



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 30 No. 1 FALL 2016

## Class of 1966 Celebrates 50 Years



Front row: Dale Huhn, Valerie Erwin, Marlene Letch, Janice Trimmer, Sandy Harr, Kathy Dector, Marie Wright, Bob Gross. Second row: Billie McBrien, Linda Koelzer, Janet Schneeberger, Jack Bauer, Kathy Hann, Suzy Seal, Julie Pung, Mike Weller, Ron Hodge, Phil Koelzer, Steve Goodman, Delores Beard, Fran McDermond. Back Row: Larry Lehman, Mary Marvin, Steve Schafer, Mike Feldpausch, Steve Smith, Mike Moriarty Joe Honsowitz, Fred Russman, Larry Krieger.

**T**hirty members of the Class of 1966 were honored on Saturday, September 10, at a 50-year reunion party hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation.

Classmates and their spouses were given a tour of the school in the afternoon, then attended the 4:30 Mass which was offered in memory of the deceased members of the class. A prime rib and chicken dinner at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room followed.

Memories flowed throughout the evening, exciting ones like going to the quarterfinals in boys basketball in 1964 (when St. Pat's was a Class C school); funny ones about getting caught smoking in the bathroom; poignant ones about classmates who died too young.

Jack Bauer travelled from California for the reunion. Peggy Owen Dishop sent a note stating her regret at missing it. "My sister's only son, my Godson, is getting married that same day, in Cleveland," she wrote. "I cannot tell you how sorry I am to be missing the reunion. Have a wonderful time and know that I treasure my memories of each of you."

### What Was Happening in 1966?

- The war in Vietnam continued. Protests were commonplace.
- Race riots occurred across the country.
- The National Guard was needed to control the protests and riots.
- Miranda Rights came into being.
- Ronald Reagan entered politics and became governor of California.
- The first episode of *Star Trek* aired and we heard, "Beam me up, Scottie," for the first time.
- *Batman*, starring Adam West debuted on ABC.
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* was shown for the first time.
- Pampers created the first disposable diaper.
- The most popular Christmas gifts were Spirograph, Twister game, and Viewmaster.
- The number one show on TV was *Bonanza*.
- \* *The Sound of Music* won the Academy Award for Best Picture.
- *The Ballad of the Green Berets* by SSgt Barry Sadler was the number one song for the year.
- The most popular baby names were Michael and Lisa.
- Fashions were influenced by the British and became known as the Mod look. Both men and women wore patterned pants, flowered shirts, and boots.

# JOURNEY OF Faith

On Friday, June 10, 2016, in a church filled to capacity, **Ryan Riley** (2001) received the sacrament of Holy Orders. Ryan was one of five priests and two deacons who were ordained that evening at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in East Lansing.

Father Ryan's first Mass was offered the following day at his boyhood home parish, Owosso St. Paul. On Sunday, he said Mass at Portland St. Patrick Church.



The newly ordained Father Ryan Riley is joined by his family and Bishop Earl Boyea at St. Thomas Aquinas Church following ordination on June 10.

**Dan Schumaker**, who spent six months at St. Patrick Parish while he was studying for the priesthood, was ordained at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids on June 4, 2016.

Father Dan returned to St. Pat's on June 19 to say one of his first Masses.

He has been assigned as Parochial Vicar at the Basilica of St. Adalbert and St. Mary Parish (Grand Rapids) and Chaplain of West Catholic High School



Father Dan Schumaker, center, is flanked by Deacon Don Sobolewski on the left and Father Larry King on the right.

On August 10, 2016, during her Investiture Ceremony, **Wendy Rutherford** officially became a First Year Novice of the Sisters of St Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana, and assumed the name of Sister Evangeline after St John the Evangelist. The name means "bearer of good news." It is also the name of the parish where she was baptized and attended Mass while she was in college. Sister Evangeline will remain living at St. Clare Convent, P.O. Box 766, Mishawaka, IN 46546 for the next two years. Please continue to pray for her as she continues her journey.



Wendy Rutherford has taken the name Sister Evangeline.

## Our Junior SPOTLIGHT

### Alex Bennett

One of the goals of St. Patrick School is to graduate students who are well-rounded individuals, who have participated in many activities both in and outside of school. These activities introduce them to other people and places and give them experiences beyond the walls of St. Patrick School.

Sixth grader, **Alexandria Bennett**, participates in many activities at school and church, including Shamrock sports, Sanchin Ryu (where she has earned a purple belt), and altar serving. She also participates in Portland recreational softball and loves playing with her cousins, baking, traveling, going to the library, and doing well in school. But, in second grade, Alex discovered a love for cheerleading that has taken her out of Portland and across the country over the last three years.

Alex is a member of the Grand Ledge Elite Cheer team coached by Rebecca Judd. Elite Cheer is an affordable recreational cheerleading program that is part of the National Youth Activities Association (NYAA). They teach cheer jumps, stunting, basic tumbling, and dance. Members of the team have the option to compete in Champion Force competitions

And, compete, they do! Alex's team has gone to the National Championship Competition each of the last three years, taking the national title in Las Vegas in 2014, second place in Grand Rapids in 2015, and another national championship title on July 25, 2016, in Myrtle Beach.

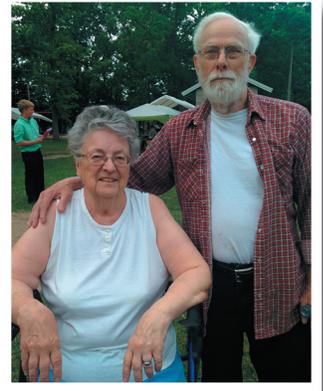
The win in Myrtle Beach was bittersweet, as her biggest fan, grandpa Mitch (Butch) Bennett, wasn't there. Alex was Grandpa's sidekick, and he was her best friend. In March, he told her that because of a shattered disk in his back, he couldn't make the trip to South Carolina. In April, he was diagnosed with cancer, and he died on May 17. Alex had to compete without him, but she knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that, though she couldn't see him, Grandpa was there that day, watching her and cheering for her from the best seat in the house.



Alex Bennett and her best friend, Grandpa Mitch Bennett.

# *In The* **Spotlight**

## **Judy Braley**



*Some people are kind and helpful by nature. They notice when others need assistance and are quick to offer a helping hand. Judy Braley is one of those people. When she asked sacristan Frances Layton, "Can I help you?" she had no way of knowing that her helping hand would be needed for the next 28 years. That didn't deter Judy from continuing to offer her services to other groups within the parish, as well. St. Pat's is a much better place for the time and effort that Judy and her husband Lyle put forth.*

**Judy (Pline) Braley** graduated with honors from St. Patrick High School in 1958. It was during her junior year that she attended a movie at the Sun Theater with a group of girlfriends.

Lyle Braley was there that night, too. He was home on leave from the army, and he and a group of guys struck up a conversation with the young ladies. The conversation probably centered around Elvis Presley, who was quite popular at the time. Girls loved Elvis. Guys generally mocked him. Whatever the topic, the young men found reason to follow the girls to a local restaurant where they resumed talking.

That was the beginning of a partnership between Judy and Lyle that endures yet today, almost sixty years later.

Judy and Lyle were married the year after she graduated. Lyle was heading west to Washington for diesel mechanic classes, and Judy would be going along. Their wedding required a special dispensation to be held on a Friday night so that the young couple could leave on schedule.

They spent two years in Washington, came back to Michigan, and lived in Grand Ledge and Detroit (during the riots) before settling back in Portland. Along the way they had five children which led to nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Twenty-eight years as a sacristan meant that Judy worked with lots of different people. She remembers a long and memorable line of dedicated priests that she served, each with his own special personality. Some of them were outgoing from the beginning; some were quieter and more reserved. One arrived in Portland on a Harley; another arrived on a bicycle. Each of them became a friend of the Braleys. Judy and Lyle still enjoy running into former pastors and associate pastors at churches around the diocese when they visit other parishes.

Over the years, Judy worked with many other sacristans, too. George Mleko, Tom Little, Jeri May, and Sandy Hornby are a few of the names that come to her mind. But there was one special sacristan who became a very dear friend.

Pat Hoppes and Judy became very close from working together at the church, and they enjoyed doing other things together, as well. Pat would pick her up, and off they would go. Lyle enjoyed the new friendship with Pat, too, because it gave him something that he'd never had before—some time to himself, away from his wife!

You see, Judy never learned how to drive, so Lyle takes her everywhere she needs to go. And, because of her volunteer schedule, her services have been needed frequently. As a result, if Judy is there, so is Lyle, who joins in and participates in most of her volunteer duties.

When Judy was asked to recall some special memories she talked about the time that Father Charlie Hall approached her after Mass and handed her an envelope. "What's in it?" she asked. "Is it my walking papers?"

Father Charlie just smiled and said it was something he thought she would like. It was tickets for Judy and Lyle and the other members of the Arts and Environment group to attend the Cathedral, as representatives of St. Patrick Church, to receive the holy oils for the Easter Vigil service. The gift was Father Charlie's way of saying, "Thank you for enhancing the Eucharistic celebration with so many beautiful adornments." Judy still remembers how honored she felt.

She also remembers the day that Sue Crosby asked her to help out with cookie deliveries to new parishioners. This ministry still exists today—good works live on.

But Judy says that the real joy comes when the church is empty and she walks into the sanctuary in front of the altar

*(Continued on page 17)*

# 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](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

## BIRTHS

To **Eric** (2009) and **Bethany Pline**, a daughter, Josie Kay, on December 3, 2015.

To **Aaron** (2006) and **Becky Thelen**, a daughter, Emmelyn Cardine, on July 3, 2016.

To **Christen (Simon, 2004)** and **Brandon Anderson** of Spring Lake, Michigan, a daughter, Samantha Kate, on June 21, 2016.

To **Renee (Lansdell, 2000)** and **Terry Peterson** of Lansing, a son, Max Brian, on May 9, 2016. He joins a sister, Abby (20 months).

To **Jim** (1992) and **Mandy Leik**, a son, Jameson Ronald, on May 9, 2016. He joins three sisters, Sophia (11), Adelyn (7), and Elyse (5).

To **Jake** (1998) and **Jaime Pung** of Zeeland, a son, Isaac Forrest, on March 23, 2016. He joins one sister, Shaelyn (16), and two brothers, Dominic (12) and Sawyer (5).

To **Ben** (1998) and **Laura (Goodman, 1999) Pung**, a son Brantley Stephen, on March 10, 2016. He joins one sister, Brooklin (5), and one brother, Brayden (3).

To **Justin** (1995) and **Amanda Pung**, a daughter, Gwendolyn Lee, on June 23, 2016. She joins one brother, Ethan (10), and three sisters, Ellie (11), Katie (8), and Bree (5).

To **Melinda (Simon, 1997)** and **Dan Graham** of Chicago, a daughter, Cora Kathryn, on June 22, 2016. She joins siblings, Lola and Daniel, Jr.

To **Terry and Carmen Austen**, a daughter, Felicity Rosann, on March 13, 2016. She joins siblings, Francis (7), Maria (6), Patrick (5), and Benedict (2).

To **Ken and Kaylyn (Kramer, 2008) Livingston**, a daughter, Averie Carol, on April 20, 2016. She joins brother, Austen (2).

To **Troy** (2002) and **Cortney Smith**, a daughter, Allena Jane, on September 7, 2016. She joins brothers, Benjamin (5) and Henry (2).

## WEDDINGS

**David Kahn** (1992) of Ada, Michigan, and **Silvia Peralta** of Chicago, were married in a civil ceremony on May 28, 2016. The bride is formerly from Peru. A religious ceremony will be held on May 27, 2017, at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Lima, Peru. The couple resides in Ada.

**Melissa Pohl** (2011) and **Lance Thelen** were married April 23, 2016, at St. Mary's Church in Westphalia, MI.

**Annalise Kransz** (2008) and **Brian Laumeyer** were married on June 4, 2016, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. **Father John Vallier** presided at the ceremony.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Alex Schrauben** (2008) and **Rachel Schafer** of Westphalia are engaged and planning a July 15, 2017, wedding.

**Leslie Fox** (2006) and **Tony Knopf** will be married on June 24, 2017. The couple live in Auburn Indiana, where Leslie is a trooper with the Indiana State Police.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Bruce and Noel Bennett** celebrated their 50th anniversary with an open house hosted by their children at St. Patrick Parish Hall. They married at St. Patrick Church on July 9, 1966. On July 10, 2016, Father Larry King gave them a special blessing at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. They have two children, Anne of Alexandria, Virginia, and Mark (Nancy) of Okemos; and two granddaughters, Sloane (13) and Shoshana (9).

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**Al Schrauben** (1972) was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame on September 18, 2016, at Central Michigan University. Al has coached most of the sports at St. Pat's at one time or another and has been the head coach of the girls basketball team since 1985. His teams have been to the state semi-finals 13 times. They have brought home an amazing six championship trophies and four state runners-up trophies. Going into the 2016-17 season, Al has an amazing 596 career wins. Congratulations, Coach Al!

**Morgan Thelen** (2008) graduated on May 13, 2016, from the University of Detroit Mercy as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. Dr. Thelen is employed as a dentist at Miller Dentistry in Portland.

If you are looking for a special place to go to satisfy your sweet tooth, pay a visit to Mimi's Sweet Shoppe at 2415 Showtime Drive in the Eastwood Towne Center in Lansing. **Scott** and **Maggie (Rodgers, 2003) Sanders** are the proprietors. Their Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/mysweetmimis](http://www.facebook.com/mysweetmimis).

## IN MEMORY OF

**Katie Ann Nelson**, age 66, of Ludington, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2016, after a courageous battle with cancer. Katie was born to Lorena Rose Cusack and Edward J. Manning on March 26, 1949, in Lansing, MI. She attended Portland St. Patrick Catholic High School and graduated with the class of 1967. She received her radiology technician degree from St. Lawrence Hospital in 1969. Katie is survived by her loving husband, Tom and three grown children, Paul (Faith) Nelson of Ludington, Gail (Tom) Bourguignon of Missoula, Montana, and Jessica A. Nelson of Brighton, Michigan. Katie will also be greatly missed by her five grandchildren and her sisters, Sally (Pat) Ryan of Lansing, Michigan, Joyce (Julius) Platte of Portland, Michigan, Rosie Manning of Sitka, Alaska, and Doni Knoop of Ionia, Michigan. She is preceded in death by her parents, nephew Herb Platte, and three brothers-in-law. Heaven better be ready for a party!

**Frances E. "Fran" Mauren**, age 82, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Fran was born July 24, 1933, in Akron, Ohio, the daughter of Francis and Anna (Seib) Kidder. She was a long-time member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Resurrection Choir, and the women's golf league. She retired from Independent Bank. Fran was preceded in death by her parents and five sisters. Surviving are her husband of 55 years, Richard; three children, Mark Mauren, Ann Mauren, and Mike (Kathy) Mauren, all

of Portland; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

**Chad Jacob Schneider**, age 23, who warmed everyone's hearts with his brilliant smile and his infamous "HEY", went to be with the Lord on April 24, 2016. Finally relieved of the pain that he suffered from his disability, he is now on the stairway to Heaven, welcomed with open arms by his sister, Ashley and our Lord Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his triplet sister, Ashley; grandparents, Harold and Marie Schneider. Surviving are his parents, Russell and Melanie Schneider; triplet sister, Jessica; brothers, Derek and Tyler; grandparents, Burton and Sharon Robson; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and teachers.

**Donald M. Fedewa**, age 81, passed away on Monday, May 2, 2016. He was born on February 2, 1935, the son of Walter and Raymunda (Pung) Fedewa. Don was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, served in the U. S. Army overseas, and enjoyed the Detroit Tigers. He loved spending time with his family and his grandchildren. Surviving are his children Pat Fedewa, Sandy (Pete) Baker, John (Yvette) Fedewa, Karen Fedewa, Jerry Fedewa, David Fedewa, Stephen Fedewa, and Mark (Deb) Fedewa; 15 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; brother, Robert (Kathy) Fedewa; sister, Kathleen Gross; and many nieces and nephews.

**Thomas J. Thelen**, age 65, died on May 7, 2016. He is preceded in death by his parents Florentine and Aurelia Thelen and a daughter, Jennifer. Thomas is survived by his daughters, Michal and Rachel; and grandsons, Gavin and Travis. He is forever loved by all of his family. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Tom.

**Robert Daniel Rensi**, age 80, of Lansing, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 12, 2016. He was born on Christmas Day, 1935, in Parlett, Ohio, the son of Robert and Ervine Rensi. Bob lived in Portland, Pentwater, and Lansing. He was a member of St. Patrick Church in Portland. He loved the outdoors, but his pride and joy was his family, and he loved spending time with them. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ruth Ann Gilson. Bob was a loving and devoted husband of 59 years to his wife, Joan, who survives. He is also survived by his children, Chad (Julie) Rensi, Robert (Linda) Rensi, Sharon (Bill) Stegenga, and Debbie Rensi; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research.

**John Joseph Pung**, age 67, of Charlotte, passed away on May 10, 2016. He was born on August 12, 1948, to Leon and Pauline (Gross) Pung, in Portland, MI. He was in

the Airforce during Vietnam, stationed in Japan. On September 3, 1983, John married Kathryn Tombaugh. John had a strong love for muscle cars. While in the service he owned a Red Camaro that he drove around on base. After the war he purchased a one-of-a-kind 1979 Mustang Cobra that he still drove. He will be remembered for being a friendly person who could talk with anyone. John was also a very helpful man who would help anyone that needed assistance. He loved family gatherings around the holidays and also the monthly family dinner that he would coordinate at Cugino's in Grand Ledge. John is survived by his wife Kathryn; their daughter, Melinda Vandemark of Minot, North Dakota; two grandchildren; four brothers, Tom (Rosemary) Pung, Robert (Bernadette) Pung, Richard (Ann) Pung, Kenneth (Carrie) Pung; two sisters, Ann (Gerald) Kloeckner and Joan (Anthony) Hradecky; and 2 sisters-in-law, Dorothy Pung and Barbara Trierweiler. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Leon "Buddy" Pung Jr., and Donald Pung. Memorial contributions are suggested to The Eaton Conservation District, 551 Courthouse Drive, Ste 3, Charlotte, MI, 48813.

If you have announcements  
for What's Happening  
(births, weddings,  
engagements, anniversaries,  
graduations, etc.)  
send them to The Shamrock.  
See page 13 for email and  
address information.

**Mitchell Bennett**, age 74, of Lyons, passed away May 17, 2016, in Lyons. He was born October 28, 1941, in Ionia County the son of Clarence J and Wreatha (Mason) Bennett. Mitchell was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland and St. Patrick Knights of Columbus. He was a former Lyons-Muir Lions Club member and was very active in community service projects. He adored his family. Mitchell is survived by his loving wife, Gert Bennett of Lyons; children, Thomas (Julie) Bennett of Muir, Julie (Dave) Durham of Norfolk, VA, Michelle (Tim) Cowan of Woodland Park, Colorado, Carolee Bennett of Portland, and Toni Marie (Ben) Baldwin of Vermilion, OH; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother, Larry (Mary) Bennett of Great Falls, Montana; sister, Virginia (John) Snyder of Muir; sister-in-law, Ruth Bennett of Lyons; and many special friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jack and Jerry Bennett; and a sister, Joan

Dennis. Memorial contributions may be made to Ionia Community Awareness or St. Patrick Catholic Church.

**Robert L. Meyers**, age 68, of Lyons, passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2016. He was born on March 26, 1948, the son of Lewis and Helen (Gensterblum) Meyers. Bob retired from General Motors after 30 years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His greatest love was his family, especially the grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Roberta "Bobbi" Johnston, in 1997; son Ryan Meyers, in 2004; and his parents. Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Linda; children, Scott (Tisa) Meyers, Rebecca (Matthew) Christians, Adam (Trisha) Meyers; son-in-law, Eric (Stacey) Johnston; daughter-in-law, Janice (Roger) Rhyndress; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; siblings, Geraldine "Gerry" VanDerWoude, Joseph (Sandy) Meyers, Elaine Ewing, Michael (Angie) Meyers, Sue Luna, and Theresa (Brad) Babinski; "Fred" the cat; many nieces and nephews; loving neighbors Randy and Michelle Hodge.

**Theola "Ole" May (Mulnix) Werner**, age 88, passed away June 6, 2016. She was born January 28, 1928, to LeRoy and Marie (Steele) Mulnix. Ole married Harold A. Werner on February 1, 1947, and was a lifelong mother and homemaker. She was a member of St. Patrick Church and past president of the Altar Society, and worked on the Portland Township Election Board for many years. She enjoyed playing cards, bingo, bowling, and trips to the casino. Ole was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Harold, in 2014; son, John Edgar Werner; grandson, Cody Werner; son-in-law, Rowland Martin; brothers, Arnold, Floyd, Don, Larry and Dale Mulnix; sister Donna Mulnix; and many brothers and sisters-in-law. Surviving are her children, Susan (Rod) Hayes, Daniel (Jean) Werner, Cathi (Carl) Pratt, Bernard "Ben" Werner, Patricia Tenbrink, Barbara Werner, Stephen (Linda) Werner, Joseph (Sonda) Werner, John (Joyce) Werner, and Janine Martin; 20 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; sisters, Carol Fox and Esther Irrer and brother, Gerald Mulnix. Memorial contributions may be made to the hospice of your choice.

**Iva M. Pung**, age 84, passed away on Friday, July 1, 2016. She was born on January 23, 1932, the daughter of Marcus and Maria (Stoffel) Galer. Iva was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, gardening, and camping trips. Along with her husband, Stanley, she devoted much of her life to the family farm. Iva was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Bill Galer; and her

*(continued on page 17)*



The change will allow each of the principals to specialize in their own area.

"I am excited for this change," said Mrs. Townsend. While it comes with a lot more responsibility, it also provides more clarity for everyone involved.

"Not being the sole administrator in the building is a bonus. It is great to have Randy to look to for guidance and support.

"I have connected with my staff and feel that we are making some great changes. I also try to make connections with the kids. You will see me serving lunch, popping in and out of classrooms, and out on the playground with the students. I don't want the kids to only think of me as the person they go to when they are in trouble. My staff is great to work with and I am excited for this year."

## Sarah Townsend Assumes New Role

Sarah Townsend's career at St. Patrick School has evolved again, as she assumes the new role of Elementary Principal. She had previously been the Assistant Principal of the entire school.



The change of title will benefit the school staff, students, and families by better defining where to go for administrative guidance.

"We found that there was some confusion about who to go to for any given reason," said Randy Hodge, who is now the principal of the middle and high schools. "Now if there is a question that deals with preschool through 5th grade, students, staff, and parents will go to Mrs. Townsend. If the concern is for grades 6-12, they will come to me."

In addition, a broad range of expertise is needed to oversee all of the grades from preschool thru 12th grade.

## Bleacher Benches Update

When the old bleachers were removed from St. Pat's gym last year, the boards from the bleachers were used to make benches which now adorn the homes of more than six dozen Shamrock fans.

There is a poignant ending to the Bleacher Bench story. The man who volunteered to make the benches was Mitch (Butch) Bennett. At the time, he didn't want any recognition or publicity. He made them out of the goodness of his heart and because of his love for the school.



Butch passed away on May 17, after a short battle with cancer.

It is a fitting legacy to him that so many people will think of him each time they use their bleacher bench. Thank you, Butch! May you rest in peace.



## School Year Begins With Fun-Filled Events

St. Patrick School Open House and Welcome Back Party was another success! After a brief informational meeting in church to introduce new staff members, parents and students visited the classrooms to meet the teachers.

The Back-to-School party is always a fun time when the kids get to see friends that they have missed all summer long and for parents to see how their kids' classrooms will be run. The parents were able to sign up for class parties and see what supplies are needed for the classrooms.

The Parish Hall was open, and the PTO provided a simple meal to welcome everyone back.

On Friday, August 26, the PTO sponsored the tailgate party before the first home football game. Guests of honor were all of the preschool, DK, and Kindergarten students and their families, and all of the families who are new to St. Patrick School this year.

The opponents for the game were the Bulldogs from Covert who travelled over 100 miles from southwest Michigan. To make their long ride home more pleasant, St. Patrick PTO packed up all of the leftover food and drinks for the Covert team and their supporters.



Father Larry enjoyed mingling with other Shamrock fans at the PTO-sponsored Tailgate Party on August 26, 2016.

## Catholic School Enrollment Increases



Elementary students at St. Pat's could hardly control their excitement to be back in school.

According to Dave Faber, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Bishop Walkowiak's plan to increase enrollment and strengthen resources at Catholic schools in the diocese is bearing fruit. Preschool enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was up 1.6%; enrollment for 2016-17 is up an additional 1.5%.

Enrollment at St. Patrick School has followed the same trend. Enrollment for 2015-16 was up 1.5%; enrollment for 2016-17 is up nearly 3%. Our total student enrollment as of September 15, 2016, was 392 students in preschool through 12th grades.

Bishop Walkowiak wants to remind all families in the Diocese of Grand Rapids who do not currently have their children enrolled at Catholic schools, that Welcome Scholarships are available. Every child in your family will qualify: Preschool \$750, K-8th \$750, and High School \$1000 per student. Applications are available at [www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/schools](http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/schools).

### Questions and Answers About St. Pat's

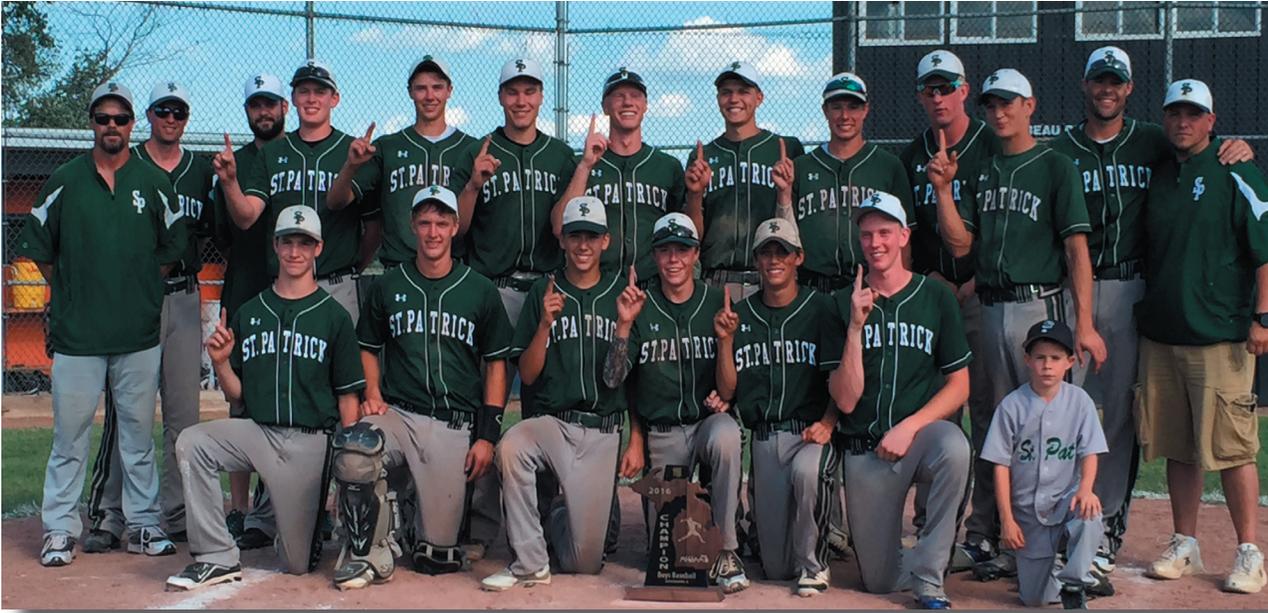
Principal Randy Hodge wrote several newspaper/bulletin columns over the summer with questions and answers about St. Patrick School. The topics ranged from budgeting process to personnel changes to much, much more.

If you missed those columns or are from outside the Portland area, you can read them online by visiting the school website and clicking on *Notes and Reflections from Mr. Hodge*. If you have additional questions, send them to:

[randyhodge@portlandstpats.com](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.com) or  
[sarahtownsend@portlandstpats.com](mailto:sarahtownsend@portlandstpats.com).



# Shamrock Baseball Team State Runners-Up



Back Row: Coach Mark Scheurer, Coach Dan Thelen, Coach Ben Brown, Nathan Lehnert, Graham Smith, Travis Moyer, Garrett Pline, Brady Lehman, Nick Coyne, Noah Goodman, Thomas Wernet, Coach Bryan Scheurer, Griff Woodman  
Front Row: Cooper Diamond, Brendan Schrauben, Will Simon, Brandon Scheurer, Daniel Mackowiak, Hunter Barber, Manager Jerryd Scheurer

Going into the 2016 season, the Shamrock players and coaches knew what they wanted, a respectable win/loss record, a league title, and a good performance in the state tournaments. They were willing to work as hard as they needed to reach those goals.

The Shamrocks had a strong team, but two early losses to CMAC rival Fowler meant that they would fall short of the league title. Those losses made them hungrier for victory and resulted in the boys working even harder to become the team that they knew they could be.

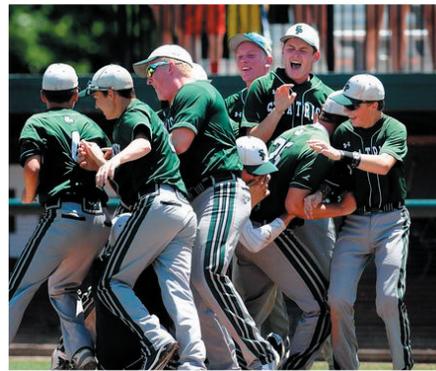
Coach Bryan Scheurer commented, "It was a dream season where everybody incrementally, slowly, but steadily got better in three very simple areas—throw strikes, make routine plays, and get the ball in play."

After those early losses, the season progressed well for the Shamrocks. They had a big win over Bath in the Dean Shippey Diamond Classic, followed by a tight loss to perennial powerhouse, Grand Ledge. As the MHSAA tournaments approached, they felt confident that they could do well.

The tournament season for baseball is less than three weeks long, and those 19 days proved to be an exciting time for the Shamrock baseball team. They faced the Fowler Eagles in the first game of the districts, coming out on top by a score of 1-0 in eight innings. They won the district title by finishing off Fulton 10-0 in just six innings. The next two

games in the regionals saw the Shamrocks win two more victories over Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary and Bay City All Saints.

By the time they reached the quarterfinal game, they were feeling more confident, but they knew that they'd have



The Shamrock players celebrate their semifinal victory over Gaylord St. Mary.

their hands full with defending state champs, Muskegon Catholic Central.

The game was played at Central Michigan University, alma mater for Coach Bryan Scheurer and his brother, Assistant Coach Mark Scheurer.

Senior pitcher, Travis Moyer, allowed just three hits as the Shamrocks came out on top with a score of 3-2.

The semifinal game was held at Michigan State University McLane Stadium on a hot Friday afternoon. Freshman Nathan Lehnert pitched six shutout innings; senior Travis Moyer came in and finished it out. The Shamrocks won by a score of 2-0.

For the fourth time in school history and the first time since 1993, the Shamrock baseball team would play in the state finals.

Unfortunately, the run for the championship didn't end the way they wanted. St. Patrick faced Sterling Heights Parkway Christian, who belted out 13 hits and scored in every inning except the first and fourth. A five-run rally in the second inning proved to be too much for the Shamrocks to handle, and the final score was 3-10.

Losing pitcher, Travis Moyer, said, "I think this year was a great year for me and for my team. It was a great time and a learning experience for all of us. We set the bar pretty high for the next classes coming up to play."

The Shamrock baseball team ended their season with the best record in school history, 34-7.

Senior pitcher, Travis Moyer, was named to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Division 4 All State First Team. Junior catcher, Brendan Schrauben, was named to the Division 4 All State Second Team.



## Bryan Scheurer: Coach of the Year

Shamrock coach, Bryan Scheurer, was named Division 4 Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association. Bryan has coached baseball at St. Patrick School since 2005, and every player and parent who has come into contact with him will agree that he is very deserving of the title.

Bryan had this to say about his 2016 team and their journey to the championship game. "The coolest part for me is that every single person, one through 12, had their moment where if they didn't do what they did, we wouldn't be there. We had a senior who made two phenomenal catches and all he did was play the field. We had a freshman throw a shutout in the semifinals. It was just crazy stuff where every one of those 12 kids had their moment where we can honestly say that our run would have been over if that guy didn't make that play. Every little thing mattered and every player had a hand in it. I just think that's just unbelievable. I love that it's a true story."



# PORTLAND ST. PATRICK

## 56<sup>th</sup> 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 9

[www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com) > Fall Festival

### Tournament Results

#### Districts

Fowler (8 innings) . . . . . 1-0  
Fulton (6 innings). . . . . 10-0

#### Regionals

Saginal Michigan Lutheran . . . . . 6-1  
Bay City All Saints . . . . . 6-5

#### Quarterfinals

Muskegon Catholic Central . . . . . 3-2

#### Semifinals

Gaylord St. Mary . . . . . 2-0

#### State Finals

Sterling Heights Parkway . . . . . 3-10

# We Are Portland St. Patrick School!



**Our students** are part of a school family that brings generational values to their 21st century lives. They enter as preschoolers and stay within the same building until they graduate. This means, during the formative middle school years, they have one less transition to make because they already know the teachers and staff.



**Our parents** know that their children are cherished, as children of God, while they are being educated. There is never a doubt that all of the children are safe and cared for. Christian values are fully integrated within our curriculum and extracurricular activities.

**Our teachers** love working at St. Patrick School, where Jesus joins them in their classrooms. Strong parental support and high expectations provide classrooms where children love to learn.

We invite you to come and join our school family. Call now for an appointment to talk to our principals and to take a tour. See for yourself why we are so proud to say **We Are Portland St. Patrick School!**

## You don't have to be Catholic to attend our school!

### We all worship the same God

The primary goal of St. Patrick School is to support and encourage our students to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Prayer and Christian morality are part of every class, every day.

Just as Jesus invites all to come to him, our doors are open to all families who are looking for an educational alternative for their children, one where God is embraced, not marginalized.



### We're part of the community

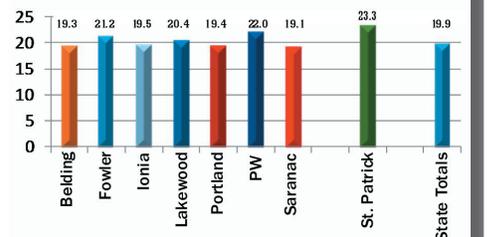
St. Patrick Parish has been a prominent presence in Portland for nearly 150 years. Our parishioners are local professionals. They are business owners. They are your neighbors and friends. They are people who care about our community and work hard to support it.



### Our students are successful

Rigorous classwork prepares our students well for the standardized tests they are required to take. We are proud of the fact that our students consistently score the highest in the entire area on standardized tests (Ionia County plus Fowler and PW). Over 98% of our graduates go on to college.

### 2015 Ionia County ACT Scores Composite



# St. Patrick School Board Establishes Development Committee

by Michael Wolfston and Melissa Schrauben

The St. Patrick School Board created a new committee last spring to assist with development/fundraising goals and objectives. The Development/Fundraising Committee is co-chaired by Michael Wolfston and Melissa Schrauben.

Michael Wolfston is from Lansing, and just retired as the Executive Director of the Foundation for Catholic Secondary Education (FCSE) for the Diocese of Grand Rapids when he was asked to join the St. Patrick School Board as co-chair of the new Development Committee. Under Michael's leadership the FCSE raised over \$1,800,000.00 in tuition assistance allowing over 1,000 students the opportunity to receive a Catholic secondary education. Michael firmly believes that no child should be denied a Catholic school education because of a lack of financial resources!

Prior to serving as the Executive Director of the FCSE, Michael also worked as Executive Director of the Burcham Hills Foundation in East Lansing, raising over \$10,000,000 to assist with elder care; was the National Funds Director for the VFW National Children's Home in Eaton Rapids, raising \$5,000,000 to support the operational needs of the home; and he worked at St. Vincent Catholic Charities in Lansing, overseeing and leading the merger with Catholic Charities in 1985.

Melissa (Schneider) Schrauben has lived in Portland her entire life and attended St. Patrick School from kindergarten through graduation in 2007. Her husband, Luke, also attended St. Patrick School. The Schraubens have two young children. Their older son entered St. Patrick School this fall as a preschooler.

Melissa graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2011, with a Bachelor's degree in Clinical Exercise Science. She went on to Michigan State University to complete her Master's degree in Public Health (2014). She is currently employed with the State of Michigan.

The primary function of this committee is to direct and organize a comprehensive development plan for the school including raising money for immediate scholarships and needs, coordinating planned and legacy giving, and helping to organize fundraising efforts for St. Patrick School.

**What is Development?** Development is an integral part of the success of St. Patrick School. Many non-profits, particularly smaller charities, operate without a development/fundraising plan. When someone has a fundraising idea, these organizations tend to throw together a committee or volunteer group and go for it. Instead of having a long-term development plan in place, they oftentimes send out a letter here and there, conduct some donor meetings, and keep moving along until the bank account runs low and they go into "panic mode" racing around trying to find money to keep the doors open. This is not the best way to run a development program and is the reason the Development Committee was created for St. Patrick School.

**What will the Development Committee do?** The new Development Committee has been charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive, well-written development/fundraising plan. While not a guaranteed roadmap to success, a development plan sets goals that promote growth and create ownership among the whole fundraising team. A development

plan also prevents the need for crisis fundraising, which will enable St. Patrick School to track its progress and identify problems as they arise. St. Patrick School will be able to proactively set and balance priorities and avoid competing timelines with other school fundraisers and other local non-profit organizations.



## What strategies will we use?

1. Put in place the appropriate systems, policies, and procedures to support a comprehensive fundraising/development program
2. Provide training for all volunteers on the development staff
3. Establish a board-level strategic fund development committee (already in progress)
4. Set up a management information system that maintains quality information about donors and prospects (in progress)
5. Engage staff, committees, and the board in strategic conversation to support quality decisions
6. Build a culture of philanthropy throughout the St. Patrick School community

We will have articles in future *Shamrock* newsletters to keep you updated on our progress. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Melissa Schrauben at [schraubenm2@michigan.gov](mailto:schraubenm2@michigan.gov) or Michael Wolfston at [jwolfston@yahoo.com](mailto:jwolfston@yahoo.com).

# P · A · R · I · S · H NEWS

## Meet Carolyn Kwiecinski

The newest member of the St. Patrick Parish staff is Carolyn (Carrie) Kwiecinski, who was hired in July to be the new Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation Director. Carolyn and her family moved to Portland in the summer of 2015. She has eight children, seven of whom are enrolled at St. Patrick School.



Carolyn brings a wealth of education and experience to this important position:

- She attended Madonna University in Livonia where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry with related study in Theology, and a Minor in Psychology. She was also a Campus Ministerial Assistant.
- She worked as a Youth Minister at St. Mary Parish in Williamston with a wide variety of responsibilities, including developing a high school religious education program and being a K-5 substitute teacher of all subjects in the parish school.
- She worked for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in East Lansing as the Religious Education Program Coordinator, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, and Baptism Coordinator.
- She has also worked for the Diocese of Lansing as Marriage Preparation Program Developer and instructor since 2005.

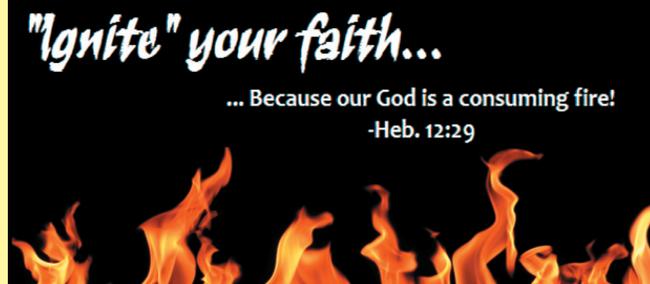
Carolyn is well-grounded in her Catholic faith and very knowledgeable about what the Catholic Church teaches. She will be a great asset to our parish, and she has already proven that with the way that she took off running on day one.

Beginning on September 19, Carolyn is facilitating a Monday night program called *Ignite*. *Ignite* runs from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., which coordinates with the Monday night Children's Faith Formation program. Parents of CFF

students, and all other adults and older teens, are invited to drop in at any of the Monday night sessions. It is a relaxed atmosphere, which includes short presentations, audio/video instruction, and discussions. Refreshments and social time are also included.

Carolyn says that *Ignite* is not a program that you need to register for. Instead, it is a concept of adult faith formation that will be informative and fun. You can attend every week if you wish, or you can look at the list of topics and choose the ones that are interesting to you.

A complete list of weekly topics can be found on the St. Patrick Church website: [www.stpatrickportland.com](http://www.stpatrickportland.com). Contact Carolyn at [carolynkwiecinski@portlandstpats.com](mailto:carolynkwiecinski@portlandstpats.com) if you have questions or need more information.



The *Ignite* series will follow a pattern:

- **First Monday of the month: Theology.** You will learn about the beautiful tenets of the Catholic faith.
- **Second Monday of the month: Spiritual Growth.** It will teach us how to incorporate our Catholic faith into our everyday life.
- **Third Monday of the month: Evangelization.** It will teach us how to take our faith out into the world.
- **Fourth and fifth Mondays: Prayer & Practices and Special Events.**

In addition, three month-long series will be held on Wednesday nights in the Parish Hall:

- October: For parents--Love and Logic
- February: Church history



## 2016 Bell Award Winner

The 2016 winner of the Education Bell Award is Doug Schneider. Doug is a lifelong member of St. Patrick parish, graduating in 1974. Presentation of the Bell Award will take place at a later date, to be determined. Watch the spring issue for a story about Doug.

*If you would like to nominate someone for the 2017 Education Bell Award, 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, by December 1, 2016. Nomination forms are also available on the school website, on the FFF page.*

*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.*

## Contributions Update

- As of June 30, 2016, the balance of the Father Flohe Foundation was \$2,133,000.
- Since 1988, the Father Flohe Foundation has received donor gifts of approximately \$2,140,800.
- Since 1989, the Father Flohe Foundation has contributed annually to St. Patrick School. The total contributed is \$1,289,000.
- The total contributed to the school in the last seven years alone is nearly \$600,000.
- The total contributed in 2016 is \$90,000.



# KING'S KOLUMN

*by Father Larry King*

*Pope Francis talks a lot about evangelization, and reminds all of us about the importance of not only carrying the message, but living a life of evangelization.*

*Eric Proctor became a member of our Men's Group last year, and it had such a tremendous impact on his life that he gave a short talk after Mass last spring to tell people about his experience. I am turning my column over to Eric at this time so that you can read his message.*

It was not that long ago that you would not have caught me anywhere near St. Pat's, let alone speaking in front of you.

I walked away from the Catholic Church and organized religion as a whole a long time ago. There were times when I felt myself being drawn back, but, due to the situations I put myself into, I always pulled away.

I recently had some life-changing events which brought me to the Men's Faith Formation group. I could talk to you for hours about my experiences, but what it boils down to is that I am a sinner.

I won't bore you with the details, but, you see, even at the moment I realized I needed positive change and progression, I was going about it the wrong way. True change is not just shedding yourself of a bad group. It requires surrounding yourself with good, like-minded individuals. It's about living a Christ-centered life.

And that is what I have done with the Men's Group. They were the impetus to my complete reversion. I was away; God pulled me back.

I now have a better understanding of being a Catholic. I am not being Catholic because I have to but because I want to.

It can be difficult to be a Catholic man in today's society and even harder to share our experiences with the secular world. The Men's Group has made me more comfortable with doing that.

When you learn a new language you immerse yourself in the language. The Men's Group immerses you in Christianity

Maybe you are a convert or a revert like me. Or maybe you have never left the church, but you feel weak. If you are looking to strengthen your relationship with Jesus, I encourage you to join us Saturday mornings at 6:30am in the basement of the Parish Office.

By the way, there is ALWAYS coffee and donuts!

Thank you and God bless.

# Reunion News

## Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1968* will hold another reunion on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel. This reunion will be similar to the ones in the past; everyone will order food and drinks from the menu. Anyone who was ever part of the class is welcome to attend. Contact Janice Beech (djbeech@wowway.com) if you have any questions.

The *Class of 1970* will have a get-together on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at Ken Schneider's house to see Pat McGraner, who is visiting from his home in Washington. Ken will put something on the grill. Bring a dish to pass and your own beverages. Bonfire to follow.

## Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1991* held their 25-year reunion on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at Olivera's Restaurant in Ionia. The reunion report will be in the spring issue of The Shamrock.



The *Class of 1971* held their 45-year class reunion on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at the home of Jerry and Cindy (Stiffler) Selden. The group had a potluck dinner. They also held a 50/50 drawing, with proceeds going to the new Dick Lawless Fieldhouse. Derry (Fandel) Hoppes was the last to arrive, so class tradition requires her to take home the travelling SSJ planter until the next class reunion.

The *Class of 1986* held their 30-year reunion at the Oak Room of the Wagon Wheel on August 20, 2016. Twenty five classmates along with spouses attended the event. The evening began with the 4:30 Mass and continued with dinner, dancing, and reconnecting with old friends. The class was even blessed to have a three of their former teachers, Al Schrauben, Kathy Schrauben, and Jean-Pierre Erdelyi stop by to reminisce. Thirty years went by in a blink, so it was nice that so many attended to renew old friendships.



Sharon (Russman) Denney poses with Mr. Jean-Pierre Erdelyi, at the Class of 1986 reunion. Mr. Erdelyi, taught art at St. Patrick School in the early and mid 1980's.



The *Class of 2001* began their 15-year reunion celebration on Saturday, June 25, 2016, with dinner at the Wagon Wheel. The party then moved to the refreshment tent at St. Pat's Summerfest where they were joined by additional classmates. Everyone had a great time talking and reminiscing.

Visit the St. Patrick Alumni Page on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends](http://www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends)



The *Class of 2011* held their five-year reunion on June 11, 2016. The day began with kayaking and canoeing on the Grand River, followed by dinner at the Wagon Wheel, and a bonfire at night. Sixteen out of the 20 classmates attended.

## Classmates Travel to Europe



Six members of the Class of 2011 took a two-week vacation to Europe in August 2016. They traveled to Rome, London, and Ireland visiting such places as Vatican City, Big Ben, and the Cliffs of Moher. Pictured left to right in front of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy are Emilee Fox, Adrienne Thelen, Luke Wilcox, Tyler and Katie (Pung) Kramer, and Richelle Vallier.

## 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](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

## 50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1967

Members of the Class of 1967 should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion that will be held in your honor next year.

The date will be Saturday, September 9, 2017. Someone from 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 the guests of honor, have a good time, and not have to do any of the work. Mark your calendars now!

## Who Are These Teachers?



Can you identify all of the teachers in this photo? Send your answers to *The Shamrock* by any of the means described on page 19. There's no prize, just the pride you'll feel if you're the winner! Did you have any of them for your teacher? Tell us your favorite memory of your time in their classes.

# Father Van Lente Celebrates Golden Jubilee

*Father Richard Van Lente was the pastor at Portland St. Patrick Parish from 1984-1990. While he was here, I worked with him on several projects, one of which I remain heavily involved in today, this newsletter.*

*It was 30 years ago that I received a phone call from Father Van Lente and Principal Deacon Dale Hollern asking if I would be willing to do a little job. Father Van Lente and Deacon Dale thought that we should update our alumni list and put together a newsletter to send out to all of our graduates, to let them know what was happening at the school. That was the birth of The Shamrock. I had no idea that I'd still be doing it 30 years later!*

*I also had no way of knowing that Father Van Lente would become my brother-in-law a few years later, when I married his brother, Bob, whom I met at Father's 25-year Silver Jubilee.*

*June 3, 2016, was the 50-year anniversary of Father Van Lente's ordination to the priesthood. Friends from Fremont All Saints, where he served as pastor for 12, years threw a party for him, and Francis Stankus of Fremont gave a talk. I think that the people from St. Pat's will agree that these excerpts from that talk are right on the mark.*

---Sue Van Lente



For many of you, your knowledge of Father V, was from church each week, here or at any of the other 15 assignments he fulfilled in the past 50 years.

You know that he is a gifted homilist. The thing I enjoyed most was that Father would place the gospels against the backdrop of the geopolitical climate of those times. It enriched the messages and made them feel much more real.

However, once the stole, chasuble, and alb were hung up after Mass, many of us were treated to the other aspects of Father V. We might have gone hunting rabbits or pheasants with him, gone flying with him, or spent time talking, while enjoying a glass of wine and a good meal. Father follows the example set by Jesus: If you want people to listen to you, feed them well first.

Father V., like Jesus, found that a gathering of people, enjoying a great meal, was a fine setting for talking about something you might want to consider doing. You know, small things like joining a project committee or heading up a building expansion.

Father V. is one of those people who can see in each individual their

potential to do things that they'd never consider themselves. He'd get us revved up with an inspiring homily and then one-on-one encourage us to step up to the plate. We might not have known how to do what he was asking, but after talking with him, we felt like somehow we could do it. And most of the time he was right. He helped many of us grow this way.

Through his actions, he not only inspired us as individuals, but he also helped to inspire and shape whole communities.

While serving as pastor in Grand Rapids, he suggested that the surplus chili from a parish dinner be taken downtown to the homeless and served to them. It was done on a regular basis from the back of a truck until the city shut them down. The battle with the city brought about change, and was the start of what is today, *God's Kitchen*, which provides thousands of daily meals every year in the Heartside Neighborhood of Grand Rapids.

Father served those in jail with regular visits; he also became the Chaplain of the Newaygo State Police Post, serving as spiritual advisor to the troopers. On and off he has spent years in Mexico and Central America

in the missions, serving people in the most rural communities who felt honored to have him there.

He also inspired us with a constant pursuit of education. Already possessing a BA in Philosophy and Classical Languages and a Master of Divinity degree, after his 25th ordination anniversary he traveled to France to the University of Louvain to continue to earn degrees in Canon and European Civil Law and a Master's in Moral and Religious Science.

He was about to enter the doctoral program when he was summoned back to West Michigan by the bishop to take the place of a pastor who had taken seriously ill in the little community of Fremont. This temporary assignment would last for 12 years. But during that time he was able to finally complete that doctorate through the Graduate Theological Foundation.

As inadequate as these words are to describe what he has done for all of us these past 50 years, we thank you, Father Van Lente, for your service to God, to our faith, to our diocese, to our communities, and to each and every one of us. May God bless you with a rich reward always.

---Francis Stankus, Fremont

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

husband of 59 years, Stanley. Surviving are her children Linda (Gary) Clarke, Bill (Kathy) Pung, Karen (Joe) Towner, Bob Pung, and Lori (Jeff) Stolte; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Donald (Elizabeth) Pung; and sister-in-law, Rosemary Pung.

**Robert E. Pasikowski**, age 81, passed away surrounded by family, Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. He was born September 26, 1934, in Grand Rapids, the son of Edward W. and Cassie T. (Nowak) Pasikowski. He was retired from the State of Michigan and loved euchre, fishing, and bowling. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Council #2168, and Fr. George Godez Assembly #1509. Bob is survived by his wife of 59 years, Janet; daughter, Cheryl (Ken) Kozak of Grand Rapids; sons, Larry (Sharon) of Mason, John of Adrian, Roger (Belinda) of Rockford, Steve (Nicole) of East Lansing, and Gary (Jennifer) of Portland; fourteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Contributions may be made to St. Patrick Parish or Knights of Columbus Council #2168 in memory of Bob.

**Thomas L. Zimmerman**, age 73, passed away July 15, 2016, at his home. He was born December 19, 1942, in Portland, the son of Nick and Helen (Simunek) Zimmerman. Tom married Alice Gross on November 30, 1963. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Tom was an avid hunter and Notre Dame fan. He loved attending sporting events and spending time with his grandchildren. Tom had many fond memories of growing up on his family's Mint Farm in St Johns. He is survived by his wife, Alice Zimmerman; children, Michael (JoElla) Zimmerman of Portland and Jill (Jon) Todd of Lyons; eight grandchildren; brother, Gerald Zimmerman of Grand Ledge; sisters, Diane (Jerry) Peiffer of Grand Ledge,

Linda (Steve) Spedoske of Portland, Kathy (Charles) Schrauben of Muir, Donna (Jamie) King of Grand Ledge, Virginia Zimmerman of Charlotte, and Lois (Doug) Musbach of Woodland; sister-in-law, Diane Zimmerman of Portland; and grand dog, Dooley. He was preceded in by death by his parents, brother, Jack, and niece, Paula Musbach. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing, Hospice of Ionia, or St. Patrick's Athletic Association.

**Marvin Julius Platte**. Our loving husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather went home to his family in heaven on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. He was born on April 14, 1930, in Westphalia, the son of Ferdinand and Antoinette (Arens) Platte. Marvin loved his country and the flag that protects us all. He was a combat war veteran of the Korean War with the Army 2nd Division 38th Regiment on the Hill of Baldy which divides North and South Korea. He served on the front line for nine months and what brought him home safely were prayers by his mother to St. Jude. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. Marvin was a member of St. Patrick Church in Portland, Catholic Order of Foresters, the V.F.W. Post #3373, and the band Frannie and the Swingsters, popular in the 50's and 60's. He was appointed to the Clinton Co. Road Commission for 9 years, was an area farmer, and was in the tiling business for many years. He raised his family on a farm with his wife of 57 years, Mary. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Kenneth. Surviving are his wife, Mary (Thelen); children Susan and Cary Cuyler of Florida, Beverly Platte Parsley and Ben Page of Lansing, Linda and Steve Whitney of Missouri, Ted and Kerri Platte of Westphalia, and Janet and Tony Blundy of Portland; seven grandchildren; siblings Dolores Fedewa, Gene Platte, Carol and Jenny Platte, Joan Platte, and Bill and Connie Platte; in-laws Bertha Simon, Bernadette Thelen, Regina and Harold Simon, Rita and David Witgen, Jean Thelen, and Aggie and Kenneth Stump. Memorial contributions may be made to the V.F.W. Post #3733 in memory of Marvin.

## SPOTLIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and it's just her and the Lord. What peace! What joy!

Because of mobility problems, Judy had to step down from her sacristan and art/environment duties, but it hasn't stopped her commitment to St. Pat's. She is still active as a greeter; she does a weekly hour of adoration; and she is a member of the parish prayer line.

She and Lyle still do everything together, including baking bread almost every week. She mixes, he kneads. That is real togetherness!

When asked about hobbies, Judy responded that she was too busy with home, family, pets, and church, so there was never time for hobbies. She and Lyle like to travel, and once took a month-long vacation, traveling from coast to coast. But, their traveling days are over now. Most of the trips they take now are to doctor appointments, to visit family, and to church.

One thing that hasn't changed is that Lyle is by her side for all of those trips. Their commitment to each other and to their family and parish are a wonderful example to all.

*Save the Date!*

**THE 2017 SHAMROCK AUCTION**  
Saturday, April 22, 2017

**Raffles**

**Auctions**

**Food**

**Drinks**

**Fun**



If you have questions, would like to donate, or if would like to help out, call Amber Fogarty (517) 243-1850

## Summerfest Kitchen Crew

A special thank you to Dan and Laura Price who have been in charge of the Summerfest kitchen for the past 13 years. Among other things, Dan and Laura have produced approximately 8,450 pounds of pork and beef, rolled out thousands of elephant ears, and washed hundreds of roasters.

Thank you, Dan and Laura, for a job well done!





It has been written that the youth culture of the 1960's exploded in 1966. The harder the young pushed forward, the more the adults pushed back. The irony of the year was this: Even though the turmoil of the decade was increasing, the top movie of the year was *The Sound of Music*, and *Bonanza* was the highest rated TV show. All of the words in the puzzle below relate to 1966. Find the 24 words. Use the letters left over to spell out the answer. Good luck!

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

### 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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

BATMAN  
 BERKELEY  
 BONANZA  
 BRITISH  
 COMMUNISM  
 DR SEUSS

DR ZHIVAGO  
 FASHION  
 GOOD VIBRATIONS  
 GREEN BERETS  
 MEDICARE  
 MICHAEL

MIRANDA  
 MOD LOOK  
 MONKEES  
 NATIONAL GUARD  
 PAMPERS  
 RACE RIOTS

SOUND OF MUSIC  
 SPIROGRAPH  
 STAR TREK  
 TWISTER  
 VIETNAM WAR  
 VIEWMASTER



The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words from that issue. The quote, and the answer to the puzzle was: ***What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries was Diana (Trierweiler) Burgoyne, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Diana. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

# 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 items that come back that are undeliverable.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these Lost Sheep, please send us their current address. A current list of Lost Sheep can be found on our school website ([www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com)). Click on More, then Alumni. You can also use your smartphone and barcode scanner to go directly to that page.



- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1956 Duane Irrer                | 1980-Patrick Ellis           |
| 1957 Patricial Hilligan Immonen | 1981 Mike Binder             |
| 1963-Kathleen Moriarity         | 1983 Pauline Guilford        |
| 1965-Bonnie (Schrauben)         | 1985 Scott Osmar             |
| McClune                         | 1987 Shella (Martin) Morales |
| 1966 Dan Lehman                 | 1987-Dan Kissane             |
| 1968 Carolyn Rowe Embree        | 1994 Jeremy Pohl             |
| 1973 Lillian Castranova         | 1996-Heather (Cook) Harris   |
| 1974 Mark VanderHoff            | 1998 Casey Eckert            |
| 1975 Susan Thelen               | 2000 Carl Gensterblum        |
| 1977-Brian Jenkins              | 2001-Segrid Johnson          |
| 1979 John Fedewa                | 2003 Amber Simon Brissette   |
| 1980 Angie Young                | 2004-Donald Vollman          |

## 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 parish app.

- School website: [www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com)
- Parish website: [www.stpatrickportland.com](http://www.stpatrickportland.com)
- School Facebook: [PortlandStPatrick](#)
- Alumni Facebook: [St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends](#)
- Parish Facebook: [St.PatsPortland](#)
- School Twitter: [@PortlandStPats](#)
- Mr. Hodge Twitter: [@principalhodge](#)

To download our parish app, you'll need a smartphone or tablet. Go to [www.myparishapp.com](http://www.myparishapp.com). Click on App Store or Google Play. Follow directions to download the app. Search for St. Pat's by zip code (48875). Now, everything you need to know will be at your fingertips!



# Upcoming EVENTS

- Fall Festival ..... October 9, 2016
- Confirmation ..... October 30, 2016
- Veterans Day Observance ..... Nov. 11, 2016
- Catholic Schools Week .....Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 2017
- CSW Breakfast ..... January 29, 2017
- Senior Appreciation Dinner .....March 18, 2017
- Shamrock Auction .....April 22, 2017
- First Communion ..... May 7, 2017
- Graduation ..... May 21, 2017
- Summerfest ..... June 24-25, 2017
- Class of 1966 50-Year Reunion..... Sept. 9, 2017
- Spring Issue of The Shamrock..... Early April

## HOW TO CONTACT US

It isn't necessary to use a special form to submit information for the newsletter. Information can be sent by mail, fax, email, or text. Please see the box below for specific addresses and phone numbers. We prefer that all information be in writing to prevent errors. Be sure to mark it ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS.

## The Shamrock Newsletter

Contact information:

- 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
- Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807
- Text: 517-575-8000
- E-mail: [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com)
- Website: [www.portlandstpats.com/alumni](http://www.portlandstpats.com/alumni)

*The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, and upon request.*

- Sue (Stiffler) Van Lente..... [suevanlente@gmail.com](mailto:suevanlente@gmail.com)
- Kathy (Zimmerman) Schrauben..... [kaschrauben@gmail.com](mailto:kaschrauben@gmail.com)
- Cindy (Stiffler) Selden .....[cindyselden@yahoo.com](mailto:cindyselden@yahoo.com)
- Judy (Pung) Fleischer .....[judyfleischer@portlandstpats.com](mailto:judyfleischer@portlandstpats.com)
- Sue (Gross) Fox.....[fox\\_mike@att.net](mailto:fox_mike@att.net)
- Anne Bennett .....[annebennett67@gmail.com](mailto:annebennett67@gmail.com)
- Anne (Brown) Russman ..... 517-647-4094

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**140 Church Street**  
**Portland, MI 48875**

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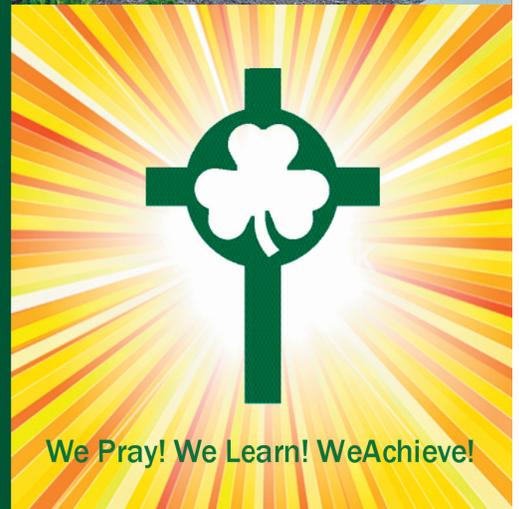
# It's COOL to go to Catholic School!

-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 Principals Randy Hodge or Sarah Townsend, at 517-647-7551.



**We Pray! We Learn! WeAchieve!**