



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 29 No. 2 SPRING 2016

## Shamrocks Win Again! Three Seniors Earn \$20,000 Scholarships

Statistics say that 97% of high school students plan to attend college, but very few of them know how they will pay for it. Students at St. Patrick School seem to be grasping the reality of that fact and an understanding of how it will affect their lives.

The senior class at St. Patrick High School signed up last fall to compete in the nationwide H&R Block Budget Challenge, hoping to do as well as the previous senior class had done. They ended up doing even better!

On January 14, 2016, representatives from H&R Block were on hand to present checks of \$20,000 each to three seniors, Tabitha Barber, Brayton Lehman, and Joe Weller, who finished in the top 27 in the nation. The class finished 13th overall, earning an additional \$5000 classroom grant that will be split among the entire class. Approximately 32,000 students across the country participated in the contest.

Once the students are accepted to

a college or university, a portion of the winnings will be used over a four-year period to help cover the cost of tuition.

and everything else that comes with managing a budget.

According to H&R Block, everything happens faster today than it did

when parents were in college. Spending is easier and the road to financial stability can be dangerous and confusing.

Seven years ago, a finance class was added to the St. Patrick curriculum as a requirement for graduation. Participating in the Budget Challenge gives them an opportunity to see how the lessons they learned in that class carry over to real life.



Seniors from Portland St. Patrick High School accept their scholarship money courtesy of H&R Block. The students brought home a total of \$65,000.

“We’ve participated in this challenge two years in a row and our students have won scholarship money both times,” Principal Randy Hodge said. “So it looks like we’re doing things right.”

The H&R Budget Challenge is done entirely online and allows students to pay bills, save money for retirement,

“Last year we used a portion of the classroom prize to update our personal finance curriculum,” Mr. Hodge said. “We really take pride in ensuring they are prepared financially after high school.”

The students are participating in another challenge this spring, hoping to earn even more scholarship dollars.



# Mail Call

Dear Shamrock editors,

Bless you and thank you for all your hard work. I do so enjoy *The Shamrock!*

St. Pat's School, with God at the helm, educated my four children; taught them to have faith and kindness; taught them to compete and to win and lose with humility and dignity. St. Pat's provided an awesome education to my children which empowered them in so, so many ways!

I think about so many of the people I knew there and whose lives touched mine! I honestly could never begin to share in words how much St. Patrick's educated and guided our children to become great, giving, beautiful, intelligent adults.

So, thank you from me to St. Pat's parish, school, and community! Blessings and love to all!

Julie (Solgat) Duff

Dear Editors,

When I did the Word Search Puzzle in the last issue, I found it interesting that the words PORTLAND STRONG and RECOVER intercepted to make a cross! Was that intentional?

Liz Martin

*From the Editors: No, that was not done intentionally. We did not notice it until you pointed it out. Everyone in Portland realizes that God was watching over us the day of the tornado.*

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# Our Junior SPOTLIGHT

## Bryce Wendling

If you have attended the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Tuesdays at St. Patrick Church in the past few months, you've probably noticed a difference. For a long time, the altar servers for this Mass were adults (usually Dick Brown). Several months ago, however, a young man began helping out, and now he is there every week.

Bryce Wendling, age 11 1/2, is a sixth grade student at St. Patrick School. As a fifth grader he began training to be an altar server, but, because of the sheer number of students in the program, Bryce didn't get to serve Mass as often as he would have liked. "He was always worried that he would forget what to do between the Masses that he served," said his mother, Corrine.

Bryce's two sisters are home-schooled, so they don't have the opportunity to attend Mass during the week like he does. The family decided that they would attend Mass every Tuesday together. "We like that the kids get an extra Mass each week when they go to St. Pat's School. By going on Tuesday nights, our girls are getting that too," said Corrine. She continued, "Of course, it's good for all of us!"

When they first began going to church on Tuesdays, Bryce became excited about the possibility of serving that Mass. Father Larry and Deacon Don were supportive, and Dick Brown didn't mind having a young helper. They worked as a team for the first few weeks, and now, Bryce serves Mass alone much of the time.

Bryce says that he enjoys Mass more when he is serving. When he is sitting in the pews, it is easier to be distracted, but when he is the altar server he is very focused on what is happening. He said that time flies by.

Many people have commented to him about his Tuesday night obligation but Bryce doesn't understand why it is such a big deal. He feels that it is something that he really wants to be doing. He is grateful for the opportunity.



# *In The* **Spotlight**

## **Joyce Herr**



*In November 2015, four former students from St. Patrick School drove to Mount Morris for what they thought would be a short visit with their old principal. The visit lasted several hours as Joyce delighted them with her many stories. She agreed that day to send some information for an article. Here is her story in her own words.*

I was born in Port Huron, Michigan, on November 30, 1928 and three weeks later I was baptized. I had four siblings, all older than I. I attended public school from Kindergarten through 5th grade and St Christopher Catholic School, in Marysville, Michigan, for grades 6-8. I graduated from Marysville High School in 1946.

We moved to the country when I was in the second grade where I attended a one-room country school. It was fun. There was only one other student in my grade. He did not read well, so I did all the reading at reading class. It wasn't until I was much, much older I learned how unfair this was to him. My sister cleaned the blackboards etc, after school, and for this the teacher paid her 25 cents a week which we spent on candy at the little grocery store, with one gas pump, next door to where we lived. You could see the gas in the cylindrical pump...really dates me, does it not?

We moved back to the city in the third grade, and the following year my father bought my grandfather's farm. My dad was a draftsman by trade, not a farmer. But since Grandpa came with the farm, he managed the planting, etc. So, Dad worked at his trade in Detroit and joined the family on the weekends. Finally when I was a senior, he got a job at a local industry and was home full time.

After graduation I worked at Chrysler Parts Divisions in Marysville for one year. On July 1, 1947, I entered the Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth, MI, located just outside of Kalamazoo.

Since we were a teaching community, I began college classes as soon as I arrived. I had earned six semester hours toward my BS degree in teaching. This was mid-August 1947 and time for the Sisters' retreat. The Sisters would return to their respective missions on approximately August 23rd.

Well, guess what, the Superior General, Reverend Mother, could never say NO to a priest who needed Sisters for his school, so, surprise, surprise --- I and another postulant were

sent "out on mission," prepared or not, to teach! I had a mixed 5th and 6th grade class with 27 students...seven boys and 20 girls and had to teach all the subjects for both grades! I didn't have a clue "how to teach."

Gratefully, we returned to Nazareth in December to begin our novitiate (two years of training in the religious life). During the second year of the novitiate, we attended college classes full time. In January, 1950, I made my temporary vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for three years and in January 1953, I made my final profession of vows.

I was a religious for 29 years, and I taught in the classroom for 13 of them (1950-1963). I loved teaching (most of the time).



In January of 1963, I returned to Nazareth College to complete my Bachelor of Science degree and was appointed Mother Superior of the St. Patrick's Convent and Principal of St. Patrick's School, grades 1-12. Total enrollment was 842, and there was no secretary! Those were the days when "one" did it all! I

remained in this position until June 1970.

The time at St Pat's was one of the most interesting times of my teaching life, and one of many challenges! I was at University of Notre Dame in 1964 completing my MA in secondary school administration when Father Kolenic was appointed pastor of St. Patrick Parish.

I immediately set up an appointment to discuss the need for a tuition program. Our teaching staff was underpaid and

*(Continued on page 8)*

# 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 **Jeff** (2008) and **Samantha (Hengesbach, 2008) Campbell**, a daughter, Peyton Irene, on August 27, 2015.

To **Craig** (1995) and **Becca Fedewa**, a son, Benson Andrew, on September 17, 2015. He joins brother, Connor (2).

To **Josh** (2006) and **Rachel Kramer** of Dan-  
sville, a daughter, Liliana Ruth, on January 14, 2016.

To **Amy (Pung, 1993)** and **Todd LaJoy** of Canton, MI, a son, Lawson Jay, on November 5, 2015. He joins one sister, Emerson (3).

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Annalise Kransz** (2008) and **Brian Lau-meyer** became engaged in September while overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Cinque Terre, Italy. They will be married June 4, 2016, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Grand Rapids, MI with Fr. John Vallier presiding.

**Jason Gross** (2010) and **Natalie Smith** will be married on September 24, 2016 in Dewitt, Michigan.

## WEDDINGS

St. Patrick School teacher **Mary Eddy** and **Dale Cook** (1981) were married at St. Patrick Church on January 30, 2016. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**John and Marie Scheurer** will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on April 30, 2016. Their family will host a celebration in their honor on Friday, April, 29, 2016, at the Grand River

Conservation Club at 6:00 p.m. Family and friends are welcome.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**Emilee Fox** (2011) graduated Magna Cum Laude from Grand Valley State University on December 12, 2015, with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and English-Language Arts.

**Jamie (Solgat 2003) Dankbar** has been accepted into the School of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Dorothy Ann (Roberts) Keena**, 88 years old, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. She was born on December 24, 1926, to Orin J. and Alice (Pierce) Roberts. Dorothy is survived by her husband of 66 years, Harold J. Keena. She will be missed by her children, Joseph (Janet) of Indianapolis, IN, David (Colleen) of San Diego, CA, Dennis (Karen) of Poway, CA, and Denise (James) Barnes of Portland, MI; and eight grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorial donations be made to Fairview AFC Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 40, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

**Eleanor McConnell**, age 81, went to be with the Lord on October 2, 2015. She was born August 20, 1934, in Clinton County, Michigan, daughter of the late Dale and Margaret (Beachnau) Volk. Eleanor was a former R.N. at St. Lawrence Hospital - Labor & Delivery, Ingham Regional Medical Center, and also worked for Dr. Dwight and Janet Schroeder. She was a 1953 graduate of Sisters of Mercy and graduated from nursing school in 1955. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland, and a member of North Eagle Cemetery Society. Eleanor is survived by her children, Darin (Beth) McConnell, Patricia (Larry) Davidson, Theresa McConnell, Kathleen (Randall) Ackerman, Jean (Gary) Miller, Anne Grosshans, Colleen (William) Hattan; 23 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren; brother, Charles (Carolyn) Volk; sisters, Mary (Robert) Rademacher, and Lou Ann (John) Spedoske; brothers-in-law: Tom Mc-

Connell, Ned Hawkins, and William Fabor; special friend Max Becker; many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bernard; son, Shawn; son-in-law, Steve Grosshans; brothers, Ronald and Jimmy Volk. For those wishing, memorial donations made to St. Patrick Catholic Church will be greatly appreciated.

**Tom Wilcon Allen**, age 86, died on October 25, 2015. Tom was born on February 17, 1929, in Charlevoix, MI, the son of George T. Allen and Myrtle (Mack) Allen. Tom was a resident of Portland his entire life, a member of St. Patrick Parish, a veteran of the U.S. Army, and worked for Michigan Bell Telephone, retiring from AT&T. He married his high school sweetheart, Joan (Haley), in 1951. Tom enjoyed keeping a beautiful yard, spending time at the cottage, and after retirement, spending winters in Florida. Preceding him in death was his beloved wife, Joan; his parents; stepfather, Dell Griffin; beloved son, Mark; granddaughter, Haley Dunn; brothers-in-law Riley Sandborn and Al Schanz. Surviving are his children Carrie (Joe) Dunn and Paul Allen; three grandchildren; one great-grandson; sister, Maxine Sandborn; many nieces and nephews.

**William Joseph Eddy**, age 82, passed away on Thursday, November 5, 2015, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Bill was a member of St. Patrick Church and volunteered in many ways. He enjoyed coaching baseball, was active in the Portland Civic Players, and helped form the Portland Area Service Group. He enjoyed traveling, especially to Ireland and to many baseball stadiums across the country. Bill was a selfless man who loved children. He was preceded in death by his parents. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Anne; son, Sean Eddy; daughter, Maureen Devota; two grandchildren; siblings, Robert Eddy, Jennie Weber, and Joan (Reuben) Wimpari; several nieces and nephews; special life-long friend, Richard Leik.

**Herman L. Gensterblum**, age 83, and **Rose Marie Gensterblum**, age 77, died four days apart, on November 28, 2015 and December 2, 2015. Both were members of St. Patrick Catholic Church and Herman was a member Knights of Columbus #2168. They both enjoyed spending time with their family. They were preceded in death by a son, Michael; Herman's family: parents, Albert and Mary Gensterblum; brothers, John and Edward Gensterblum; sisters, Lourina O'Connell and Florence Smith. Rose Marie's family: parents, Harold and Viola Platte; brothers, Jerry and Delbert Platte; sisters, Bernice Esch and Beatrice Platte. Surviving are sons, Anthony (Marcia) Gensterblum of Jonesville, Harold Gensterblum of Hillsdale, and Louis Gensterblum, of Muskegon; three grandchildren; Herman's family: Sr. Mary Albert of Wilmette, IL; nieces, nephews, and cousins. Rose Marie's

family: sisters, Kathleen Miller, Joann (Frank) Koenigsnecht, Ellen (Ken) Bailey, and Ann (Paul) Thelen; brothers, Bernard (Sharon) Platte and Armon (Joan) Platte; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Dorothy Lucille (Wilcox) Kissane**, age 96, passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2016. She was born on April 16, 1919, the daughter of Harry and Myrtle (Martin) Wilcox. Dorothy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. She worked at Wilcox-Gay Television Co. covering the TV boxes with leather frames using special tools. Dorothy then worked for Ionia Manufacturing Co. where she sewed tarps onto Army jeeps. She retired from Fisher Body in Lansing after 28 years of service. Dorothy loved cooking, gardening, bingo, dancing, and being with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis Leo Kissane; son, James Dale Kissane; great-grandson Zachary Clark; siblings Earnest Wilcox, Howard Wilcox, Helen Melstead, Ivan Wilcox, Ethlyn Feehan, Leta Winkerinck, Frances Adams, and Harold Wilcox. Surviving are her children, Doug (Carleen) Kissane, Marlene (Larry) Schrauben, Linda Wohlfert, Tom (Toni) Kissane, Kathy Clark, and Pat (Mike) VerPlanck; 21 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or to the Fr. Flohe Association in memory of Dorothy.

**Jane Marie "Jayne" Lance-Simmons**, age 66, of Sunfield went to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 7, 2016. She was born on October 16, 1949, the daughter of Gerald and Reva (Hoppes) Shinaver. Jayne was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She enjoyed her bowling league, especially her time with the girls. Her family was the love of her life, and she always put their needs in front of her own. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Billy Shinaver; sister, Rosemary Reed. Surviving are her husband of 21 years, Kenyon; children Gary (Sherine) Lance, Derrick (Jennifer) Simmons, Tiffany (Lee) Klein, and Christina (Frank Trout) Lance; 13 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings, Jerry Shinaver, Ronald (Carol) Shinaver, Terry (Marilyn) Shinaver, James (Nancy) Shinaver, Judy (William) Clark, Steve (Lisa) Shinaver, Tom (Sherry) Shinaver, Wendy (Don) Pohl, Daniel Shinaver, Mary (Tom) Dryzga, Pauline Holton, Kathy Shinaver, and Joy (Victor) Cardenas; sister-in-law, Jean Shinaver; many nieces and nephews.

**Dennis Lee Holly**, age 66, a life-long Portland resident, passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, after a short illness. He was born on March 2, 1949, in Lansing. Dennis was the son of Walter and Phyllis (Koelzer) Holly. Dennis served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed genealogy, was

a contributor to the Portland Historical Society, and was an administrator of the Portland Hometown History page. Dennis enjoyed drag racing and classic cars, especially Mopar. He was preceded in death by his parents. Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Lana; sons Chris (Sean) Holly of Lansing and Aaron (Brandi) Holly of Mason; three grandchildren, and one on the way; sisters Jackie (Duane) Wilcox, Diane Russell, and Luane (Pat) Goodman; many special friends; nieces and nephews.

**Terry J. Speckin**, age 69, of Lansing and Valle de Angeles, Honduras, died Feb. 12. Services will be held at a later date in Hubbardston.

**Robert John Leik**, age 72, passed away on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. He was born on September 12, 1943, the son of Harold and Pauline (Feldpausch) Leik. Bob was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and graduated from St. Patrick High School. He enjoyed camping, bowling, and fishing, and was an avid U of M fan. Bob worked for many years at Barley-Earhart Corp. in Portland. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, William (Shirley) Leik. He is survived by Inez Leik; children Roberta "Bobbie Jo" (Paul) Yeater of Schoolcraft and Mark Leik of Portland; granddaughter, Megan Yeater; siblings Rosalie (Robert) Sochor, JoAnne (Ed) Theis and James (Diane) Leik; many nieces and nephews.

## Ryan Riley to be Ordained

Ryan Riley (2001), will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lansing on June 10, 2016, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton St., East Lansing. Ryan will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick Church on June 12, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Ryan invites classmates, friends, and all St. Patrick parishioners to attend the Mass and a light reception in the Parish Hall following Mass.

JOURNEY  
OF  
Faith

**Hear Ye!  
Hear Ye!  
We need  
your help!**



This plea is going out to all readers, but especially the ones who are categorized as Gen X and Millennials (roughly, those born between 1965 and 2000). We need your help!

We've heard a few complaints that *The Shamrock* newsletter is all about the older grads and that your generations are being left out. In looking back at past issues, that's a fair assessment, but there's a reason for that. You aren't letting us know about things that are happening with you and your classmates.

We really need you to send us updates on what you are doing—reunions, graduations, engagements, weddings, babies, job promotions, etc. We also need you to send us ideas for articles about you and your peers. What would you like to read about? Whom would you like to read about?

To make it easier for you to submit ideas and information, you can now text us. All of our contact information is on page 19.

We could also use some of you on *The Shamrock* committee. It's a very small commitment—just two short meetings a year plus a willingness to keep your eyes and ears open for things to include in the next issue. The existing committee is made up almost entirely of Baby Boomers who have been doing this job for nearly 30 years. We need some fresh, young ideas to help us out.

So, if you read this issue and think to yourself, "There's nothing in there for me," you are the perfect candidate! Contact us with your news, your ideas, or your willingness to join the group!

Thanks in advance!

*The Shamrock Editorial Staff*



## St. Pat's School Welcomes Non-Catholic Families, too!

*In the fall issue of The Shamrock you were introduced to several families who have four or more children enrolled at St. Patrick School. In this issue, another subset of our school families, non-Catholic families is brought to the forefront. Mark Davis & Heather Hedges-Davis are parents of 2nd grader Sarah Davis. Mark and Heather are not Catholic; however, they moved to Portland before they had children, specifically because of St. Patrick School.*

**W**e are honored to share our family's story as to why St. Patrick School was our first choice for educating our daughter. Our daughter is in second grade, and she has attended St. Pat's since DK. Our family is not Catholic; however, we selected this school for numerous reasons. We made the decision very early on, that as long as we have the ability to do so, we want to provide a private school education that has a foundation of teaching Christian faith. In fact, long before we planned on having a child, I worked hard to relocate to Portland because I knew St. Patrick's was an option for education.

The reasons we have selected St. Pat's are many:

- **Location & Access:** We had limitations on where we chose to live due to work obligations and commute efficiencies. We wanted a rural setting, and it was not reasonable for us to make the drive to Lansing Christian every day trying to accommodate work schedules in the construction industry. This is especially a contributing factor as our daughter gets older and participates in activities and school-related events. Plus, we also have access to bussing as a transportation option.

- **Affordability:** Knowing what other West & Central Michigan private school tuitions are, we felt that, long-term, St. Patrick's will continue to be the most affordable. In addition, the availability of before and after school care on an as-needed basis has been a big draw for us, as well as a heavily-used service. The flexibility this service offers is perfect for our working family and schedule that changes week-to-week. We don't have to pay to hold a spot, we pay as we use it.

- **Quality Education:** St. Patrick's is known for its quality education with consistent annual above-average test scores compared to surrounding school districts and the state and national averages. Faith is included daily as an integrated part of student life, and students can be open about their thoughts and beliefs in a private school setting whereas in public schools, education is being constantly secularized and stripped of many of the basic concepts our country was founded upon.

- **One Campus for DK through High School:** Knowing our daughter is going to be at the same location for 12+ years is an attractive factor. She knows many of the older students, and they know her and take the time to acknowledge



and talk to her. We feel confident that as she progresses, the sense of community and family that exists at St. Pat's will continue to provide a positive, thriving learning environment. Many private school offerings are only for the elementary grades or up to 8th grade. We wanted to continue the private school influence through graduation.

- **Positive influences from interaction with the older students:** I was completely dumbfounded recently when we were in a store in the Lansing area, and a brother and sister from an older family made the effort to walk up to us and say "Hi." Most older kids never even give the time of day to other students, let alone little kids, and more so in a general public setting. Having seen first-hand how the young St. Pat's kids are treated by the older students is phenomenal and only goes to reinforce our selection of St. Pat's School.

- **Extracurricular Activities:** I knew of St. Patrick School because of the successes the Girls' Basketball teams have enjoyed over the years, and I wanted to provide an environment where, if my child chose sports, the emphasis on education would come first, sports second. St. Pat's also is able to maintain its sports programs and play in the local

conferences instead of having to find other private schools to compete with that are not as readily recognized for college recruitment.

As she grows, we recognize that sports may not be her main interest, but there will be plenty of opportunities for her to participate in activities with her classmates and other students from the parish.

We were also attracted to many of the educational/extra-curricular activities at St. Pat's:

- Art Program—Available to all younger students, as well as high school. An after school program exists to compliment students' interests.
- Foreign Languages—Available to all younger students each year. We also like that the high school students have the opportunity to travel abroad each summer.
- Personal Finance Class—Few high schools offer this critical teaching.
- AP and Online Classes—An opportunity to get a jump start on college.
- Access to Trade School (Heartlands)—Not every student is cut out to be college-bound, so opportunities exist to provide a means for learning the trades.
- Lego League, Drama Club, Chess Club, Quiz Bowl, STIC, and others.

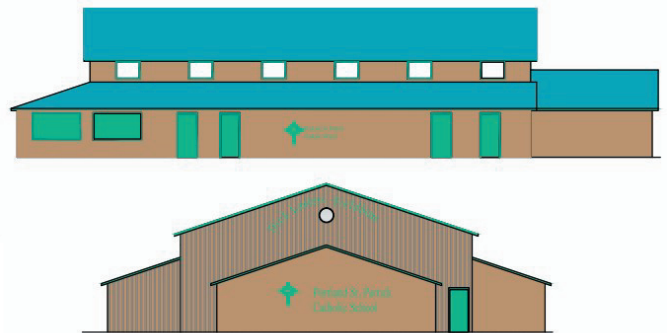
We have no doubts that we made the right choice for Sarah, and we look forward to being part of the St. Patrick School family for many years to come.

*St. Patrick School is now accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year. Scholarships are available. For complete enrollment information, please visit the school website: [www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com). Click on the Prospective Families tab at the top of the home page. Or call Principal Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 to arrange a meeting and tour.*

## Update on the Rebuilding of Father Flohe Field

The tornado that struck Portland on June 22, 2015, left Father Flohe Field in a nearly unrecognizable condition. The pole barn was shredded into tiny particles; the scoreboard, pressbox, fences, and bleachers were destroyed; equipment was strewn all the way to town. With the help of the entire community, the field was cleaned up and put back into use quickly, but the rebuilding has yet to begin.

After many months of study, a special committee of parishioners has decided to construct a multi-use steel building that can be used for a weight room, concessions, Summerfest, baseball/football indoor practices, and storage. It will also contain much-needed restrooms. The new building will be named after a man who has dedicated countless hours to the upkeep of our school and parish grounds, Mr. Dick Lawless. Plans for the Dick Lawless Fieldhouse are being finalized, and as soon as the insurance settlement is complete, construction will begin.



Artist's rendering of the proposed Dick Lawless Fieldhouse. Top view shows east side of the building which will face Father Flohe Field. Bottom view shows the front of the building which will face Union Street.

# Shamrocktoberfest

[www.freewebs.com/spsauction](http://www.freewebs.com/spsauction)

**COME ONE! COME ALL! TO THE 2016 SHAMROCK AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, DOORS OPEN AT 6:00**



**FOOD  
DRINKS  
RAFFLES  
FUN GAMES  
LIVE AUCTION  
SILENT AUCTION**

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL AND PARISH OFFICES.



### Come to the Shamrock Auction!

You are all invited to attend the 2016 Shamrock Auction. The auction is the single largest fundraiser for the school each year.

It's also one of the most fun and entertaining events of the year! Your \$20 admission ticket includes food and drinks for the entire evening; the raffles and auctions are lively and give you the chance to go home with some of the great prizes! There are prizes for every budget!

Buy your advance ticket at the school or parish office, or call Amber Fogarty at 517-243-1850.

## SPOTLIGHT ON JOYCE HERR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

this needed to be addressed.

Thereafter, every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m., Father and I would meet in my office for a half-hour to address any pressing needs that required his approval and to bring him up-to-date on how things were going.

One memorable comment he made as he was putting on his coat after one of our meetings was, "I knew the day I met you that I would run the parish and YOU WOULD run the school."

My response was, "The day you forget that will be the day you will need to look for a new principal."

We had a good and straightforward relationship. The saddest day with Father was the day he accused me of taking the side of the committee to prevent the closing of the high school.

I explained to him my reasons: The curriculum offered is good and sound and prepares the student for college; the parents want it and are willing to continue their support; I support their position because it is the right one as I see it.

Obviously, the high school did not close. But, when the graduating class of 1970 left St. Patrick's, I did, too.

On July 1, 1970, I became the Business Manager of the Genesee Catholic Board of Education in Flint. I was responsible for all the financial management of the high school of 1350 students and eight elementary buildings with a total of 1929 students. I developed balanced budgets of income and expense for each building. My office collected all tuition monies from individuals and pastors who paid for their students' tuition. I personally called all delinquent accounts, and if the account wasn't paid for the month, the student was not allowed to attend until the account was current. This tough policy worked! We had no unpaid accounts while I was the Business Manager from July 1970 until June 1991 when I retired.

I loved religious life but as society

changed in the 1960's everything became more liberal, not only in the lay world but in the religious world as well. Prior to the '60's the religious lived a very structured life where prayer time with the community was number one. The emphasis was on the spiritual and then our work, teaching, nursing, etc.

Around the mid 60's this changed. Sisters were free to meet in full community or choose another time to pray, maybe in smaller groups. There was less emphasis on unity and more on diversity. Wearing the habit was optional. The dress of the lay women was introduced and adopted by many of the Sisters, including make-up and jewelry. Sisters were no longer "appointed" by the Superior General for a work position but applied personally for work positions. Sisters chose where they wished to live; in a community or in an apartment with the sisters they chose. These were just a few of the changes in the lifestyle. Sisters also began to acquire things for their exclusive use. They retained these things as their own. This didn't seem to mesh with the vow of poverty, which stipulated all things were for our use but were not personal property.

After six years of prayer and discernment about remaining in my vocation, I made an eight-day directed retreat with a Jesuit priest, followed by an appointment with the Sister in charge of dispensation of vows. She asked if I would make a three-day directed retreat with her prior to my final decision. After this retreat I made the decision to ask the Holy Father for dispensation from my vows. I vis-

ited the Vicar for Religious, the attorney for the Church, and presented my case requesting dispensation. Following a lengthy discussion, he decided everything was in order: I clearly understood what I was doing, was prepared for life as a lay woman, and I could financially provide for myself.

He sent a letter to the Holy Father requesting the dispensation be granted. On October 26, 1976, I signed the legal paper in the presence of two witnesses dispensing me from the three vows, and I returned to single lay status. Released from vows, I was now free to marry if I so wished. I had no desire to marry so remained single.

I am grateful for the many years I had as a religious and I am rich in many, many ways that have nothing to do with money. I continued to work for the church until I retired in 1991.

During the period 1993 - 2001 I spent time traveling all around the states with a Senior group. We also took trips to British Columbia, Alaska, Switzerland, Germany Austria, Belgium to name a few. Loved every penny I spent. Well worth it!

I have remained active in my parish. I was a teacher in the RCIA for fourteen years as well as a Bible Study facilitator during the same period of time. In 2012, I was interrupted in this work due to knee and hip replacement surgeries.

*If any former students or friends would like to drop her a card or letter, her address is Joyce Herr, 211 Pipers Lane, Mt Morris, MI, 48458.*

### Support the Sisters of St. Joseph



Late Nite Catechism at the Family Chapel in Nazareth, MI  
on Sunday, June 12 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Order tickets at TransformationsCenter.org  
follow the prompts to PayPal  
For more info call 269-381-6290 ext. 249  
or email info@TransformationsCenter.org

Tickets are \$40 each or 2/\$70  
if purchased before May 12  
\$50 each or 2/\$90 after that date



Contact Joyce Kransz if you are interested in carpooling  
517-285-7547 or jkransz@gmail.com



# Alum Shares Name and Friendship

*Tony Bennett, Class of 1961, shares his name with famous American singer Tony Bennett. Our Tony recently told Portland Hometown History on Facebook about his first meeting with the more famous Tony Bennett.*



I first met him in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in 1968. I was 25 and he was 43.

We were both staying at the Rickshaw Inn for a week. I was on computer science business, and he was performing at the Latin Casino. We were getting each other's mail.

I got a call and answered it and said, "Hello."

The voice on the other end of the

line said, "Who am I speaking to?"

I said, "Tony."

He said, "Tony who?"

I said, "Tony Bennett."

After a few seconds of silence, I asked who I was talking to, and he said, "Tony Bennett."

He invited me to have a drink with him, and we spent about three hours talking. He bought me a ton of drinks. He invited me to his performance, where I sat with his business manager, girlfriend, and son.

We ate after his first performance, and then he got on stage and said, "Audience, I have a big surprise for you."

He motioned for me to stand up and he introduced me as his friend from Lansing, Michigan, Tony Bennett. The crowd cheered. He even had me in his reception line, and I signed a lot of autographs.

I have met him many times since.

*Their friendship has continued through the years. This picture was taken at the Wharton Theater in 1993.*

# My Last Year as a Little Rock

by Hayley Fleischer

The Big Rock/Little Rock program has been around for many years. I have been the Little Rock, but that will change at the end of this year.

As I end 5th grade and enter 6th grade many things will change; one big change is I will become the Big Rock. This is a huge responsibility and I am glad I had an awesome Big Rock to learn from.

A Big Rock needs to be a good role model, lead by example, and be a good friend. Tabbi Barber, my Big Rock, has been all of these. She is part of the student council, leads morning prayer, is involved in sports, and won the H&R Block Challenge, just to name a few. She has shown me what an important role it is to be Big Rock.

I have a lot to live up to, but I am up to the challenge because I had a great role model. I can't wait to be a Big Rock and have someone look up to me, but I am also sad that I won't see mine every week.



Tabbi Barker and Hayley Fleischer are part of the Big Rocks Little Rocks student mentoring program at St. Patrick School. The top photo shows them in 2010, their second year together. The bottom picture was taken this year, their final year as a Big Rock Little Rock team.

# Come to Summerfest

## June 25-26

### Always the Weekend After Father's Day!

Use your smart phone and barcode scanner app to see a video of Summerfest!



- ◇ Food
- ◇ Family Fun
- ◇ Wine Tasting
- ◇ Refreshment Tent
- ◇ Live Entertainment
- ◇ Sports contests for all ages!

Join us for  
Outdoor Mass  
& Sunday Dinner  
Sunday, June 26  
beginning at 10:30 a.m.



Complete information including entry forms: [www.stpatsummerfest.com](http://www.stpatsummerfest.com)

## Parish Group Attends World Meeting of Families

*Pope Francis' recent visit to the United States (Sept. 22-27, 2015) culminated at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Doug (1996) and Grace Snitgen, along with Portland students Rachel Pohl and Megan Bond, traveled to Philadelphia with a group organized by the Grand Rapids Diocese to participate in this historic event.*



Doug and Grace Snitgen, Rachel Pohl, and Meg Bond

**What was it like traveling to the World Meeting of Families?**

**GRACE:** There was a lot of excitement as our three busses left Cathedral Square in the early morning hours. It took about 14 hours to get to Philadelphia, so we had time to get to know some of the others on our bus. Every time we stopped at a rest stop, we met pilgrims from other states making the same journey. It really felt like we were part of something very big and very meaningful.

**DOUG:** We've both had opportunities to travel, but I've never been on a pilgrimage like this before. It was much different than a vacation or sightseeing trip. It was a unique opportunity to travel light, to live simply and prayerfully for a few days.

**Did you actually get to see Pope Francis?**

**DOUG:** Yes! Just before the Festival of Families began, the

"Popemobile" motorcade passed within 15 yards of where we were standing, and we were just close enough to the main stage to see him in the distance during the performances. Everything was broadcast on large jumbotrons all along Benjamin Franklin Parkway, so no matter where you were, you could see and hear everything that was going on.

**Were there any especially memorable moments?**

**GRACE:** At one point Pope Francis led everyone in praying the Our Father. Imagine the streets filled with nearly a million people, all praying the same prayer together! It was an overwhelming experience. It brought tears to my eyes.

**DOUG:** There was a specific moment, when Matt Maher was performing "All The People Said Amen," that really stands out to me. The sun was setting, stage lights were illuminating the sky, and we were waiting for the Pope's motorcade to drive by. For some reason, that was the moment that I really took in everything around me.

**What was your favorite take-away from this experience?**

**DOUG:** It's hard to imagine any other event on the planet that could draw that many people, Christians and non-Christians, from across the country and around the globe. We even met a young lady that traveled by herself from South Korea because she "just wanted to see Papa." Speaking to the diverse audience from Independence Hall, Pope Francis said, "Do not be ashamed of your traditions." That comment really spoke to me. I tend to be somewhat quiet about my faith, but the Catholic faith has a deep history, rich with meaningful tradition. Through this experience I feel like I was able to re-connect with some forms of prayer and reflection that haven't been a part of my spiritual life in a long time.

**GRACE:** Pope Francis is an inspiring example of how Jesus calls us to live. Being in his presence, watching him bless and interact with people from all walks of life, was incredible. I bought a bracelet that weekend as a reminder of our pilgrimage, and also as a reminder to glorify God always, even when life gets tough. In the words of Pope Francis, "Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

# St. Patrick Your Ministry Group Stranded in the Snow

by George Rutherford, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

What was planned as a routine trip to Washington, DC to protest Roe v Wade and promote the sanctity of all human life soon became a trip I will never forget. I, along with three students from St Patrick School, joined 104 other pilgrims from the Grand Rapids Diocese for the 43rd *March for Life*.

We left on Thursday, January 21, at 6:00 a.m. The original plan called for us to arrive in the early evening on Thursday, and then attend Mass on Friday, followed by the *March for Life*. We would then return for evening activities at our host site, a 4H center. Saturday was to be a day for sight-seeing followed by Mass. We would then have an overnight bus trip back to Michigan.



St. Patrick students Kaitlyn Kwiecinski, Bekah Guild, and Matt Jandernoa spent 26 hours stuck in the snow on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Those plans were modified prior to the trip as a storm was forecast to hit the DC area sometime on Saturday. As we approached DC, the forecast changed. The storm would be arriving sometime around 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Based on this, it was decided that we would leave immediately after the *March for Life*, at approximately 3:00 p.m. The goal was to get out ahead of the storm.

As snow began to accumulate, the *March for Life* concluded, and we made our way onto the buses and left DC. While traffic was going slower than normal, we were making good progress, and after stopping for gas we were back on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, headed home. Things were going as planned. By all reports, if we could get on the other side of the Allegheny Mountains we would be “home free.”

We were within 30 miles of doing just that when it happened! As I would subsequently ascertain, two semis jack-

knifed 20 miles ahead of us blocking both lanes through the mountain tunnel. We came to a complete stop!

I looked at my watch, it was 10:31 p.m. on Friday. The snow continued to fall and by morning it was obvious that we would need to be plowed out in order to go anywhere.

Eventually the snow stopped but it was not until 26 hours later at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday that snow plows arrived to clear enough of a path to allow us to turn around. We headed back east 20 miles where we had hotel rooms waiting for us. We ate and slept and then started our final leg of the journey back to Michigan at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. The roads were clear, and we had nothing but smooth sailing, arriving back in Portland at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Those 26 hours on the bus provided the group with a tremendous opportunity. We were fortunate that the bus had plenty of fuel and was able to run the heating and electrical systems. We had water, food, and restroom facilities. We were safe and warm. The most difficult part was the uncertainty of when we would be on the move again.

I was thoroughly impressed with our youth. They bonded with each other. We prayed together, we played together, we helped others in need. We grew as community. I think the following quotes from the youth say it best.

Bekah Guild stated, “These past few days have been exhausting, emotionally straining, exciting. It is amazing what people can accomplish when they come together, both in standing up for what they believe in, and in times of great emergency. This trip has reminded me how important and significant community is, in so many different aspects. It pushed us to our limits, tested our will-power, and we made it through, coming out better for it.”

Matthew Jandernoa agreed, “There is nothing I would have changed. The friends I made, the humbling experiences I had, the suffering ... #thisiswhywemarch.”





# KING'S KOLUMN

by Father Larry King

## The Dangers of Pornography

*This article was written by a parishioner, who shall remain anonymous. Please read his story and take seriously his message. Pornography is prevalent in society. Its dangers cannot be stressed enough.*

This is a story about your brother, your son, a cousin, an uncle, or your husband. I have been a member of St. Patrick's Parish since the day I was born, and up until I was around 19 or 20, I was very involved in our religious community. I attended St. Patrick School through graduation, and I was always reading, singing, leading the Stations of the Cross, or participating in other leadership activities. My faith was comfortable and strong, and always there for me.

Throughout my teen years, I had unfortunately typical experiences with pornography. It was a constant struggle filled with multiple trips to confession and a battle to remain in the state of grace. Upon graduation, I attended college, and my faith began to take a back seat to the seeming indoctrination against Christianity and the foundations of our Catholic Church. Early in my 20's, I stopped attending Mass regularly and really lost my faith. Even after marriage and children, I attempted to go to church a few times a year, but my faith was gone. I would sit in Mass, praying as fervently as I could, but I felt nothing but disdain and distrust for this institution that had been a bedrock for me in my formative years. During this time pornography became a bigger part of my life. I attributed it to a poor sex life due to the burdens of newborns, stress, etc. The internet made this all possible, and with the smartphone came even greater access to pornography.

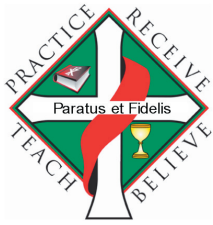
In 2013, I started to watch with interest our Papal Conclave and was excited when Pope Francis was elected. He seemed "cool" to me, and I was proud of my Catholic faith. Within a week, I decided to attend confession and had a fantastic discussion with the priest at the Cathedral in Lansing. We actually talked about pornography, not just the religious aspects,

but the scientific aspects. This appealed greatly to my intellect, and he sent me to a website called [www.XXXchurch.com](http://www.XXXchurch.com). This website started me down a path towards understanding. Did you know that pornography is as addictive as cocaine? People don't really understand that it is mentally one of the most addictive activities known to man. Men are particularly vulnerable to it, because we are far more stimulated by visual input than women. Pornography wires a man's brain for certain activities that aren't particularly realistic in a marital relationship. It also distracts our energies from our marital relationship and leads to dissatisfaction.

This confessional experience started me down the path, but the path was not to be easy. I immediately stopped pornography; but, I struggled with it and never totally broke free. At this time I also watched a movie called *Fireproof*, which made so much sense to me that it forced me to act again to be a better husband and father. It made me question my role as a man and look to God's plan for us in our most sacred duties. Soon after this, I decided to stop pornography again. This time, I just did it and didn't look back. After about 2-3 months, I discovered that I didn't desire it anymore and that my attraction and appreciation for my wife was unbelievably heightened. Also, my patience and understanding of her needs and my feelings of responsibility were also awakened. I won't pretend that I am the perfect husband, but I believe I am on a path towards being a far better one.

It was at this point that I again attended Mass. That first return to Mass was one of the most profound spiritual experiences of my life, nearly eclipsing the birth of my children. Immediately upon entering church, I felt a complete change from what I expected. Previously, over a 15-20 year period, I had attended and never felt comfortable. Even praying honestly for faith, and wanting to believe never made a difference. I had felt like I didn't belong and that I didn't believe this tired dogma. This time around, my faith came alive. I could absolutely feel the truth evident in our Mass and our ancient Church. A few weeks later, I attended confession and told my story to a priest. I started sobbing uncontrollably, and could barely get it out. He cried with me and told me to imagine how happy God must be to see me find him again. I believe he is happy.

So here I am, telling my story, thankfully anonymously, although my wife knows it. I am begging the men in our church family to read this and gain understanding. Our young men are in a deadly struggle with this scourge. Pornography is everywhere. It is prevalent and seductive. Our modern society glorifies it and professes it to be normal and healthy, but it is undeniably not healthy. Talk to your sons. If you haven't struggled with it, learn about the struggle and teach them. The dangers are not only spiritual, they are physical and emotional. We talk about drugs and alcohol, but pornography is as great a danger, if not more so. I will be praying for my brothers at St. Patrick's and hoping that my story helps.



# LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?

by Deacon Don Sobolewski

Many people have questions about their Catholic faith. Even “cradle-Catholics” don’t always understand some of the basic tenets of Catholicism. Deacon Don Sobolewski, who is the Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick Parish will answer your questions in this new column **Looking for Answers?**

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**QUESTION: Other faiths don’t require mandatory attendance every Sunday and designated Holy Days. Why does the Catholic Church make it seem sinful if you don’t attend?**

**ANSWER:** This could end up being a very long and complicated answer because I don’t want to miss anything important. But before I get into some basic details as to the what and why, I think we should all realize that it would be a misnomer to imagine that other churches don’t expect their people to come to church and gather together on Sundays or other designated days for common worship. Because they all do.

That being said, let’s delve into the “what and why” of it all.

First, let’s consider the “obligation.” The place to start is “Remember to Keep Holy the Lord’s Day,” the Third Commandment. This is not the reason why we come to Church, but it is the best place to start. When the first Christians gathered, they replaced the Sabbath Day (Saturday) with Sunday. It wasn’t written down that one had to go, but everyone wanted to, so they did.

But the Third Commandment is only the beginning. In fact, if one fully comprehends and follows the First Commandment, the Third comes naturally. The First Commandment: You Shall Not Have Strange Gods Before Me.

Do people feel like there is something better to do, that there is something more

important than sharing in Christ’s Passion and Resurrection? Shopping, golfing, sleeping in (“It’s my only day off.”), reading a book, watching a movie, going to a sports game (or watching on TV), taking an extra nap, getting a head start painting the shed or putting shingles on the roof. While none of these are like “the Golden Calf” of Exodus fame, the results can be similar. The false gods of our material world can be put before Our Lord. None of the things I mentioned are evil in themselves. If you find that you don’t feel like going to Church on Sunday, the real question to ask is why am I not excited to go?

The Mass is the most important expression of our Catholic Faith. It is through the Mass, the sacrifice of the Divine Eucharist, that the work of our redemption is accomplished (SC 2).

At Mass, whether or not we receive the Eucharist in Holy Communion, we receive abundant graces, especially through the Word of God in Scripture. These graces help us to continue on our journey of faith in courage and strength.

And if we are in the state of grace and receive the Holy Eucharist, the true and real Presence of Our Lord: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, what a privilege. We are united with Him and with all of our believing brothers and sisters as well.

With this in mind then, every Catholic believer should think of Mass as a privilege and not an obligation.

Given these circumstances, the Church has codified and found it necessary to place an obligation on its members to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. So unless there is an important reason or serious need, when someone skips out on Mass, the person is allowing something else to take the place of the One, True God. Something else becomes more valuable, more important, than the Holy

Eucharist. And if that is the reality, then that would indeed be a terrible sin.

God must come first. On Sundays our primary responsibility is to worship God at Mass as a community and to be nourished by God’s Grace and the Holy Eucharist.

**QUESTION: Is Communal Penance acceptable as a confession in the Church?**

**ANSWER:** I think what is being asked is if Communal Penance Services are ok and do they count?

Well, yes and no. (You’ll find that is one of my favorite answers.) According to Canon Law (that is, Church Law), Canon #960 states, “Individual and integral confession and [individual] absolution constitute the only ordinary way by which the faithful person who is aware of serious sin is reconciled to God and with the Church...” I added the italicized word because the adjective “individual” applies to both the confession and (atque) absolution in the original Latin.

So that would mean that only Individual Confession and Absolution “count.”

So, that being said, there is a form of the Sacrament of Penance that is called Communal (Form 2 in the Rite of Penance). There is Scripture, Prayer, Song, etc., but there must be the opportunity for individual confession and individual absolution. This form more perfectly combines the individual nature of our sins with the communal nature of the effects of our sins by providing an opportunity for the community to gather.

The questioner may be also asking about General Absolution. General Absolution, where the Minister of the Sacrament provides one absolution for all present, is restricted to the danger of imminent death and is reserved to the judgment of the diocesan bishop (Canon #961). So then, General Absolution is not to be used in a Communal Penance Service, even if there are many penitents and the time of confessions would be longer than anticipated.

*If you have a question you’d like to ask the Deacon, please send it to the newsletter by any of the ways outlined on page 19. Your name will remain confidential.*

# Reunion News

## Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1970* held their 45-year reunion on October 10, 2015. The classmates attended Mass at St. Patrick Church, then gathered at the home of Ken and Karen Schneider for a delicious home-cooked meal. It was a beautiful autumn evening, so Ken made a bonfire, and most of the group stayed late into the night, sharing memories. Roger Cook came the farthest, traveling from Venice, Florida.



The *Class of 1980* held their 35-year class reunion on Saturday, September 18, 2015. Twenty-one classmates attended as well as many spouses and friends. Italian dinner was followed by lots of fun reminiscing and visiting. Music from the 1970's and 1980's was playing all night. A video from previous class reunions and school years was also watched by all that attended.



## Reunion Alert

*Class of 1968* will get together on April 30th at 5:00 at the Wagon Wheel. It will be the same as before, order your own food and drinks from the menu. Once again anyone that was ever a part of the class is welcome to join the party. Contact Janice Beech: [djbeech@wowway.com](mailto:djbeech@wowway.com).

The *Class of 1985* held their 30-year reunion on Saturday, March 5, 2016. Twenty-two classmates and their spouses attended the 4:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed by dinner at the Wagon Wheel.



The *Class of 1990* gathered at the home of Randy and Michelle Hodge on the evening of August 29, 2015, for food and drinks. Eleven classmates attended, with Christy (Burnham) Anderson traveling the farthest, from Ishpeming. The class enjoyed catching up with each other, reminiscing about the good old days and swapping stories about their lives both past and present.



On July 11th, twelve members of the class of 1995 gathered together to celebrate for a 20th class reunion. Classmates and spouses traveled to Portland from as far away as Bowling Green, Kentucky, for a potluck patio party. On display were yearbooks and memorial boards for both Jaime Huhn and Joe Barker, made by family and friends



# Who Rode the Pickle?



This picture was published in the fall issue of *The Shamrock*, and readers were asked to name the six people who rode on The Pickle as it was taken for its maiden voyage in 1993. No one named all six. Left to right, the people in the photo are Marie Scheurer, Steve Goodman, Diane Schlemmer, Father Julian, Liz Kolarik, and Sue Vanlente. One interesting fact is that Diane Schlemmer didn't recognize herself! The Pickle was returned to the factory shortly after this photo was taken because the shamrocks on the bus were actually four-leaf clovers. Whoops!

## Welcome Scholarships Available

Preschool	\$250 per student
K-8th	\$750 per student
9th-11th	\$1,000 per student



### You are eligible for this scholarship if

- You are a registered parishioner in the Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Your child will be a new student, preschool-11th grade, in a Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic school for the 2016-2017 school year
- You do not have any children currently enrolled in a Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic school

This gift is offered regardless of need. Additional scholarships are also available through the school and parish.

## Can You Sing the School Song?

Do you still remember all of the words of the Shamrock fight song? If you do, take a video of yourself singing it, or sing it as a group at your next reunion or gathering.

Then send the video to *The Shamrock* via text or email (information on page 19). The videos will be posted on the school's YouTube channel.

The Class of 1970 is the first to appear there. Go to the school website, [www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com). Click on About Us at the top, then on Videos.

There's no age limit, so if your preschoolers know the words, have them sing it. If your grandpa and grandma can do it—awesome! We'll post the best entries on the school Facebook page, too.



# CLASS REUNION

## St. Patrick High School CLASS OF 1966

50-Year Reunion  
Saturday, September 10, 2016  
2:30 p.m. Parish Hall/Tour of the School  
4:30 p.m. Mass  
6:00 p.m. Dinner at the Oak Room

The Father Flohe Foundation invites you to attend this very special celebration held in your honor.

Invitations will be mailed soon. Please come and spend the evening with your classmates and friends.

## You are invited

Since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted the 50-year reunion for each of the graduating classes from St. Patrick High School. Initially, the reunions were held in the Parish Hall, but several years ago they were moved to the Oak Room of the Wagon Wheel where Chopper and Jonda Schrauben serve a delicious dinner to the guests.

On the day of the reunion, classmates are invited to gather at the Parish Hall where they will begin a guided tour of the school. Mass follows, at 4:30 p.m., celebrated in honor of the class and all deceased classmates. Dinner begins at approximately 6:00 p.m..

In addition to the reunion, the organizers put together a Memory Book full of photos and updates from the classmates. This book has become one of the favorite parts of the reunion.

Class of 1966, please save the date and plan to attend. If for some reason you can't attend, please send in the information when you are contacted about the book.



## Father Flohe Foundation Announces New President

The Father Flohe Foundation (FFF) has chosen a new president, Zach Wight, who graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2005. Zach earned his bachelors and masters degrees from Michigan State University and is a CPA for Jackson National Life Insurance Company. He and his wife Julie (Schafer, 2005) have two daughters. Zach and Julie are very engaged members of St. Patrick Parish, having worked with the Stewardship Committee and as co-chairs of the most recent capital campaign, *Restore & Renew*.

Other members of the FFF are: Vice President John Thelen, Treasurer Scott Brown, Secretary Nancy Wohlschied, Trustees Tony Thelen, Andy Martin, Chopper Schrauben, Kristen Smith, Mike Kissane, and Father Larry King.

The group's goals for the near future include developing a plan to increase awareness of the FFF, as well as to continue growing the fund and contributing tuition dollars to the students of St. Patrick School.

## Thank You!

On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thank you to those who contributed to the foundation over the past year, to those who remembered the foundation as part of their memorial services, and to those who remembered the foundation in their estate planning. Because of your generosity, the foundation was again able to provide significant financial support to the school (\$90,000 for the 2015/2016 school year). This was the 7th year in a row that we were able to provide at least \$75,000. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to ensure the continuation of Catholic education at St. Patrick.

*FFF President Zach Wight (2005)*

## 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](http://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 \$1,200,000 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 \$2,133,000.
- The 2015 fiscal year ending fund balance was \$2,301,283
- The FFF is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.
- The FFF annually awards the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award, the Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship, the Msgr. Zerfas 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 50-year reunion.



# What is a Tuition Angel?

A **Tuition Angel** is someone who donates to either the Shamrock Scholarship Fund or the Father Flohe Foundation.

- Donations to the **Shamrock Scholarship Fund** are gifts for **TODAY**. They provide immediate assistance to families who need a little help now. These families aren't looking for a handout, they are looking for a hand up. Most of them will one day be able to pay the full price, just not right now.
- Donations to the **Father Flohe Foundation** are gifts for the **FUTURE**. The FFF is an endowment fund which exists to ensure the stability of St. Patrick School. The principle of the fund is invested and only the interest is used to help support the school.
- Both funds are important. If you would like to make a donation to either of them, please use the form below.
- Also remember that if a loved one passes away, your family can choose either of these funds for memorial donations. Brochures are available at Lehman Funeral Home.

## Thank you for supporting the 2015-16 Shamrock Scholarship Fund

Mary Anderson	Gladys Fisher	James and Diane Leik	Bill Schrauben
Rosamond Ball	Josephine Fox	Philip Leik	Jerry and Rita Schrauben
Judith Baxter	Mike and Sue Fox	Tom and Mary Leik	Marie Schrauben
Donald (Tex) and Rosie Beard	Stacy Fox-Elster	Tony Leik	Nicholas Schrauben
Andy Beech	Tom and Judy Fryover	Brad and Kellie Leonard	Paul Schrauben
Susan Beech	Tom Geller	Roger and Carolyn Manning	Sharon Seidel
Bruce and Noel Bennett	Lois Gensterblum	Rose Manning	Jerry and Cindy Selden
Butch and Gert Bennett	Sister Bernita Gensterblum	Lisa Martin	Dave and Marlene Simon
Tony Bennett	Mary Ann Goodman	Duane May	Douglas and Pamela Simon
Gary and Patty Bogard	Michael and Anastasia Hamberg	Phil and Heidi May	Jacob and Jessica Simon
Dale and Linda Bower	Teri Hammond	Billie McBrien	Mike Simon
Julie Brennan	Renee Haneghan	Monica Murray	Donna Sines
Tom and Cindy Brown	Dennis Hilligan	Connie Owen	Bruce Smith
Harv and Diana Burgoyne	Gary and Barb Hodge	Bud and Eleanor Peake	Doug and Connie Smith
Jason and Jennifer Chamberlain	Randy and Michelle Hodge	Allen and Roxanne Pline	Jim and Doreen Spohn
Deward and Roni Christmas	Gary Huhn	Dick and Jane Pohl	Fred and Sandy Steed
Bill Clark	Marc Huhn	Charlene Pung	Michael Steffes
Daniel Cook	Jon and Janet Hyland	Diane Pung	Gladys Stiffler
Sharon Cook	David Jenkins	Barb Pung-Trierweiler	Terry and Carol Thelen
Calvin and Jeanine Cross	David Kahn	Marlea Quimby	Bill Trierweiler
Joyce Curns	Patricia Kaltz	Linda Rice	Robert and Sue VanLente
Cristy Danca	Ami Kihn	Carol Russell	Sandy Vergeson
Todd and Jennifer Davlin	Judy Koenigsknecht	Kathy Russell	Kathy Verska
Wayne and Marlene Dick	Patty Koenigsknecht	Fritz and Anne Russman	Annette Weiser
Jesse and Mary Diffin	Dale and Carol Kramer	Joe and Peggy Russman	Jill Werner
Elaine Dorin	Dave and Mary Kramer	Marie Schafer	Jim and Carol Wilcox
Gary and Janet Fedewa	Raymond and Helen Krzeminski	Jane Scheurer	Tim and Christine Wilcox
Jim and Ann Fedewa	Theresa Lancaster	John and Marie Scheurer	Brian and Nancy Wohlsheid
Mary Fedewa	Kyle Lay	Charles Schneider	Joyce Wooden
Patricia Fedewa	Michael and Lisa Lehman	Don and Sharon Schneider	Gerald Zerfas
Ray Fedewa	Craig and Lisa Lehnert	Keith and Shayla Schneider	Harold and Esmeralda Zoll
Ron Fedewa	Charles Leik	Rich and Annette Schneider	
Larry Feldpausch	Edward Leik	Roger and Susan Schneider	
Tom and Annette Fetzer	Ellen Leik	Al and Karla Schrauben	(Donations received as of February 28, 2016.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Credit card number:

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Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code: \_\_\_\_\_

SHAMROCK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ One-time donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ One-time donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Recurring each month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Recurring each month

If you would like information about sponsoring a student for a year, contact the Parish Office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payments can also be made online using our secure Online Giving option. Go to [www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com) and click on the Online Giving button on the home page. You can set up an account to make a recurring donation or click on Quick Give for a one-time donation. All donations are tax deductible. Mail to St. Patrick Parish, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.

*Thank you for your generosity!*



Have you read the entire newsletter? If you have, you'll surely recognize the words in the list, because they are found in the various articles in this issue. When you've found all 31 words, the leftover letters will spell out a quote that should provoke some thought. Good luck!

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

### 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 May 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

ANGEL  
 AUCTION  
 BUDGET  
 CHALLENGE  
 CHESS CLUB  
 COMMANDMENTS  
 DRAMA CLUB

EUCHARIST  
 FACEBOOK  
 FAMILIES  
 FATHER  
 JOYCE  
 KOLENIC  
 LEGO LEAGUE

MARCH  
 NAZARETH  
 OBLIGATION  
 PHILADELPHIA  
 PICKLE  
 PRAYER  
 PRIVILEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS  
 SENIORS  
 SHAMROCKS  
 SHAMROCKTOBER-  
 FEST  
 SISTER  
 SNOWSTORM

TUITION  
 TURNPIKE  
 WELCOME



The fall puzzle in *The Shamrock* was all about the tornado that hit Portland last summer and the quote was from Jon Stewart, **“If you don’t stick to your values when they’re being tested, they’re not values, they’re hobbies.”** People from Portland showed their true values when they were tested! The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Janice Manning, 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. A current list of Lost Sheep can be found on our school website on the Alumni page. You can use your smartphone and bar-code scanner to go directly to that page.



- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1956 Duane Irrer                  | 1981 Mike Binder             |
| 1966 Dan Lehman                   | 1983 Pauline Guilford        |
| 1968 Carolyn (Rowe) Embree        | 1984 Laurie (Leik) Kinne     |
| 1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova | 1985 Scott Osmar             |
| 1974 Mark VanderHoff              | 1987 Sheila (Martin) Morales |
| 1975 Patricia Bozung              | 1990 John Huhtala            |
| 1975 Susan Thelen                 | 1994 Jeremy Pohl             |
| 1979 Michael Hendricks            | 1998 Casey Eckert            |
| 1979 John Fedewa                  | 2000 Carl Gensterblum        |
| 1980 Angie Young                  | 2000 Jeremy Pline            |
|                                   | 2000 Jennifer Smith          |

## 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.

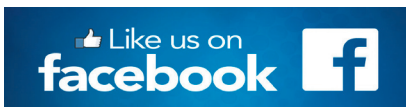
- School website: [www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com)
- Parish website: [www.stpatrickportland.com](http://www.stpatrickportland.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/portlandstpatrick](http://www.facebook.com/portlandstpatrick)
- School Twitter: @PortlandStPats
- Mr. Hodge Twitter: @principalhodge

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

## COMING SOON!

### St. Patrick Alumni Facebook Page

A new Facebook page will soon be added to our social media presence. Lindsey Bos (2006) will be in charge of this page. Watch for it, and...



# Upcoming EVENTS

- Shamrock Auction .....April 23, 2016
- First Communion ..... May 1, 2016
- Graduation ..... May 22, 2016
- Late Nite Catechism at Nazareth . June 12, 2016
- Summerfest.....June 25-26, 2016
- Class of 1966 50-Year Reunion....Sept. 10, 2016
- Fall Festival .....October 9, 2016
- Fall issue of The Shamrock ..... Early October

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

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# It's COOL to go to Catholic School!

**Kids love going to St. Patrick School** where they are part of a school family that brings generational values and support 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.

**Parents love being a part of the St. Patrick School family** because they know that their children are cherished while they are being educated. Christian values are fully integrated within our curriculum and extra curricular activities. There is never a doubt that their children are safe and cared for.

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!