



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

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Class of 1965 Celebrates 50 Years



Back row: Gary Chartrand, Don Barker, Gary Schrauben, Gary Wight, Vic Trierweiler, Bill Carbaugh, Jerry Huhn, Dick Pung, Rick Thelen. Front row: Diane Hughes, Mary Jo Schneider, Janie Scheurer, Carol Kahn, Agnes Fedewa, Nancy Bandfield, Kathy Bengel, Jayne Huhn, Diane Fedewa.

Each fall since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted a 50-year reunion for St. Patrick graduating classes that have reached that special milestone. On Saturday, September 12, the Class of 1965 were the honored guests.

There were 56 members of the Class of 1965 when they graduated. From the comments that were made in the reunion book created by the Father Flohe Foundation members, their memories of high school included fun with Sister Philpa, good memories of Mother Joyce, and something about an elk; the comments were non-specific!

Nineteen classmates along with many spouses attended the reunion. Though the turnout was smaller than expected, due to many conflicting commitments, everyone who attended had a great time. Bill Carbaugh came the farthest, travelling from Texas.

The meal, catered by the Wagon Wheel and served in the Oak Room, was excellent, as was the time together sharing wonderful conversations and memories.

It was an evening of hugs, smiles, and heartwarming exchanges of stories. Everyone left the party feeling glad that they had been there to be a part of it.

What Was Happening in 1965?

- The Vietnam War continued to worsen.
- Mandated health warnings appeared on cigarette packages.
- The April 13 Palm Sunday tornadoes killed more than 250 people across the midwest.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Voting Rights Act guaranteed African-Americans the right to vote.
- Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit the United States.
- The Pillsbury Doughboy was born.
- The latest crazes in kids toys were the Superball and skateboards.
- Skirts got shorter; hair got longer. The mini-skirt was introduced.
- Life expectancy in the U.S. was 70.2 years.
- Popular movies included *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Goldfinger*, and *Mary Poppins*.
- Median family income was \$6900.
- *Tom and Jerry* cartoon debuted on CBS.
- Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs had the number one song of the year, *Wooly Bully*.

1968 Grad Inducted into Hall of Fame

Reprinted from the Lansing State Journal, March 26, 2015. Written by James L. Edwards, III

When Neal Hoffman took over as Fowler High School's football coach in 1996, he thought it would be temporary.

Initially, Hoffman, who spent nine years as a varsity assistant, was filling in for legendary coach Steve Spicer as he went through cancer treatment. He was more than content leading the program until Spicer was healthy enough to return.

However, that day never came, and it was Hoffman who was tapped to build on the legacy Spicer left before him. Hoffman did that, compiling a 101-34 record and winning a pair of state titles in 12 seasons. And that has led to

him earning a spot in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"There were plenty of mixed emotions," said Hoffman, who will join Spicer in the hall of fame when he is inducted Saturday during a ceremony in Ann Arbor. "I had

been coaching a long time. I was just looking to continue what Steve did. We were fortunate (continued on page 17)



St. Patrick Alumna Promoting Catholic Schools Across the Diocese

You may have heard about the Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative—a three-year plan with three parts:

- 1) Improve affordability through scholarships
- 2) Grow professional capacity
- 3) Plan for future vitality

Bishop Walkowiak is committing resources to strengthen all of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids with this plan.

St. Patrick grad, Annalise Kransz (2008) was hired last November to help implement the plan. She serves as Marketing Communications Coordinator for Catholic schools. In her role, Annalise oversees marketing and communications for the Office of Catholic Schools and at all 29 schools in the diocese, which includes St. Patrick.

Annalise has accomplished a lot in her first year on the job, from helping to market the Welcome Scholarship to increasing followers on the diocesan schools social media accounts and traveling the diocese to promote Catholic schools at parishes and community events.

"I am confident that my Catholic school education at St. Patrick helped make me the well-rounded person I am today," said Annalise. "I want other children to be able to experience the same education that I had with academic excellence, close friendships, and the ability to grow in faith."

Follow the Office of Catholic Schools on Facebook: [facebook.com/dogrcatholicschools](https://www.facebook.com/dogrcatholicschools) or on Twitter @dogrschools.



How to Stay in Touch!

It's so easy to stay up-to-date with what's happening at St. Patrick School and Parish. We're working hard to provide access through our websites, social media, and our new parish app.

School website: www.portlandstpats.com
Parish website: www.stpatrickportland.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/portlandstpatrick
School Twitter: @PortlandStPats
Mr. Hodge Twitter: @principalhodge

To download our parish app, you'll need a smart phone or tablet. Go to www.myparishapp.com. Click on Get the App, and install. Search for St. Pat's by zipcode (48875). Now, everything you need to know will be at your fingertips!



In The Spotlight

John & Mary Russman

Few photos have generated as much mail and conversation as the photo of Father Flobe's choir that was originally printed in the fall of 2013. In fact it was during one of those conversations that we learned that John Russman has been in the St. Patrick choir for 62 years! The Russman children jumped at this opportunity to honor their parents with a very special Spotlight! Their love shines through their words!



Our parents have been members of St. Patrick Parish all of their adult lives. They both graduated from St. Pat's, but Dad was involved long before that. He began singing in the church choir as a boy, accompanied by his brothers, uncles, father, and grandfather. Dad has continued to share his talent in both the choir and the resurrection choir and uses this as an opportunity to praise God and bring joy to others.

Mom and Dad both know the importance of a strong foundation of faith. Prayer has always been a part of their home and their lives. They have continued the tradition of Mom's parents and regularly say the rosary while riding in the car. They also spend at least one hour a week at Eucharistic Adoration. Both will attest to the impact this has had on them and their family.

Three off their 12 grandchildren faced life-threatening events before the age of three-years old. Mom and Dad will not hesitate to tell you that they have been witnesses to the miracles at God's hand. Those same three grandchildren are now 11, 7, and 4 years old and completely healthy.

There have been many other illnesses, accidents, close calls, and struggles over the years that they know have been taken care of because of faith and prayer.

Mom and Dad made sure that their four children received their education at St. Pat's. They also have had many

grandchildren attend Catholic school, and now their oldest grandson, Cory, is in the seminary. They are very devoted to their faith and it shows in their daily lives. They have been terrific examples of how to put your complete trust in God and know that He alone will take care of you.

They have celebrated 52 years of marriage. They may not have much in material possessions to show for their years of hard work and sacrifice—they still live in the same home that Dad built 51 years ago—and they rarely spend money on themselves, but they do not miss any opportunity to help others in need. They often sacrifice their own wants and needs to provide for their children and grandchildren. While they were both still working, they babysat their oldest grandchildren, and now that they are retired, they babysit for the younger

ones. They travel 100 miles each way, once a week, to spend time with their youngest grandchildren. They also travel to Virginia several times a year to see their son and his family. While many people would be travelling the country for pleasure, they are investing in the legacy that they will leave behind, a close knit, faith-filled, educated, fun-loving family that always received the best that they had to offer because they held nothing back.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for everything. We love you!



John and Mary's 12 grandchildren range in age from 22 years to 10 months.

What's Happening

If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of *The Shamrock*, please send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com

BIRTHS

To Donald (1987) and Carol (1988) Gunderman, a son, Gabriel James, on June 30, 2015. He joins siblings, Adam (2012), Holly (2014), Emma (2018), and Annalise (2019).

To John (2006) and Christina Thelen, of Dewitt, a daughter, Lucy Cecilia Thelen, on June 30, 2015.

To Kyle and Jessica (Sandborn, 2003) Ferris of Lyons, a daughter, Kylie Jean, on March 20, 2015. She joins brother, Evan (3).

To Kyle and Sara (West, 2006) Dixon, a son, West Alen born on May 11, 2015.

To Brian (2004) and Brenda (Schafer, 2005) Lenneman of Ada, a son, Grayson William, on March 7, 2015.

To Clay (1995) and Renata Cross, a daughter, Isabella Rose, on October 13, 2014. She joins brothers, Chrystian (12), Mathius (10), Jaydan (8), Michael (5), and Noah (3).

To Aaron and Kristen (Schrauben, 2001) Smith, a daughter, Hadley Rae, on March 17, 2015. She joins one sister, Harper.

To Jake (2003) and Jessie (Theis, 2003) Simon of Okemos, a son, Elijah Michael, on May 10, 2015.

To Justin and Kelly (Schrauben, 2001) Mattila a son, Trevor Joseph, on June 9, 2015. He joins brother, Owen (2).

To Zach (2005) and Julie (Schafer, 2005) Wight, a daughter, Cecilia Marie, on July 21, 2015. She joins sister, Elizabeth (22 months).

To Jenny (Goodman, 1995) and Sean Anderson of Dexter, MI, a son, Aidan Sean, on May 7, 2015. He joins sister Annika (9).

To Ross (2002) and Lacey Schneider, twin sons, Cian Ross and Alden Xavier, on September 4, 2015. They join brothers, Noah (3) and Oliver (1 1/2).

To Elizabeth (Manning, 2000) and Benjamin Hager, of Brighton, a son, Elwood Benjamin, on July 9, 2015. He joins sister, Evelyn (4).

To Scott (2005) and Katie (Kreiner) Wieber of Middleville, MI, a son, Micah Thomas, on June 7, 2015.

To Dennis and Heather (Wieber, 2007) Goodenough of Clarksville MI, a son, Oliver Robert, on August 18, 2015.

To Tim and Laura (Bower, 1995) Krizov of Portland, a son, Alex Laron, October 24, 2014. He joins sister, MaKayla (6).

To Mike and Jaci (Hamberg, 1993) McCracken, a son, Logan Nash, on July 27, 2015. He joins big brother, Josh (1 1/2).

WEDDINGS

Matt Pline (2009) and Shelby Wilcox (2009) were married on May 16, 2015, at St. Patrick Church.

Caitlin Hitchcock (2004) and Nick Chambers were married on June 6, 2015, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Joseph Simon (2004) and Rebecca Bajoka were married on September 5, 2015, at St. Mary Shrine Chapel in Orchard Lake, MI. They will reside in Farmington Hills.

Stacy Stiffler (2002) and Scott Greenman of Brooklyn, MI, were married at St. John Catholic Church in East Lansing on September 5, 2015. The couple will live in Atlanta, GA.

Corie Pung (2001) and Michael Post were married at Grandville St. Pius X Catholic Church on September 19, 2015. They will reside in Grand Rapids.

Annie Lawless and Ben Schneider were married at St. Patrick Church on November 8,

2014. They are both 2008 St. Pat's graduates. The couple resides in Grand Rapids.

Sarah Moses (1998) and Patrick Kieran Bradley were married on July 31, 2015 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pleasant Hill, CA. The couple will live in Lafayette, CA.

ANNIVERSARIES

George and Lois Miller celebrated their 60th anniversary on January 28, 2015.

Gene and Donna Schrauben celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 15, 2015. They were married in 1965 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pewamo. They celebrated with a Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed by a fall trip to Las Vegas with their family.

Jerry and Janette Kramer will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on October 15, 2015. They have eight children, 23 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Former St. Patrick Youth Minister David McHugh was featured recently in the *Extension* magazine for his youth ministry work in Dodge City, Kansas. *Extension* is a magazine that features the work of the Catholic Extension, sharing stories of faith. Their website is www.catholicextension.org.

Danielle Stegenga (2007) graduated with honors from the University of Michigan with her Masters in FNP in May 2015.

Kellie Shattuck (2013) graduated with honors from Michigan State University on May 9, 2015, with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

IN MEMORY OF

Eugene E. Snitgen, age 86, of Westphalia, Michigan (formerly of Portland), passed away March 2, 2015. He was born on December 13, 1928, in Westphalia, the son of Alfred and Aurelia (Schoenith) Snitgen. Eugene served in the Army during the Korean Conflict, stationed in Alaska as a tank commander. He married Annette Lay in 1951. He retired from Wolverine Power in 1991 as Chief Operator. Eugene was a member of the VFW Post #3733, Catholic Order of Foresters and the Saint Joseph Society. He loved to travel and visited most of the 50 states. Eugene enjoyed playing cards and pool and loved to spend the winters in Arizona. Preceding him in death were his parents; first wife, Annette; son, Eric; siblings, Anthony, Paul, Juliette, Rosemary Huhn, and Germaine Thelen. Surviving are his wife of 22 years, Donna (Witgen) (Pike); sons, Dave (Jean) Snitgen, Russ (Rose) Snitgen; daughter, Lois Sanders;

www.portlandstpats.com

daughter-in-law, Robin Snitgen; son-in-law, Cliff Sanders; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; stepchildren, Cindy (Dave) Miller, Gary (Melanie) Pike, Kathy (Dean) Grace, Mark (Vicky) Pike, and Mike (Audrey) Pike; 15 stepgrandchildren; 7 step great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Father Miller Foundation, St. Patrick Father Flohe Foundation, or for Parkinson's research, in memory of Mr. Snitgen.

Barbara Ann Smith, age 74, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2014. She was born on June 14, 1940, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Robert and Ruth (LaSalle) Beard. Barb was a member of St. Patrick Church, and was a church organist for 27 years. She was an avid bowler, enjoyed knitting Christmas stockings for family and friends, enjoyed tending to her swimming pool, and babysat many kids over the years. Barb enjoyed attending her sons' and her grandchildren's sporting events. She was preceded in death by her parents; in-laws, Isadore and Nora Smith; sisters-in-law, Kathleen Smith and Jackie Smith; brother-in-law Daniel Smith. Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Ronald Smith; sons, Mark (Amy) Smith, Scott (Nikki) Smith, and Steve (Adie) Smith; grandchildren, Tyler, Jerrid, Mackenzie Smith, Hailey McRoberts, Allysa Smith, Nicholas Smith, Shelby Chapco, and Channon Smith; sisters, Mary Beard and Faith (Roy) Kissane; brothers-in-law, Don (Mary) Smith, Tom Smith, and Dave Smith. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association in memory of Barb.

Ronald R. Tichvon, age 74, passed away unexpectedly in North Port, Florida, on Saturday, March 21, 2015. Ron was born August 30, 1940, in Portland, Michigan, to the late Joseph and Celia Tichvon. He retired from GM after 38 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Shirley (Baker); daughter, Tami (Randy) Oswald; grandsons, Mitch and Mason Oswald; sister, RoseMarie (Chuck) Sochor; and brother, Dick (Joyce) Tichvon. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Robert; and sister-in-law, Barbara Tichvon. Memorial donations may be made to the Arthritis Foundation or St. Michael Catholic Church.

James Anthony Smith, age 80, was called to be with the Lord on March 29, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Regina (Thelen) Smith; brothers Richard and Donald Smith; and sister Genet Shattuck. Also preceding him in death were his mother-in-law and brothers-in-law. On February 8, 1964, he married Linda Logel of Williamston and together they raised four children. Jim is survived by his wife; his children, Julie (Scott) Hughes, Pamela (Phil) Hill, Steve (Sara) Smith and James (aka Charlie) Smith; four grandchildren; brother Jerome

(Jewel) Smith; sisters, Pat Goodman, Rita Klein, Evelyn Smith, Marilyn Smith, and Liz Gray; brother-in-law Doug (Noreen) Logel; and several nieces and nephews. Jim retired after 42 years as a Tool and Die Maker from Portland Products, Inc. After retirement, his passion was spending time with his family at Houghton Lake, which to him was heaven on earth. Jim once described his best accomplishment as becoming a dad. Jim will be remembered for his generosity; for his belief in hard work; for being the most loving and devoted husband, dad, and grandpa; and for teaching his four grandchildren to play Skip-Bo. Memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services in memory of James A. Smith.

Dorothy (Penich) Muennich, age 95, passed away on April 1, 2015. She had been a resident of Portland since 1997, formerly of Youngstown, Ohio. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Silverius J. Muennich who died in 1999 and eight siblings. She is survived by her sister Anna Freeland of Ohio; son, Walter (Nancy) Muennich of Arizona; daughter, Rose Marie Nephew Muennich; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and special friend, Jessica Kuch.

Elizabeth "Betty" A. Thompson, age 78, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2015. She was born on August 6, 1936, the daughter of Francis and Catherine (Selbach) Lawless. Mrs. Thompson was an elementary school teacher for many years in Portland. On June 14, 1958, she married her high school sweetheart, James Thompson. Betty loved her children and grandchildren very much, and enjoyed traveling around the entire United States. Preceding her in death were her parents and brother, Patrick Lawless. Surviving are her loving husband, James; children, Karen (John) Mullane, Dennis (Jennifer) Thompson, Joan (Bill) Durkin, Robert (Julie) Thompson, and Judy (Kevin) Boley; 19 grandchildren; two sisters; and three brothers. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hope Landing Memorial Fund in memory of Mrs. Betty Thompson.

Raymond William Fox, age 60, passed away on Monday, May 18, 2015. He was born on December 8, 1954, in Lansing, the son of Lester and Lillian (Lenneman) Fox. Ray enjoyed cooking, gardening, trips to the casino, golfing, watching sports, and spending time with his cats. He worked at the Wagon Wheel in Portland for many years. Ray was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws William and Hettie Scully; brother, Jim; brother-in-law, John Kutchie. Surviving are his wife of 23 years, Mary; sisters, Karen Kutchie, Janice Fox, Patricia (Joe) Vela, and Mary Ann (Tom) Lawrence; several nieces, nephews, aunts and an uncle.

Helen Jean Fandel, age 86, passed away on Friday, May 22, 2015. She was born on April 16, 1929, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Ferdinand and Sadie (Wilcox) Wohlscheid. Helen was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church; she enjoyed tending to her flowers, watching birds, baking desserts, and playing cards. Most of all, she enjoyed being with her family, especially the young children. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Christopher; four sisters; and two brothers. Surviving are her children, Frank (Brenda) Fandel, Derry (Brian) Hoppes, Rhonda (Patrick) Schrauben, Rodney (Kimberly) Fandel, Marlys (Mark) Spohn, and Teresa (John, Jr.) Longabach; 18 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; siblings, Mary Sandborn, Gerald (Nancy) Wohlscheid, and Gwendolyn (Donald) Bentley. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to the Fr. Flohe Fund in memory of Helen. A special thank you to Carole, Shelby, Dana and Chris at Moore's A.F.C. for their special care and compassion given to our mother.

Marylin Ann Balderson, age 78, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 25, 2015, after a brief battle with cancer. She was born on March 3, 1937, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Sylvester and Bernita (Simmons) Dutcher. Mrs. Balderson was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and graduated from St. Patrick High School. She married Herbert Thomas Balderson on October 24, 1959, and together they shared 55 years of marriage. Marylin always put everyone before herself and she loved spending time with her lady friends. But her pride and joy were her grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents; in-laws, Herb and Doris Balderson; grandsons, Carson Reed and Fred Lowery III. Surviving are her husband, Herbert Thomas Balderson; children, Kurt (Julie) Balderson, Rick (Barbara) Balderson, Amy (Fred) Lowery, Douglas (Lisa) Balderson, and Lisa (Gordon Belt) Reed; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, William (Joyce) Dutcher; sister, Ellie Bigford; many dear lady friends; several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, Fr. Flohe Foundation, or the Red Mill Building Fund, in memory of Marylin.

Joan May Leik Robinson, a native of Eagle, Michigan, and current resident of Robertsdale, Alabama, died Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at the age of 83. She was a US Air Force Veteran and an Avon Representative for over 30 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmie Arthur Robinson, Sr.; her parents, Henry H. Leik and Dorothy Anna Kowatch Leik; and her sister, Rita Leik Secor. Her survivors include her daughter, Melinda Jeanne (Dennis) Priest; her son, Jimmie

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Large Families Remain Vital Part of St. Pat's School

One of the things that makes St. Patrick School special is our family atmosphere. From our administrators down to our littlest preschoolers, we consider our school family to be as important as our nuclear families.

In this issue of *The Shamrock*, we decided to look more closely at a very special subset of our school families—the ones who currently have four or more students enrolled at the school. We talked to them to see what they have in common and what their thoughts are on Catholic education.

Stacy and Sean FoxElster have four children enrolled at St. Pat's: Cordelia-9th, Devon-7th, Arianna-4th, and Isaac-2nd. Stacy told us, "I graduated from St. Pat's, so I felt strong ties to the school and was familiar with many of the teachers and the administrator. Still, our children started out at the public school and it was not an easy decision to make for our family, especially since our oldest was very involved in drama/theatre activities that are not offered at St. Patrick's.

"However, in the end, we felt the pros outweighed the cons, and still do today. Some of the things that we especially love about the school are the smaller class sizes which allow for more one-on-one teacher/student interaction and the small, tight-knit community that makes up the school, with a high level of parent/student involvement. We also love the school colors! Sean and I met at MSU, so we are particularly fond of green and white!

"It has been a sacrifice for the whole family to enroll at St. Patrick's and it takes a commitment from the whole family to make it work. Sometimes, it means the kids/adults do not have the latest electronic gadgets or that we do not go on extravagant vacations, but both the parents and kids usu-

ally know the reasons why we are making the sacrifices and believe it is an investment in our/their future."

Robert and Jessica White are new to the school this year. They have six children enrolled: Veronica-8th, Sophia-7th, Martin-5th, Simon-3rd, Benjamin-1st, Julia-Kindergarten. Robert says, "We like the Catholic Identity that is very apparent in the educational focus of the Grand Rapids diocese. In doing our research, the GR diocese superintendent told us about Portland St. Pat's. We love the idea of having all our children in one building. It extends their family experience in our household to the school day and gives us peace of mind knowing they are together and can be there for each other when we parents are not there. "

Ben and Mandy Teachworth have four children enrolled: Samantha-8th, Braxton-6th, Natalee-5th, and Augustus-2nd. Mandy says, "I don't feel we sacrifice to send our kids to a faith-based school. Yes we pay for an education and we may do without certain things, but most importantly we are investing in our children's foundation, a solid foundation of religion and academics that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. This investment is discussed in Mathew 7:24-27.

"We are so blessed that we have this opportunity to attend St. Patrick School. Smaller class sizes make it ideal for students to interact and participate. I am so very proud of the teachers of St. Patrick School. Each and every one of them has nurturing qualities that encourage my children to become their very best. We also are happy that St. Patrick offers something for everyone. In addition to the legendary basketball and football teams, we also have many extra-curricular activities that are not sports related.

"When it comes to the things we might have to give up, like a shinier piece of farm equipment or a couple more cows, I only think of the legacy we are giving to our children in hopes that they will gift it to the next generation. I am very thankful to be surrounded by such an amazing network of people these past nine years and look forward to the next eleven."

Steve and Jeannie Wernette recently moved here from Lake Odessa. They have 11 children, five of whom are currently enrolled: Philip and Thomas-12th, Stephen-9th, Theodore-7th, and Gabriel-3rd. Jeannie says, "The idea of moving our students to St. Pat's was laid on our hearts the day Mr. Hodge came to St. Edwards to promote enrollment. We have always believed a Catholic education was an important part of our duty as Catholic parents. To have the faith permeate home and school is to us a no-brainer. St. Pat's had an excellent reputation in the area, it was the closest Catholic school in proximity to our home at the time we enrolled, and our stu-

dents were requesting to enroll there.

“So, when the opportunity presented itself we trusted God would take care of the details. And, as always, He did not disappoint! We are thankful for the opportunity for our children to excel academically and consider ourselves blessed to call Portland St. Pat’s Parish and School home.

“We love that our children are surrounded by the Catholic faith, traditions, and culture during their education, sports, and social activities. We love that they are subject to the disciplines of a rigorous college-focused educational curriculum. We love that they are surrounded by educators and families who share our goals for the future of our children.”

Jayson and Jenny Lyon have four children enrolled at St. Patrick: Cole-8th, Connor-6th, Camden 3rd, and Claire-2nd. Jenny says, “When it was time to enroll Cole for Kindergarten we were prayerfully led to St. Patrick. Since Jayson and I were not raised in Portland, we hardly knew anybody in the parish and really didn’t know much about the school. We just loved knowing that prayer, Mass, and learning the Catholic faith would be part of Cole’s day. This was just the beginning of what we now hold as one of the best decisions we have ever made.

“As each of our kids reached enrollment age, the tuition became more of a challenge. Over the years there have been many times when we just didn’t know if we would be able to continue. One particular time we went as far as sitting the oldest boys down and telling them they might have to switch schools the following year. They disappeared into their rooms and came back with their arms full of their favorite things. They said, “If you sell this can we stay?” That was it; we knew that no matter what we had to do, this was where they would stay, and God has blessed us for it. I’m not saying we still don’t have times when it gets hard, but now it is a family effort. The blessing is, we really don’t mind what we have to give up. The kids understand that if you really believe in something you may have to forgo a want for the sake of a better cause. So with this wonderful life lesson along with the many, many other reasons we love our St. Pat’s family, we choose St. Patrick School.”

Mike and Ann Kissane have six children, four of whom are currently enrolled at St. Pat’s School: Alexander, Leah and Riley-8th, and Isabelle-4th. Ann says, “The biggest reason we chose to send our kids to SPS is for the faith-filled, loving community. We wanted our kids to be part of the large family atmosphere prevalent throughout SPS. One benefit we find valuable still is the opportunity for all kids to participate in athletics. Another benefit is the great fami-

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Gym Project Update

It’s hard now to walk into St. Pat’s gymnasium and think of it as “The Pit.” The new floor and bleachers have given the gym a fresh, clean look, a far cry from the look of the past decades.

As we told you last spring, the floor was no longer usable; tiles were worn so thin that they broke loose on a daily basis. In addition, the bleachers which were installed in 1953, were high and steep, and the open design was a danger for our fans.

A massive fundraising effort was undertaken at the spring Shamrock Auction, and approximately \$60,000 was raised in a very short time. Originally, it was thought that the total cost would be in the \$60,000 range; however, because of the amount of wear to the asbestos tiles, a professional abatement company was hired, at an additional expense, to remove the old floor. Currently the floor/bleacher fund is about \$13,000 away from what we need to pay in full for the project.



The Class of 2016 pose on the new gym floor.

The new floor was installed the week before school started, and it has received rave reviews from everyone who has seen it. It is called a Sport Court and is the same surface that is used in the Court One facilities in the Lansing area. It is built to withstand everything that our athletic program will need, and also the demands of the physical education program, the Fall Festival, school programs, etc.

The new bleachers are a little lower than the old ones,

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Changes in Early Education Program

Many changes have come about as a result of Carol Kahn's retirement from St. Patrick Preschool Program.

Mrs. Stacy Russman has been appointed as the lead teacher in St. Patrick Preschool this fall, assisted by Mr. Aaron Thelen. Stacy has been teaching at St. Pat's since 1998; Aaron worked with daycare/preschool children for many years and did a one-year stint in our school office when the daycare closed.



Stacy and Aaron are excited for this opportunity to work together. "I think that Stacy and I have many of the

same personality traits," said Aaron. "We'll be a great team."

Stacy agreed, "I am excited to work with Aaron. Among other things, he is in charge of setting up our new Facebook page and keeping it up-to-date so that parents can see what we're doing in our classroom every day."

The preschool classroom has a new Smartboard, which is incorporated into many areas of learning. Also new for the fall is regularly scheduled gym time for the children. And, of course, there is Mr. Aaron's guitar!

Stacy offered this philosophy: "I teach from the heart and I am very passionate about my teaching. Your child will feel loved every day and Christ will be the center of our classroom. I believe that each child is unique, and I will do my best to nurture the gifts that each one brings and shares with us."

We have also made a change in our DK program that gives school families another layer of options and flexibility.

DK families may now enroll their students in either half-day or full-day



sessions. We had many requests for full-day classes but also realize that not every four-year-old is ready to be in school all day. Therefore, we are able to offer both options to our families.

If, during the school year, the child is ready to be transitioned into the full-day class, we will do our best to accommodate the request.

Mrs. Amy Weems is our DK teacher. Amy has been teaching at St. Patrick School since 1999.

If you would like to enroll your child in one of St. Patrick Early Education programs, please call the school office at (517) 647-7551.

BIG FAMILIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

lies we have befriended over the years our kids have been here."

Pat and Stacy Russman have four children who attend St. Pat's: Summer-9th, Payton-5th, Isabella-3rd, and Joesie-Preschool. Stacy says, "We are truly blessed to send our four children to St. Patrick School. The school is our extended family. The families here are so generous and kind. They always lend a hand. We love that our children are learning about Jesus all day. They par-

ticipate in weekly Mass and holy days, practice the Rosary and learn about Advent, Lent, and service projects to help those in need. We have several opportunities to be involved in our childrens' education. The staff is very approachable and compassionate, and communicate very well. We know our children are getting an amazing education that will help them grow to be disciples of Jesus."

Many other families contribute to the St. Patrick School family including: *Pat and Lynn Wood, who have four children attending St. Pat's: Rhiannon-8th, Colette-7th, Canaan-3rd, Cerelle-2nd; and*

another new family, Walter and Carolyn Kwiecinski who have seven children enrolled: William-11th, Kaitlyn-9th, Brian-7th, Claire-5th, Emma-3rd, Lily-Kinderergarten, and Mary-Preschool.

Principal Randy Hodge said, "I came from a large family, so did my wife. We are blessed to have these families at St. Patrick School. Currently, families pay a discounted rate for each additional child after the first, and any children past the fourth can attend St. Pat's free of charge. We do this to make it possible now, as it was in the past, to provide Catholic education to all."

Dave Hattis New Ranger for Plains/Thompson Falls District

Reprinted from the USDA Forest Service website, published on May 7, 2015.

Dave Hattis has been named the new District Ranger for the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District. He will report to his new position on June 15. Hattis is a Forester currently serving the Canyon Lakes Ranger District on the Roosevelt National Forest in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is a silviculturist with 27 years of natural resource management with the USDA Forest Service.

Hattis received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Michigan State University and worked for two years with the Northeast and Southern Research Stations doing forest inventory and analysis work in four eastern states. He worked ten years on the Ashley National Forest in Vernal, Utah, engaged in timber sale planning, preparation and implementation.

In 2001 Hattis moved to the Roosevelt National Forest in Fort Collins, Colorado. He initially focused on preparing contracts for timber sales and fuel reduction projects and in 2004 he was charged with managing the District's Silviculture program. In this position he served on an interdisciplinary planning team, prescribed vegetation

treatments, provided oversight of forest inventories and databases and managed multiple forest improvement projects. In January 2015 Hattis was assigned to serve on the Forest Leadership Team.

In 2014 Hattis completed an Acting District Ranger assignment on the Calaveras Ranger District on the Stanislaus National Forest in California.



Hattis is married to Mary Bergkamp-Hattis who is also a Forest Service employee. Dave and Mary have two adult sons currently studying and pursuing undergraduate degrees.

"I feel honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as the Plains / Thompson Falls District Ranger and to be a member of the forest leadership team," Hattis said about his recent selection. "I am excited to be associated with a District with incredible natural resources managed by personnel reported to be dedicated, hard-working stewards of the National Forest. I'm also looking forward to working collaboratively with the elected officials of Sanders County and all others interested in forest management."

Dave is a 1978 graduate of Portland St. Patrick High School.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

with five rows instead of seven. This gives the advantage of a wider floor, but at the expense of seating. Portable, aluminum bleachers will be set on the stage for additional seating.

If you would like to contribute to the gym floor/bleacher project, donations can be sent to Gym Project, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI, 48875. Donations can also be made through Online Giving, on the school or parish websites.

Bleacher Benches for Sale!

How many Shamrock fans have fond memories of hours spent on the old bleachers? Players remember sitting on the bottom row, waiting for their turn to play. Fans remember many hours of bleacher sitting (or standing) watching their Shamrock teams compete.

The old bleachers were disassembled and the boards are being used for Bleacher Benches in two different sizes. Three-foot benches are \$50; the four-foot size is \$75.



If you would like to purchase a Bleacher Bench, which is perfect for a hallway, entryway, or child's room, send an email to shamrockeditors@gmail.com. We will pass on your request.

Obviously, shipping these benches is not possible, so local pickup is required. Proceeds from the sale of the benches will be added to the floor/bleacher fund.

2016 Shamrock Auction

Don't miss out on
the best event of the year!
Put it on your calendar now!
April 23, 2016



- Raffles
- Auctions
- Food
- Drinks
- Fun! Fun! Fun!

2009 St. Pat's Grad Enters Religious Life

by Father Larry King

Wendy Rutherford, daughter of George and Linda Rutherford, has made a decision to enter into Religious Life with the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. Wendy entered as a postulant in September and begins a three-year formation process, which includes one year of postulancy followed by a two-year novitiate. As Wendy continues to discern her Religious Vocation during these three years, she will make temporary vows which will be renewed annually for four years. During this time she will be given an assignment in Indiana where she will be involved in a ministry of teaching or in one of a

variety of roles in their hospital system. After a total of eight years in this formation process, Wendy will then make her final vows.

Wendy graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2009 and graduated with honors



Many Sisters returned to the Motherhouse on September 6 to join in the celebration of the entrance of the new Postulant, Wendy. Several of Wendy's family and friends made the journey to bid her farewell as she begins her new life in the convent.

from Michigan State University with a bachelor of science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

If you would like additional information about the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, you may consult their website at www.ssfpa.org. Let us keep Wendy in our prayers.

Updates on Our Three Seminarians



Ryan Riley graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2001; he attended Alma College earning a degree in accounting. He worked for six years for the State of Michigan, Auditor General, and entered the seminary in 2010.

Ryan was ordained a Transitional Deacon at St. Thomas Catholic Church in East Lansing, on May 16, 2015. He hopes be ordained to the priesthood next year.



Michael Steffes graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2008; he attended Lansing Community College and worked for two years before entering the seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the fall of 2010. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2014 and entered Mundelein Seminary last fall.

Mike has less than three years until priesthood ordination and will do an internship in the Diocese of Grand Rapids in the spring.



Johnathan Johnson graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2008; he earned an accounting degree from Michigan State University in 2013. He worked for one and a half years for Michigan State University and entered the seminary in 2014.

Johnathan just started Pre-The

Alumni Scholarship Fund Helped Out, “Just when we needed it most.”

Catholic education was something that Kelly (Frazee) Shaw had always wanted for her children. Kelly had attended St. Patrick School, graduating in 1995, and she cherished the memories of her time there. But, financially, as a single mom of three daughters, she couldn't afford the tuition.

Kelly had previously talked to the administrators. They had offered her small scholarships, but when she crunched the numbers, it still wasn't possible. No matter how she figured it, tuition for three kids simply wasn't doable.

In the spring of 2014, St. Patrick Alumni Scholarship Fund received a sizable donation from an alum. The donation came with one request—use it for someone special. When Principal Randy Hodge saw the check, he immediately thought of Kelly. He knew that she wanted her kids to attend St. Pat's, and he knew from talking to her that she was doing everything she could for her family. “I prayed about it, and knew without a doubt that Kelly and her girls were that ‘special’ family,” said Randy.

When Kelly received the phone call offering her the scholarship money, she cried tears of happiness and felt a joy beyond description. Her prayers had been answered.

In August of 2014 the three Shaw girls entered St. Patrick School as new students. Kayla was a freshman; Kara was in eighth grade; and Amy was in 6th grade. The girls immediately fell in love with their new surroundings, and found new friendships. “It felt like we were home,” said Kara.

The first week of September, the second full week of school, Kelly was

taken aback when she discovered a small lump in her breast, but she wasn't unduly concerned about it, since she was only 37 years old. The following day, she mentioned the lump to her coworkers at Sparrow Hospital, where she works in the surgery department. They urged her to have it examined and fast-tracked her through several tests that revealed that she did indeed have breast cancer.

On September 22, 2014, just three weeks after discovering the lump, Kelly began a treatment regimen that lasted many months and included 16 weeks of chemotherapy as well as many surgeries.



“When the teachers and families at St. Pat's found out what was going on, they immediately came to our sides,” said Kelly. “Stacy Russman put together a meal calendar, and we had meals brought in for almost four months. I don't know how we would have done it without all of that support.”

Kayla added, “Even though we were new, all of our friends were there

to support us in everything that we did.”

It was a long year for the Shaw family, but they survived it well. Kelly had her final surgery earlier this summer and she's back to work full time. The girls are back for their second year at St. Pat's, a year older and many years wiser, having lived through a scary experience with their mom.

Kelly doesn't know who the anonymous donor is, but she is so grateful for the gift that changed their lives. “It came at exactly the right time,” she said. “Just when we needed it most.”

Catholic Education

Should Be Available to All!

Bishop Walkowiak's mission is that finances never stand in the way of a child who desires a Catholic education. Last spring the Bishop quadrupled the amount of scholarship money available through the diocese and instituted Welcome Scholarships which are available to new families. Ideally, families should be able to combine diocesan scholarships with parish-based scholarships to make Catholic education a reality for all.

St. Patrick School will be sending out letters this fall asking you to donate to our Shamrock Scholarship Fund. The money that is donated will be used to help families who can't quite do it on their own. Please read the letter when it arrives in your mailbox and seriously consider making a sizable donation to this very important cause.

In addition, contribution envelopes are now available at Lehman Funeral Home. Memorial donations to the scholarship fund can be made there.



KING'S KOLUMN

by Father Larry King

Portland Strong!

On June 22, 2015, a tornado struck Portland, leaving a swath of destruction in its wake. More than twenty businesses suffered damages, including the collapse of the new Goodwill store. In addition more than seventy homes and four churches suffered significant damage.

The First Congregational Church suffered the most damage and had to be torn down. The tornado destroyed the brand new bell tower which they had just finished restoring the morning of the tornado. They plan to rebuild.

The First Baptist Church had its roof torn off, and severe damage was done to a couple of its brick walls. Though the steeple had to be removed, the church itself is structurally sound and will be restored.

The United Methodist Church had severe damage done to its roof and sanctuary. They are being restored. EPIC Church had its roof torn off and damage done to the inside walls and carpeting. They are undergoing repairs. Many of the trees that formed a beautiful canopy over Bridge Street were also destroyed.

Here at St. Patrick our damages were limited to Fr. Flohe Field where the pole barn which housed most of our sports and Summerfest equipment was knocked down with most of its contents destroyed. Beyond that, we lost our scoreboard, press box, fences, and several trees. All told there was \$225,000+ damage done to the field.

Keeping things in perspective, when you consider the damage done to four of the churches, three of them on Bridge Street and the oldest churches in town, St. Patrick got off pretty lightly. I can't imagine what we would have done if the tornado had jumped across Grand River Avenue and destroyed our church and/or school.

Considering all the devastation, Portland was blessed in that there were no real injuries or deaths, in spite of the fact that there was no tornado warning. Once the tornado had passed, it was nothing but amazing and inspirational

to see the hundreds of people from all over town and out of town who came to help clean up the devastation. There were city workers, business people, and private citizens who came out to help. A herculean effort was needed and went into cleaning up Fr. Flohe Field where we were scheduled to have our annual Summerfest five days later.

The morning following the tornado, I spoke with the other pastors from our Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA) as to their feelings about whether we should cancel the Summerfest in light of the devastation and grief that so many in the community were feeling. The pastors encouraged St. Patrick Parish to continue with Summerfest if at all possible.

With that encouragement, we went forward and decided to donate 25% of our proceeds from Summerfest to the damaged churches.

The people of Portland and surrounding communities came in droves, as did the news media from Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and beyond who wanted interviews about the event and the donation that would be made.

Summerfest was a huge success. When the weekend was over, we gave the four damaged churches a check for \$16,000, 25% of our proceeds. And, even after that donation, St. Patrick Parish netted about \$7,000 more than last year. God truly blesses us when we are generous with what the Good Lord has entrusted to our care!

I entitled this article "Portland Strong" which comes



The remnants of the pole barn on Father Flohe Field after the tornado.

from a T-shirt that was designed right after the tornado. Hundreds of the shirts were sold for \$10 each, and \$12,000 was donated to PAMA.

The people at Home Town Sports, who printed the shirts, told me that they had shipped them out to nine different states.

PAMA received a total of more than \$50,000 in donations. This money will help the churches with things that are not covered by insurance. In addition, the Portland Community Fund received over \$45,000 in donations. That money was used to help businesses and individuals.

It will take time to recover from the tornado, but with our community filled with so many good and generous people, it has to be obvious that Portland is an incredibly wonderful place to raise a family!!!



Father Flohe Foundation Announces Bell Award

The Father Flohe Foundation presented the 2015 Father Flohe Education Bell Award to Sue Fox at the 4:30 Mass on May 2, 2015. Foundation President Tony Thelen presented the award which is given annually to an alumnus of St. Patrick School, who in his/her life has exemplified the high goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick can achieve.

Sue graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1969. She was married to her dashing prince, Mike, in 1974, and they had three daughters, all of whom graduated from St. Patrick School as well.

A very important emphasis of St. Patrick School is *Service to Others*. Sue demonstrates this virtue so completely each and every day. She was, and is, involved in nearly every parish and school activity. She is a planner, organizer, and, most importantly, a doer. She is currently teaching Faith Formation to first graders along with all the other activities in which she is involved.

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to go into the details about all the activities, but everyone knows that when you need something done, you're pretty lucky to have someone like Sue take the reins. It'll be done right, on time, and always with a smile.

Please join in congratulating Sue, when you see her, on this very well-deserved recognition.



Bell Award Nominations Needed

The Father Flohe Foundation is looking for nominations for the annually presented Education Bell Award. Nominees should be past students from St. Patrick (either eighth grade or high school graduates, living or deceased), who by their life and achievements exemplify the high goals that our alumni can attain.

Write a brief description about your nominee, including the year they graduated, and submit to the Father Flohe Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland MI, 48875. Nomination forms are also available on the FFF website that can be accessed through the school website at www.portlandstpats.com. All nominations are evaluated and considered for the current year award, as well as maintained for future consideration.

Contributions Update

- Since 1989 over \$1,100,000 has been provided to the school. In the last 5 years alone, the FFF has provided almost \$415,000 to the school.
- Since 1988, the FFF has received donor gifts of approximately \$2,120,000.
- The fiscal year ending fund balance of \$2,380,200 marks the first time that the fund has exceeded 2 million dollars.
- The FFF is a 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions to Foundation are tax deductible.
- The FFF annually awards the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award, the Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship, the Msgr. Zervas Scholarship, and the Lajoy/Pung Scholarship. Information about each of these scholarships can be found on the school website.
- The FFF provides funding for the Shamrock Newsletter.
- Since 2003, the FFF has coordinated and provided a celebration for each of the graduating high school classes in honor of their 50th Reunion.

Reunion News

Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1970* will hold their 45-year reunion on Saturday, October 10, at Ken Schneider's house. Classmates will attend the 4:30 Mass, followed by dinner at 6:00.

The *Class of 2000* held their 15-year reunion on September 26, 2015, on the Grand Princess River Boat in Grand Ledge. A report on that reunion will be in the spring issue of The Shamrock.



Reunion Reports

The *Class of 2005* celebrated their 10-year reunion on Saturday, August 8, 2015. The afternoon began with a golf scramble which ended in a first place tie between two teams. Ultimately, Kyle Schrauben won it for his team in a "putt-off." The group then made their way to Jeff Brown's house where several more classmates and significant others joined for a BBQ, boat ride, and bonfire. Thank you to Jeff for hosting the group and to everyone who was able to attend and make it a great day!



Class of 2005

When your class gets together for reunions or other events, you probably bring up memories of your days together at St. Pat's School. Send those memories to us, and we'll share them with our readers!

Send your memories to shamrockeditors@gmail.com---or text them to 517-575-8000. If you send a text, please identify yourself and be sure to state your graduation year.

The *Class of 1995* celebrated their 20-year reunion on Saturday, July 11, 2015, at the home of Chad and Jen Brown. Twelve classmates gathered for food and good conversation.



Class of 1995

Reminder to Reunion Organizers

If your class is planning a reunion, please send in the details, and we'll help you spread the word. When the party's over, let us know what you did and send us a photo. Everyone loves to see how other classes celebrate—and how young they all look!

Send information to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1966

Get ready, St. Patrick graduating Class of 1966! The Father Flohe Foundation is planning a celebration in honor of your 50-year reunion.

The celebration will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016. The Father Flohe Foundation will contact you in the spring, asking you to send information for a class reunion book.

You will also receive an invitation and complete information about the reunion in the spring. There is no cost to you! We want you to be our guests, have a good time, and not have to do any of the work. Mark your calendars now!

When the Pickle Was New



Once upon a time, the Athletic Association saved up their money to buy a brand new green and white bus that was quickly dubbed *The Pickle*. Can you identify the people in this picture taking the maiden voyage of *The Pickle*? What year did this occur? Why did the bus have to go back to the company within the first weeks?

Send your entries to Pickle Contest via any of the methods described on page 19. There's no prize, but we will print your name!

**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**



The Good News in Education

If your children are school age or approaching school age, why not consider sending them to St. Patrick School? We offer a full Catholic curriculum for Preschool through 12th grade students.

You and your child(ren) are welcome to visit the school, take a tour, spend some time in the classrooms and see for yourself what we have to offer.

Call the school (517) 647-7551 and talk to Mr. Randy Hodge. He will tell you why Catholic Schools really are the Good News in Education!

Aurora's Goats

Students at St. Patrick School are taught about service to others from a very young age. So, it shouldn't come as a surprise when they seek out opportunities for helping the less fortunate.

Twelve-year-old Aurora Beckhold, daughter of Jeff and Angie Beckhold belongs to a 4-H club named World Wide Kids. Through her involvement in that club she learned about NYAKA, an organization aimed at ending hunger and poverty for AIDS orphans in Uganda. Aurora was touched by what she learned and began looking for a way that she could help out.

She decided to use her 4-H skills to raise meat goats which she would show and sell at the 2015 Ionia Free Fair. The money they brought in at the meat-animal auction would be donated to NYAKA.

Her goats, Chocolate Chip and Brownie, were born in February on a farm in New Era. Aurora purchased them and kept them in her neighbor's barn. She was in charge of their upkeep and feeding; she did all of the chores. Her goal was to have each goat weigh 80 pounds by fair time.

The auction was held on July 23, and Chocolate Chip brought in \$6 per pound. That added up to nearly \$500 for the children of NYAKA.

"We were blown away," said Daniele Reisbig of the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. "We have had a lot of youth throughout the country who like to give, but it was really cool to see someone come up with a completely unique idea."

"I'm excited," said Aurora. "I'm helping this charity, and I'm excited to do it again."

Congratulations, Aurora, for being a living example of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to learn more about the NYAKA project, go to www.nyakaschool.org.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Arthur (Juanita) Robinson, Jr.; her siblings, Marcella Sanders, Rosemary Fouts, Elicia Rademacker, Judith Fenis, Richard Leik, Francis Leik and Lawrence Leik; six grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

James H. Thompson, age 79, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2015. He was born on September 7, 1935, in Portland, Michigan, the son of Paul and Gladys (Greenhoe) Thompson. Mr. Thompson was a "tinner" for many years, and loved traveling, especially to Canada and Florida. Jim enjoyed playing poker, loved to sing, had a way of making life fun, and had a great love for life. He married his high school sweetheart, Betty Lawless on June 14, 1958, and she preceded him in death on April 6, 2015. Also preceding him in death were his parents and sister, Margaret. Surviving are his children, Karen (John) Mullane, Dennis (Jennifer) Thompson, Joan (Bill) Durkin, Robert (Julie) Thompson, and Judy (Kevin) Boley; 19 grandchildren; one great-grandson; and one sister, Mary Goins.

Loring Joseph Osmar, age 93, of Portland, Lansing, and Sault Ste. Marie, passed away peacefully from this life to the next on June 10, 2015. Loring was the son of Walt and Emma Osmar, born on December 4, 1921. He was a gentle man, a proud father and a friend to all. Loring was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during WWII, and a member of St. Patrick Church in Portland. He retired from United Airlines in 1981 and enjoyed 34 years of retirement. 21 of those years were spent on the shores of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. Loring married Geraldine Neville on May 25, 1950 and they were married 60 wonderful years. She preceded him death in 2010. He was also preceded in death by his grandson, Robert Allen and a great grandson, Justin White. Surviving are his children, Leanne (Greg) Vadnais of East Lansing, Carol (Keith) Allen of Lynnville, Tennessee, Steve (Mary) Osmar of DeWitt, Ken (Susan) Osmar of Fleming Island, Florida, Janet (Larry) Goodell of Michigan Center, Joleen (Bill) Pennington of Portland, Laurie (Tony) Gardner of Portland and Scott (Kim) Osmar of Ramstein AFB, Germany; 28 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and sister, Rita Tanner. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing (Stoneleigh Residence) or to St. Patrick Church in memory of Loring.

Melissa Ann Bengel, age 35, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2015. She was born on September 16, 1979, in Lansing, Michigan, the daughter of Edward and Kathleen (Fedewa) Bengel. Melissa was a member of

St. Patrick Catholic Church. She was a hard worker, even at an early age. She loved taking care of people and was an avid reader. Melissa had a special friend, her cat named "Baby Girl." Preceding her in death were her father, Edward; special friend, Curtis Martin; grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Surviving are her mother, Kathleen Bengel; brother, Luke (fiancee, Beth) Bengel; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Joan K. Allen, age 84, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2015. She was born on May 19, 1931, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of John "Jack" and Veronica "Froni" (Wieber) Haley. Joan was a lifelong resident of Portland and a member of St. Patrick Parish, as well as the St. Patrick Resurrection Choir. She married Tom W. Allen in 1951. Joan worked at T.R.W., retiring in 1987, after which she enjoyed spending winters in Venice, Florida. She loved volunteer work at Venice Hospital and working in the hospital "Elephant Truck" store. Preceding her in death were her parents; her beloved son, Mark; granddaughter, Haley Dunn; brother-in-law, Al Schanz. Surviving are her husband, Tom Allen; daughter, Caroline (Joe) Dunn; son, Paul Allen; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Colleen Schanz; and three nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Joan.

Nancy Marie (Onstwedder) Breimayer, age 71, passed away on Friday, July 17, 2015. She was born on October 28, 1943, in Ionia, Michigan, the daughter of Charles and Martha (Rockey) Onstwedder. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother who enjoyed spending time at sporting events, craft shows and camping. Preceding her in death were her parents. Surviving are her husband of 51 years, Richard Breimayer; children, Rick (Brenda Decess) Breimayer, Scott (Amy Hengesbach) Breimayer, and Mark (Crystal Layman) Breimayer; seven grandchildren; brother, Charles Onstwedder; and special aunt, Sybil Wagenbrenner.

Matilda "Tillie" Helen Hufnagel, age 86, passed away on Monday, July 20, 2015. She was born on November 13, 1928, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Schafer) Gensterblum. Mrs. Hufnagel was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary, enjoyed traveling and occasionally going to the casinos. Preceding her in death were her parents; siblings, Adeline Smith, Helen Rogers, Francis Gensterblum, and Rita Miller. Surviving are her husband, Robert Hufnagel; children, Linda (Dane) Droste of Ionia, Michael Fowler of Big Rapids, Steven Fowler of Portland, Patricia (Thomas) Roth of Lansing, Randall Fowler of Portland, and William (fiancee, Jill) Fowler of Portland; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Penny

Peiffer; special caregiver, Kim Bower; in-laws, Mark (Leone) Hufnagel of Westphalia, Jo (Dan) Bengel of Portland, Dennis Hufnagel of Portland, Debra Hufnagel of Lansing, and Nancy Hufnagel of Mason; several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to McLaren Hospice in memory of Mrs. Hufnagel.

Janet Elizabeth Hengesbach, age 73, passed away on Monday, August 31, 2015. She was born on July 2, 1942, in Lansing, MI, the daughter of Gerald E. and Elizabeth A. (Gensterblum) Huhn. Janet was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and enjoyed traveling and playing bingo. Preceding her in death were her parents; in-laws, Jule Huhn and Leon Hengesbach. Surviving are her husband, John Hengesbach; daughter, Brenda (Robert) Johnston; grandson, Trenton Johnston; sisters, Charlene (Gordon) Graft, Carol Wells, Yvonne (Gene) Smith, Claudia Hengesbach, Sandy (Mark) Ackerson, Deborah (Steven) Kissane, Theresa (Dave) Maccagnone, and Laurie (Randy) Laramy; brothers, Gerald (Linda) Huhn, Melvin Huhn, Peter (Sue) Huhn, Dennis (Terry) Huhn, and Claude (Donna) Huhn; in-laws, Rosella (Chuck) Loner, Robert Hengesbach, and Marvin (Cathy) Hengesbach. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church in memory of Janet.

Bernadine C. Simon, age 87, passed away on Friday, September 18, 2015, surrounded by her family. She was born on April 22, 1928, in Westphalia, the daughter of Anthony and Mathilda (Nurenberg) Thelen. Bernadine was a faith-filled woman; she was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Altar Society. She worked on the city elections for many years; she enjoyed spending time at the cottage, traveling, and camping. Bernadine loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and attending their sporting events. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Thomas A. Simon; brothers-in-law, Robert Hengesbach and Richard Simon; sisters-in-law, Mary Ann Simon and Mary Ann Simon. Surviving are her children, Sharon (Bob) Seidel of Ludington, David (Marlene) Simon of Portland, Laurie (Scott) Hill of Portland, and Kurt (Lagaia) Simon of Pleasant Lake; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; siblings, Donald (Georgene) Thelen, Harriet Hengesbach, and Mary Ellen (Donald) Schneider; brothers-in-law, William and John Simon. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick School, Hospice of Lansing, or Alzheimer's-Ludington Chapter in memory of Bernadine. The family would like to thank Kelly and the staff at Country Living for their care and compassion given to their mother.

Receive their souls, oh Holy One.

Present them now to God Most High.

www.portlandstpats.com

HALL OF FAME

(CON'T FROM PAGE 2)

enough to have a lot of success in the '90s."

In his first year, Hoffman led the Eagles to their third state championship. And in 1998, he led them to their fourth. Hoffman and Spicer are the only two football coaches in Fowler history to win multiple championships.

"We all took a great deal of pride in what we were doing at the time," Hoffman said. "We had a great group of kids through those times. The coaching itself was



Neal in 1968

pretty easy because we had great kids and a great group of assistant coaches — whom I leaned on.

"There was a very strong tradition there anyway. Fowler had been there four times prior to when I took over. There was a lot of tradition that took place there, and still does."

Some of Hoffman's fondest moments as the Eagles' coach include having his then-young children run the sidelines as his team won state titles.

Also, during a season where Fowler was renovating its football facility, his team played every game on the road.

"I don't think we lost more than two games during that year," he said.

The philosophies instilled by Hoffman still linger around the Eagles' program today — most of them are taught by his former players.

"Everything that we do on the offensive line stems from how he coached it," Kris Ernst, the school's current football coach and athletic director, said. "What he did, the drills

— the drills we do every day are his."

"Many of his players are coaching today. He is someone we constantly go to for advice."

Ernst doesn't have to travel far to get tidbits from Hoffman. A couple of years ago, Ernst asked Hoffman to return to the sidelines and coach the junior varsity team.

"After five years out, I was excited to get back in at that level," Hoffman said. "All the coaches on the JV staff are guys that I coached in school."

OTHER FACTS ABOUT NEAL

Neal has been married to Colleen (Cotter) for 37 years; the couple has two children, Megan and Joel. Neal and Colleen live in Pewamo.

A fun fact provided by a family member: When he was in elementary school, Neal and his friend, Pat Weller would walk to the Hoffman home during lunch hour, where they would watch Jeopardy with Neal's mom, Renie Hoffman.

PORTLAND ST. PATRICK

55th Annual

Fall Festival

All of your favorites:

- Buffet Style Dinner
- Arts & Crafts Show
- Kidfest Activities
- Euchre Tournament
- 5K Race/Half Marathon

Plus
Special Prizes

Get a FREE Pot O'Gold
door prize ticket
when you come to the dinner!

Sunday, October 11

www.portlandstpats.com > Fall Festival

www.portlandstpats.com

SEMINARIANS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

ology II at Mundelein Seminary and will earn his Master's in Philosophy and Religious Studies in May 2016. Johnathan hopes to be ordained a Transitional Deacon in May 2019 and to the Priesthood in June 2020.

Please be sure to keep these St. Pat's grads in your prayers. If you would like to drop them a card of appreciation and encouragement, their addresses are as follows:

Mike Steffes and Jonathon Johnson
Mundelein Seminary
1000 East Maple Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060

Wendy Rutherford
St. Clare Convent
PO Box 766
Mishawka, IN 46546

Ryan Riley
Sacred Heart Major Seminary
2701 Chicago Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48206

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve! 17



The tornado that Father Larry wrote about in this issue created a lot of destruction and havoc in Portland, but it also created an opportunity for the people of Portland to show their values, strength, and goodness. The words in this puzzle are all Portland tornado-related. When you've found all 24 words, the leftover letters will spell out a quote that seems quite appropriate to the situation. Good luck!

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

ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 19, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by November 1, 2016. A cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner who will be drawn randomly from all correct entries. You must be 18 or older to enter. Limit of one entry per person.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ANSWER: _____

BAPTIST
 CHAINSAWS
 CHARITY
 CLEANUP
 COMMUNITY FUND
 CONGREGATIONAL
 DEBRIS
 DESTRUCTION

DONATIONS
 EPIC CHURCH
 HELPERS
 HELPING HAND
 METHODIST
 PORTLAND STRONG
 PRAYERS
 REBUILD

RECOVER
 REDCROSS
 RESTORE
 SUMMERFEST
 TORNADO
 TREE TRIMMERS
 TV REPORTERS
 UPROOTED TREES

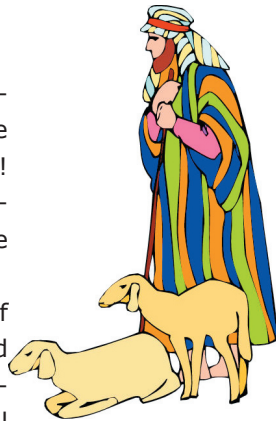


The spring puzzle in *The Shamrock* was all things Catholic, and the quote was from Jesus Christ Himself, who appointed Peter to be the head of his visible church with the words, ***“Now I say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church.”*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries was Carol (Stiffler) Russell who received \$50 for her efforts. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest, and keep on entering! One of these times, YOU might be the winner!

LOST SHEEP

It seems like in this day of internet and social media that it should be easier to keep track of all our grads! However, with each mailing we receive a few envelopes back that are undeliverable.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these Lost Sheep, please send us their current address. An up-to-date list can be found on our school website on the Alumni page. You can use your smart phone and barcode scanner to go directly to that page.



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1956 Duane Irrer | 1981 Mike Binder |
| 1966 Dan Lehman | 1983 Elwyn Ordway |
| 1967 Sharon (Hughes) Frye | 1983 Pauline Guilford |
| 1968 Carolyn (Rowe) Embree | 1984 Laurie (Leik) Kinne |
| 1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova | 1987 Sheila (Martin) Morales |
| 1974 Mark VanderHoff | 1988 Scott Gilbert |
| 1975 Susan Thelen | 1991 Frank Wright |
| 1979 Michael Hendricks | 2000 Carl Gensterblum |
| 1979 John Thelen | 2000 Jeremy Pline |
| 1980 Angie Young | |

Upcoming EVENTS

- Fall Festival October 11, 2015
- Confirmation October 25, 2015
- Veteran's Day Observance Nov. 11, 2015
- Festival of Tables Jan. 30, 2016
- Catholic Schools Week..... Jan. 31-Feb. 6, 2016
- CSW Breakfast..... January 31
- Senior Appreciation Dinner April 16, 2016
- Shamrock Auction April 23, 2016
- First Communion May 1, 2016
- Graduation May 22, 2016
- Summerfest..... June 25-26, 2016
- Class of 1966 50-Year Reunion.... Sept. 10, 2016

Spring issue of The Shamrock..... Early April

Please use this form to let us know of any address changes or to submit information for the newsletter.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

If you are a graduate of St. Pat's, please list your maiden name and year of graduation: _____

News to include in the next issue, information about class reunions, ideas for articles (use separate sheet if necessary)

Send to The Shamrock, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI, 48875; fax to (517-647-7807; e-mail to shamrockeditors@gmail.com; or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Shamrock Newsletter.

The Shamrock

140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
 Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807
 E-mail: shamrockeditors@gmail.com
 Website: www.portlandstpats.com
 (Click on Alumni Information)

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 as follows:

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News and/or ideas for articles can be sent to anyone on the staff. If you would like to become part of The Shamrock crew, contact any staff member.

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St. Patrick Parish School
140 Church Street
Portland, MI 48875

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 Grand Rapids MI
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It's COOL to go to Catholic School!

-Scholarships are available regardless of need! At St. Patrick School, we're committed to finding the funds so your children can experience the values and academic excellence of a Catholic education.

-This is Catholic education for the 21st Century! We provide a top-notch curriculum and the technological tools all students need to help them succeed in a 21st century world.

-Christian values are intertwined in everything we do! We provide a unique atmosphere which fosters brotherly love and Christian stewardship.

Contact us anytime for a personal tour. Meet the pastor, principals, and teachers. Call Principal Randy Hodge or Director of Student Life Sarah Townsend, at 517-647-7551.



We would like to thank Diocesan Publications and their staff for printing this newsletter for us!