU Hall of Fame

Former Shamrock athlete, Karen (Kramer, 1983) Trierweiler was inducted into the Ferris State University Hall of Fame on October, 30, 2009. Karen was one of seven inductees who were honored at the 10th Annual Induction Banquet held at FSU's Jim Wink Arena in Big Rapids. The honorees were also recognized the following day during halftime of the football game.



Karen was a leader on the Shamrock team that went to the State Finals in 1982.

Karen had an outstanding high school record, playing on the varsity team for four years. Her senior year, she averaged 23 points and 12 rebounds per game. She led her team all the way to the state finals in the fall of 1982, only the second time in the history of the school that a girls basketball team had ap-

peared at the championship game.

Her story should serve as an inspiration to other small town athletes, since she never played competitive basketball until 8th grade, and played all of her high school games at St. Pat's gym, a facility that was so small that the 3-point line came within a foot of half-court.

"The only thing 'big' about my life was my family," she said. With seven brothers and sisters, we always competed against each other. I learned the game of basketball by following my older sisters to practices, where I learned my shooting form by shooting over a volleyball pole—as our gym only had two baskets. I learned accuracy for shooting by aiming for a square on the wall."

After graduating from St. Pat's, Karen was recruited by Ferris coach, Pat Dolan. Her brother, Ken Kramer was already attending Ferris and playing on the baseball team there. Ken was an instrumental part of Karen's decision to play basketball at Ferris.

Karen remembers her introduction to college basketball. On the first day of fall practice, the coach took all of the players on a road trip. She'd been on road trips before with family and friends, but this one turned out to be different from anything she'd experienced in Portland.

"She took us about five miles out of town, dropped us off and instructed us to RUN back to campus, where we would then scrimmage. Well, I thought I was going to throw up before I even got out of the van. I did make it, but by the time I got back to the gym, it was dark and the coach was waiting for me in her car. She just said—'Welcome to college basketball'."

During her FSU career, her accomplishments were many. Among the accomplishments of her senior year:

- Co-captain of the team
- 3rd leading all-time rebounder (762)
- 5th leading all-time scorer (1467)
- 4th in career field goals (585)
- 4th in made free throws (289)
- 8th best individual season on record (491 points in 26 games)
- 4th best single season scoring record in CMU history
- MVP

Karen and her husband Tony and their children live in Grand Ledge. Sports are still a big part of her life. She and Tony both coach, and all of their children are involved in athletics.

Congratulations, Karen!



Karen's Hall of Fame plaque, received at Ferris State University on October 30.

Reunion News

REUNION REPORTS

The *Class of 1974* held their 35-year reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2009, on the Michigan Princess Riverboat in Lansing. 13 classmates attended, including exchange student Frieda Van De Voorde from Belgium, and one teacher, Barry Horne. Everyone agreed that it was a nice evening, and the classmates had the entire riverboat to themselves. Jan Horne even taught the women a few dance moves. The class has already decided that their 40th reunion will be held at the Wagon Wheel. (PHOTO)



The *Class of 1984* held their 25-year reunion on September 19, 2009. Classmates golfed at Portland Country Club, then gathered at the home of Andy Thelen where a meal was prepared by Mark Simon. Twenty-three classmates along with spouses enjoyed the day, which ended with a bonfire. Joe Spohn traveled the farthest, coming from North Carolina



REUNION ALERTS

The *Class of 1965* will hold their 45-year reunion on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the St. Patrick Parish Festival. Classmates should go to the Gathering Tent on Father Flohe Field, where tables will be reserved for the class. Food and beverages will be available at the Food Court. Everyone is invited to attend the play, Late Nite Catechism II at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, call Mary Jo Schneider (517-647-7136)

The *Class of 1970* will hold their 40-year reunion on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Dale and Carol Kramer's house. Invitations with complete information will be mailed. If you have questions, contact Dale (616-374-8775).

The *Class of 2000* will hold their reunion the weekend of August 13-15. Contact Keelie (Wilcox) Honsowitz at (517) 647-6989 or skhonsowitz@yahoo.com for more information.

REUNION ALERTS

Classes who graduated in years ending in 0 and 5 will be celebrating this year. When you have set the date for your reunion, send the information to shamrocknews@cablespeed.com, and it will be posted in the Alumni section of the school website. Be sure to send a reunion report along with a photo afterwards.

A simple way to hold your reunion, and one that would require almost no planning would be to follow the example of the Class of 1965 (see above) and hold your reunion at the Gathering Tent of the Parish Festival. Food, drinks and music will be provided, and tables will be reserved for you and your classmates.

The Gathering Tent will be going strong on both Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26, and it will be a great place to hold a reunion. Call Sue Van Lente (517-647-7483) or e-mail vanlente@cablespeed.com to reserve your spot!

Upcoming Events....

Kindergarten Roundup	April 20
Shamrock Auction	April 17
First Communion	May 2
Win 25 Large Drawing	May 16
Graduation	May 23
Last Day of School	June 4
Vacation Bible School	June 14-18
Parish Festival	June 25-27
Late Nite Catechism	June 25
50th Annual Fall Festival	October 10

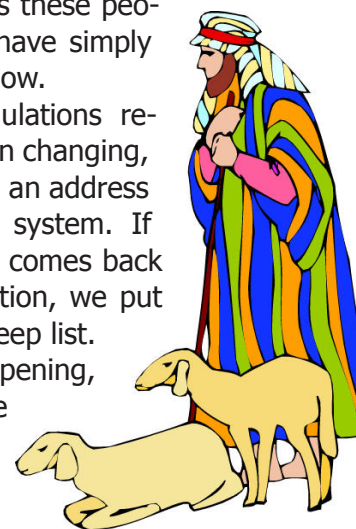
**Next issue of The Shamrock—Early October.
Send in your news as soon as possible!**

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.

In addition, postal regulations regarding addresses have been changing, so sometimes that results in an address being "kicked out" of the system. 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, please use the form on the back page of the newsletter to help us stay up-to-date.



Can You Help Us Find Any of These Lost Sheep?

1959 Ed Bengel	1978 Pat Dutcher	1994 Laurie Sandborn
1963 Kathleen Moriarity	1986 Cari (Tichvon) McElmurry	1995 Ryan Kammers
1963 John Bengel	1988 Steve Gunderman	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1965 Judy (Fitzpatrick) Haslett	1989 Kaye Thelen	1997 Jenny Chamberlain
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1990 John Huhtala	1998 Casey Eckert
1967 Diane (Bengel) Feldpausch	1992 Karen Smith	2000 Jenny Smith
1968 Carolyn (Rowe) Embree	1993 Dave Fox	2007 Jenna Schneider
1974 Leon Schrauben	1993 Darcy Hinds	
1975 Sue Zoll	1993 Lisa Huhtala	

St. Patrick Catholic School

Pre-School Through Grade 12
We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

Kindergarten Screening Tuesday, April 20, 2010

St. Patrick School Offers:

- ✝ Affordable, Catholic-based, Christ-centered education
- ✝ DK Program which accepts students who will turn 5-years old by the end of the school year
- ✝ All-Day Kindergarten

**Call for an appointment!
(517) 647-7551**

www.portlandstpats.com



Name the Sisters

It seemed that these four Sisters would remain nameless, for no one came forth with information about them until the very last minute. Sister Marlene Lammers tells us that their names are: Sr. Immaculata Lochbeiler, Mother Marian Hankerd, Sr. Rose Agnes McCurdy and Sr. DePaul Deahn.

Joyce Kransz, who took the photo to Nazareth to show to the Sisters there, says that it required some brainstorming sessions to come up with the four names.

Former students can drop Sister Marlene a note at Nazareth Center, Nazareth, MI 49074.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

(continued from page 5)

preceded in death by her husband, Todd Jarrad; mother Clarice Decker. Surviving are her son, Taylor "TJ" Jarrad of Portland; father, James (Linda) Decker of Williamston; 2 brothers, Jerry (Julie) Decker of Philadelphia, PA and John (Doreen) Decker of Naperville, IL; 4 nieces and 1 nephew.

Rita Blundy, 93, loving mother and grandmother, passed away on Thursday, December 24, 2009. She married Roman Blundy on June 7, 1939 and he preceded her in death on August 20, 1985. Also preceding her in death were sisters, Helen Jones, Irene Hruscik, and Marie Taylor; special friend, Marian Brown. Surviving are her children, Don (Loni) Blundy, Joyce (Larry) Rogers, Judy (Jerry) Brown, Dick (Diane) Blundy, Larry (Toni) Blundy, and Debbie (Tom) Channell; 16 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; siblings, Margaret (Leon) Wohlfert, Janette (Jerry) Kramer, Charles Smith; her close and personal friends known as the coffee group.

Daron Page, 22, died tragically on January 4, 2010. He was the loving son of Kevin and Sharon Page; also surviving are his sister Lisa (Courtney) Hill and his brother Terry (special friend, Collette) Page; niece, Madeleine; nephew, Warren; grandmothers Maxine Page and Dorothy Lenneman; many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mary C. (Daman) Pohl, 89, loving mother and grandmother, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2010. She was preceded in death by her parents; 1st husband, John Grunwald Daman; 2nd husband, Herbert Pohl; son, John Daniel Daman; daughter, Connie Byrnes; brothers, Opie John Recchy and Donald Joseph Recchy. Surviving are her children, Thomas (Judy) Daman of Bath, Theresa (Steve) Auvenshine of Canton, Elizabeth (Dean) Baker of Mason, and Rita Arnesen of Dewitt; son-in-law, Ron Byrnes of Mecosta; 10 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; 1 great great grandchild; sisters-in-law, Avis Recchy, Dorothy Allen, Dorothy Wakley, and Rosemary Pung; several nieces and nephews.

Dale Stiffler, 78, passed away

peacefully on January 17, 2010 from complications following open heart surgery. In 1951 he married his high school sweetheart, Gladys Trierweiler. She survives him. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Forrest and Mary Stiffler; two infant brothers; his in-laws Victor and Mathilda Trierweiler; sisters and brothers-in-law Ken Trierweiler, Patty Trierweiler, Jean Trierweiler, Tom Bengel, Barry Sillman, Eileen Burgoyne and Mary Ann Trierweiler; grandchildren Andrew Russell and Heather Stiffler and great-grandson Garrett Goodwin. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Sue (Bob) Van Lente, Cindy (Jerry) Selden, Linda (Kevin) Goodwin, Steve (Geraldyn) Stiffler, Doug (Beth) Stiffler, Jerry Stiffler, Sharon (Pat) Lay, Carol (Brian) Russell, Kim (Jerry) Smith and Trina (Dave) Hengesbach; 40 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by siblings Ted (Orpha) Stiffler, Barb (Bob) Hendee and Robert (Connie) Stiffler; in-laws Pat Trierweiler, Charles Trierweiler, Rose Bengel, Butch (Sandy) Trierweiler, Kay Sillman, and Vic (Donna) Trierweiler; brother-in-law Harv (Diana) Burgoyne; numerous nieces and nephews and many, many close friends.

Vivian Fedewa, 66, passed away on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Fedewa in 2002. Surviving are her children, Timothy (fiancee, Carol Levin) Fedewa of Seattle, WA, Kimberly (Thomas) Hooker of Portland, Pamela (Charles) Wolhuis of Portland; grandchildren, Linzey, Matt, Becca, Melanee, Nicolas, and Malarie; great grand-

son, Skyler; sisters, Joan (Bill) Haney, Elaine (Rod) Wawiernia, brother, Pete (Vernie) Hough, sisters-in-law, Nancy Meade, Mary Beth (John) Hansen, and Beverly Fedewa; special friends, Louise Gensterblum and Sue Kimmel; several nieces and nephews.

Dale Stiffler (con't from p.1)

On January 17, 2010, God reminded Dad of their agreement and reached out to him. It was time to go. With all of us gathered at his bedside, he took the hand of God, leaving behind a family, struggling to understand and accept.

On May 8, 2010 we will hold a Dale Stiffler Memorial Blood Drive, in honor of our dad. While he was a patient at Ingham Medical Hospital, he was the recipient of over 70 units of blood--blood that sustained and extended his life in the days and weeks following his surgery.

We've set a goal of collecting 100 units of blood on May 8. The people at the American Red Cross tell us that a blood drive of that magnitude is nearly unheard of. We think we can do it!

If you knew our dad, if your life was touched in any way by him, please mark the date on your calendar---and plan to donate blood in his honor! We can't bring him back, but maybe we can help someone else.

Go to www.redcrossblood.org, and click on *Donating Blood*, then click on *Schedule Appointment*. The sponsor code is STIFFLER.

You are cordially invited to....



St. Pat's Parish Festival

June 25-26-27

www.portlandstpats.com

Click on Parish Festival!





The spring puzzle is a Word Search, which is the most popular type of puzzle that we run. This one deals with names from the bible. You'll find 35 names at the bottom of the page. When you've finished finding all of the words, you'll have 26 letters left over, and those letters will spell out a quote by Winston Churchill. Good luck!

A E J B R S W N T O M M J K L
 S E L E A E A H H A I A A Z E
 S I T I H R A M R O H O C A H
 S E M T E D T T O P J B O C C
 P E T E D Z H H E H M O B H A
 E A M E O A E S O O T R A A R
 M V U A A N O R S L V E N R S
 E S E R J J T E S Y O J D I A
 P I L I H P S A R A Y M R A D
 E S D R A S S A H E R R E S U
 A B R A H A M I O P U A W W J
 H T E P A J C A I N A H T A M
 N A B U C H O D O N O S O R S
 P A U L S I M O N T H A O N H
 I D I V A D A G N M A D A J G

ANSWER TO FALL PUZZLE: The fall puzzle was a Crossclue which was a little harder to solve. Despite that, there were lots of entries, and all of them had the correct answer, *"Success covers a multitude of blunders."*

The winner, drawn from all of the correct entries was Carol (Stiffler, 1986) Russell. She received a \$50 cash prize. Congratulations to Carol, and thank you to all who entered the contest!

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, 2010. 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: _____

ABRAHAM
 ADAM
 ANDREW
 BARTHOLOMEW
 CAIN
 DAVID

ELIEZER
 ESDRAS
 EVE
 GAD
 JACOB
 JAMES

JAPETH
 JEROBOAM
 JOHN
 JOSAPHAT
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS

MARTHA
 MARY
 MATHANIA
 MATTHEW
 MOSES
 NABUCHODONOSOR

NOAH
 PAUL
 PETER
 PHILIP
 RACHEL
~~SARA~~

SIMEON
 SIMON
 THADDEUS
 THOMAS
 ZACHARIAS

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The 2010 Shamrock Auction Presents:

WHO IS YOUR SUPERHERO?

Saturday, April 17, 2010 6:00 p.m.

K.C. Hall



The Shamrock

140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875

Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807

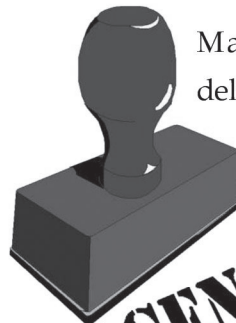
E-mail: shamrocknews@cablespeed.com

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	



Many newsletters are still being delivered to parent's addresses, even though the "kids" live in their own homes. Help us update the files so that they will be correct when used for weddings, reunions and newsletter mailings.

Name _____

New Address _____

Send to Address Correction, c/o Shamrock Newsletter, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875. Or call Jan at 647-6505 ext. 410, or e-mail shamrocknews@cablespeed.com.

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 stpats@cablespeed.com.