



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 30 No. 2 SPRING 2017

From Schoolyard to Seminary

Vocations are alive and well at St. Patrick School!

The March issue of *FAITH Grand Rapids* magazine, a publication of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, features the story of Johnathan Johnson and Michael Steffes. The two were classmates at St. Patrick and graduated in 2008. Though they took different routes after graduation, they eventually both came to the same conclusion: God was calling them to consider the religious life.

They are now studying together at Mundelein Seminary to become priests for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

The magazine article chronicles their journey from schoolyard to the seminary and how their Catholic school education at St. Patrick School played a role in them answering God's

call. Mike is two years ahead of his friend in his studies. He completed an internship at Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford last year and will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on May 9, 2017. God willing, he will be ordained to the priesthood in 2018.

Johnathan is on track to become a transitional deacon in 2019 and expects to be ordained in 2020.

You can read the full article in the March issue of *FAITH Grand Rapids* magazine. The article chronicles the lives of the two friends after they graduated, following them through college classes, jobs, and relationships.

It is also available online. Search for Grand Rapids Faith magazine or scan the code shown on the cover.



Eucharistic Adoration Has Power to Increase Vocations

We often hear about the decline of vocations in the Church. What can we do about it? Or maybe a better question is, what are we as a parish doing about it? Obviously, one of the best answers to these questions is to pray, individually and as a parish. We are doing that at St. Patrick parish by practicing Eucharistic Adoration.

In 2010 Juarez Mexico was one of the most dangerous cities in the world, recording 3,766 homicides. The seminary in that diocese had only eight seminarians and was considering closing.

In 2013 a priest established a Perpetual Adoration chapel in Juarez and recruited local Catholics to commit to praying 24/7 before Jesus in the Eucharist.

By 2015 the number of homicides had dropped to 256 and the number of seminarians had jumped to 88. Crime rates dropping and religious vocations increasing is a consistent phenomenon wherever Perpetual Adoration is established.

Another good example of this is St. Isadore parish in Grand Rapids. In recent years, more vocations to the priesthood have come from St. Isadore than any parish in the diocese. They practice perpetual Adoration.

Right now our parish benefits from the Trinitarian Sisters of Mary

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Michael Steffes will be ordained a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Grand Rapids on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Grand Rapids. The public is welcome to attend! If you cannot attend and would like to see the ceremony, the Mass will also be live-streamed on dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

Mail Call

I want to express my gratitude to the staff of The Shamrock for sending me all the issues for many years. I apologize for not responding sooner. I so enjoy reading it as soon as it arrives! I especially enjoy reading familiar family names, names of people who were in my grade, and many others I knew.

Our family moved from Portland when I finished seventh grade and my brother Gerald finished eighth grade. We so enjoyed our life in Portland where my dad and uncles operated the Zerfas Implement Co. Monsignor Herman Zerfas was my brother. He always kept close tabs on the school along with Father Van Lente and other priests there over the years. Glad to hear of Fr. Van Lente's 50th.

The article about the Gensterblum family reunion was so special. Alvin was in Gerald's grade and Genevieve in my grade. She is a Sister of St. Joseph, with whom I got reacquainted through my sister, Sr. Claudette. They lived across the hall from each other and she kept an eye on my aging sister before her death, which occurred exactly five weeks after Monsignor's.

We have seven children, the first a girl and ten years later twin girls, with four boys in between. We are proud of all of them: seven children, 25 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. We always have so many school activities to attend! We celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary in June.

Blessings to all of you!
Bernice (Zerfas) Sibal

Many thanks for the kind words and for including Mr. Stankus' remarks from my 50th jubilee celebration. I commend all of you at St. Patrick's who have given endless hours (and years) of time and talent to making St. Pat's School the unique success it has been and will continue to be. It is the faith and dedication of all of you who have kept the promise to the children of St. Pat's of "Excellence, yesterday, today, and tomorrow." St. Pat's School is an amazing success.

Many thanks, and may God bless,
Fr. Richard Van Lente

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Our Junior SPOTLIGHT

Abrielle Mason

The St. Patrick School mission statement is We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve! Though unstated, a fourth goal is that our grads also learn to contribute, in a positive way, to the world around them. Last summer, senior Abrielle Mason used a challenging family situation to become involved in a campaign that recognizes and contributes to people whose lives have been affected by cancer.

Abi's mother and grandmother have both gone through colon cancer, so Abi had experienced firsthand, the challenges of that disease. She organized a St. Patrick School Relay for Life team which not only honored her own family members, but raised money for cancer research, as



well. According to secondary principal, Randy Hodge, "Abi and her mother have done all of the planning for the St. Patrick School Relay for Life team for the last two years, including designing and selling t-shirts to raise funds for the events."

"My mom has always been outgoing and spirited in everything she does," said Abi. "I thought this would be a way for me to show her how proud I was of her accomplishments. It was also a way to get the school involved in something fun and worthwhile. I enjoyed working with others to spread awareness and I enjoyed walking laps around the track during the relay in honor of all those with cancer."

Abi's involvement with the Relay for Life is indicative of the person she is. She participated in athletics all four years of her high school career; she has taken dance lessons for eleven years and also studies piano and guitar; she is a third-year NHS member and is currently the Vice President of the Student Council; she maintains a 3.933 GPA and plans to attend Michigan State University after graduation.

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In The Spotlight

John Vallier

"If you want to hit the ball, you've got to swing the bat!"

Anyone who knows John Vallier has undoubtedly heard these words a time or two. They are the words of a little league coach. They are the words of a passionate Shamrock fan. They are words that encompass John's entire approach to life: "Don't stand there and watch life go by! Get involved! Volunteer! Help people out! Find something to do!"

John's life is guided by this philosophy. His volunteer work isn't just something he does, it's who he is.



Francis Clarence Vallier was born in Engadine, Michigan, a small town in the Upper Peninsula, in 1937. He grew up as the second youngest in a family of 12 children. At some point during his school years, he was given the nickname, John, and it stuck. Now, he's John Vallier to everyone who knows him.

John and Eleanor Soligny were married in 1959. They spent 50 happy years together, until she passed away in December 2009. Together they raised a family of seven children, John, Bob, Rick, Glenn, Renee, Bill, and Chris. They have 14 grandchildren and the first great-grandchild is on the way.

John and Eleanor uprooted themselves from Engadine in 1963 and headed south "across the Straits" to Portland so that John could work as a lineman for Tri County Electric Cooperative. He worked there until his retirement in 1999.

It didn't take long for the couple to become involved in their new parish and community.

With all of their children attending St. Patrick School, Shamrock sporting events became an important part of their lives. John rarely missed a game, and even though his youngest child graduated twenty one years ago, he's still at nearly every one. He has been the official bookkeeper for the Shamrock varsity and JV boys and girls basketball

games since the mid 1990's. In 2013 after St. Pat's football team transitioned to an 8-man league, John helped organize a game against his alma mater, the Engadine Eagles. Over 250 Shamrock fans traveled to the Upper Peninsula for that game. The following year, the Eagles came to Portland for a rematch.

Little League baseball was another important part of John's life, and dozens of young boys had the privilege of his coaching. He taught them solid fundamentals and always wanted to make sure that they enjoyed the game, as well. Everyone on John's teams got a chance to play.

Sports aren't the only pastime for John Vallier. His faith is the center point of his life. John serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and as an altar server for weekday Masses. He is often called upon to lead the rosary or Stations of the Cross.

His devotion to his Catholic faith led to his involvement with the Knights of Columbus, which he joined as a young man. He has held local and district K of C offices. He is also a member of the Fourth Degree Color Corps where he marches in parades and participates in the Honor Guard at member's wakes and funerals. He also organizes and hosts the bi-weekly euchre parties that are held at the Knight's Hall every year from



John Vallier has been the bookkeeper for the Shamrock basketball teams for over 20 years. Back row: Dick Brown, Jenna Lehman, Michelle Smith, Karla Schrauben. Middle row: Al Schrauben, Pat Russman. Front row: John Vallier, Neil Miro.

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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 or send text to 517-575-8000.

BIRTHS

To **Mick** (1999) and **Anastasia Hamberg** of Goshen, Kentucky, a daughter, Evelyn Marie, on August 29, 2016. She joins one sister, Bethany (22 months).

To **Marty** (1999) and **Beth Leik** of Reading, Massachusetts, a son, Henry Thomas, on October 27, 2016.

To **Justin** (1999) and **Dana (Schneider, 2001) Simon**, a son, Bennett Chad Simon, on February 17, 2017. He joins two brothers, Brayden (10) and Mason (8).

To **Dale** (2005) and **Chelsea Snitgen** of Howell, a daughter, Aubrey Elizabeth, on September 7, 2016.

To **Sara (West, 2006) and Kyle Dixon** of Eagle, a son, Wyatt Edward, on August 1, 2016. He joins brother, West (15 months).

To **Jennifer (Dutcher, 2004) and Dave Leik**, a son, Wyatt David, on July 17, 2016. He joins brother, Owen (4).

To **Mike and Corie (Pung, 2001) Post** of Grand Rapids, a son, Samuel Michael, on October 5, 2016.

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry and Jan Supina celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, July 23, 2016. They took their children and grandchildren on a trip of a lifetime! They have three children Joe (Cristina) of Saline, Beth (John) of Brookfield, WI, and Suzie (Steve) of Fenton. They also have seven grandchildren.

IN MEMORY OF

Agnes Louise Trowbridge, age 73, passed away on September 30, 2016. She was born on March 3, 1943, in Newberry, Michigan,

the daughter of William and Edna (Griffin) Townley. Agnes enjoyed being with her family and the nature around her. Agnes is preceded in death by her husband, Francis. She is survived by her sons, Howard (Alicia) Trowbridge and Tony (Kerron) Trowbridge; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Lou Ann (Hartwick) Warner, age 62, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and sister passed away peacefully at her home on October 15, 2016. Lou Ann was born in St. Johns, Michigan, on December 27, 1953, to the late Orville and Francine (Hills) Hartwick. Lou Ann graduated from Portland High School and married George Albert Warner on June 30, 1972. She managed an adult foster care in her home shortly after marriage. After starting her family, she began a merchandising career with American Greetings. Lou Ann enjoyed volunteering, reading, baking, and spoiling her children and grandchildren. Most nights she could be heard gossiping on the phone with her cherished older sister, Linda. She was a life member of the VFW Post 4090 Ladies Auxiliary, currently serving as secretary. Lou Ann is survived by her loving husband, George Warner; sons, Thomas (Kristi) Warner and David (Monica) Warner; four grandchildren; sister, Linda (Mike) Meyers; brother, Steve (Vanessa) Hartwick; aunts, Irene and Carolyn; uncle Fred (Virginia); and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents and infant son, Nicholas James.

Geraldine "Gerry" Margaret VanDerWoude, age 75, of Portland, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 9, 2016. She was born on August 21, 1941, to Lewis and Helen (Gensterblum) Meyers. Gerry loved caring for people and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed making pancakes, and baking zucchini bread and blueberry muffins. Gerry is preceded in death by her husband, Charles VanDerWoude; parents; brother, Robert; children, Jennifer and Christopher. She is survived by her children, Donald (Karen) Meyers, Jeanine Meyers, Samantha (Berlis) Ortiz, and Sarah (Tom) Kiebach; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren;

siblings, Joseph (Sandy) Meyers, Elaine Ewing, Michael (Angie) Meyers, Sue Luna, and Teresa (Brad) Babinski; and sister-in-law, Linda Meyers. Memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services in memory of Gerry.

Diane Rose Fawley, age 60, of Portland, passed away on November 26, 2016 with her family by her side. She was born in Lansing, on May 3, 1956, to the late Bernard and Virginia (Fedewa) Meyers. She was an exceptional mother, sister, daughter, and friend. Diane enjoyed spending time with those she loved. She was an avid bike rider, book reader, and a hard worker. Diane is preceded in death by her father, Bernard; brothers, Ronald and Bobby; and sister, Maureen. She is survived by her mother, Virginia; significant other, David Howe; children, Rory (Sheila) and Nicole (fiance, Tyler Burnett) Fawley; two grandchildren; siblings, Mike (Linda) Meyers, Gary (Bernie) Meyers, Sue (George) Scarbrough, Dave (Mike) Meyers, Kevin (Teresa) Meyers, and Denny Meyers; sister-in-law, Linda Meyers; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

William B. Dutcher, age 91, of Portland, passed away December 1, 2016. William was born August 13, 1925, to Sylvester and Bernita (Simmons) Dutcher. He was the first mail carrier in Portland and worked for the Portland Post Office for over 35 years. He was also a farmer. Bill was a sports fanatic who loved the Tigers, U of M, and the Redwings. He enjoyed fishing with his long-time friend, Dick Willemin, and was an avid reader of his beloved Detroit News. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. Bill married Joyce Townsend on July 29, 1948. He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Marilyn Balderson; and brother-in-law, Richard Bigford. Bill is survived by his wife of 68 years, Joyce; children, MaryKay (George) Johnson, Patrick Dutcher, Douglas Dutcher, and Nancy (David) Spitzley; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister Ellen Bigford; and brother-in-law, Tom Balderson. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association or the Father Flohe Foundation in memory of Bill.

Sister Marciana Hennig, CSJ, of Nazareth, MI, passed away on December 4, 2016. Sister Marciana was born on October 7, 1914 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Albert and Anastasia (Ziemann) Hennig. She was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1929. Sister was preceded in death by her sister, Sister Maurice Hennig, CSJ. Surviving are several nieces and nephews, and the Congregation of Sister of St. Joseph. Memorials may be made to the Sister of St. Joseph, PO Box 29, Nazareth, MI, 49074.

Richard T. Pline, age 81, passed away December 9, 2016. He was born on September 14, 1935, the son of Ferdinand and Marian (Thomas) Pline. Richard was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. He retired from General Motors after 30 years. He enjoyed welding, hunting, and fishing in his free time. Richard is preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael Pline; brother, Donald Pline; and sister, Elizabeth Weese. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, JoAnn (Smith) Pline; son, Jeffrey Pline; daughter, Kathy Pline; two grandchildren; siblings, Judy (Lyle) Braley and Robert (Linda) Pline; and daughter-in-law, Robin (Phil Martin) Pline.

Joan Carol Barley, age 71, passed away December 10, 2016, in Lowell, MI. She was born January 6, 1945, to A.C. and Betty (Gregg) Barley. Joan was intelligent, thoughtful, and curious with a wonderful sense of humor and vivid imagination. She was a storyteller and a good listener and was a great friend to many. She was kind and funny; her friends remember her laugh. She loved to read, particularly poetry, and loved music, especially country and opera. She enjoyed gardening and swimming in Lake Michigan, but her favorite place was on the golf course. Having played since she was a child, she was a near scratch golfer. She loved the game and played every chance she got. She had a beautiful, effortless golf swing that mirrored her personality and outlook on life. Joan found her calling later in life, earning a Master's in Social Work from GVSU after attending Parsons College in Iowa. For many years she worked with families and especially enjoyed helping young children overcome trauma. Previously she owned two successful restaurants and was an Investment Advisor. Joan is preceded in death by her parents, A.C. and Betty Barley; sister, Betsy Barley; and one grandson. She is survived by a son, Richard "Chip" Beasley and his wife Ashbey of Chicago, IL; daughter, Kerry Beasley of New York, NY; sister, Gail B. and her husband John M. Nowak of Grand Rapids, MI; sister, Mary Lou Martin of Beulah, MI; brother Lawrence and his wife Mary Sue Barley of Portland, MI; one grandson; and many nieces and nephews.

Rose Marie Sochor, 86, of Gowen, passed away Saturday, January 14, 2017, at her home. Mrs. Sochor was born July 23, 1930, in Hilliards, MI, the daughter of Joseph and Celia (Bala) Tichvon. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who enjoyed knitting for her family and others. All of her family have sweaters, afghans or hats she made. She also prepared many afghans for the future generations. Surviving are her husband of 67 years, Charles "Chuck"; children, Kathy (Ron) Cooper, Dennis Sochor, Gary (Deb) Sochor, Terrence Sochor (special friend Deb Vincent), Melanie Wheeler Perez,

Blaine (Jennifer) Sochor, Suzanne Peiffer, Jon Sochor, and Lisa Fisher; 36 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; brother, Richard (Joyce) Tichvon; and sister-in-law, Shirley Tichvon. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Steven Sochor; grandson, Jeremy Cooper; brothers, Robert (Barbara) Tichvon and Ronald Tichvon. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, Humane Society of Kent County, or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Chris Goodman, Jr., age 52, passed away on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. He was born on August 24, 1964, the son of Christie, Sr. and Patricia (Smith) Goodman. Chris enjoyed riding his ATV, hunting, and fishing. He also enjoyed going to casinos, playing cards, going to Bob Evans, watching the Tigers, Lions, and University of Michigan football, and NASCAR (especially Dale Jr.). He was preceded in death by his father, Christie. Surviving are his mother, Patricia; son, Ryan; siblings Roxanne (Daryl Berger) Johnson, Suzanne (Ward Irish) Reed, Maryanne (Mike Farmer) Goodman, and David (Beth) Goodman; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends at Wildwood where he lived for several years. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Network, P.O. Box 890, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546, in memory of Chris.

If you have announcements
for What's Happening
(births, weddings,
engagements, anniversaries,
graduations, etc.)
send them to *The Shamrock*.
See page 19 for email and
address information.

Irene H. Schafer, age 83, passed away February 15, 2017. She was born July 20, 1933, to George and Mary (Nurenberg) Martin. Irene was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church where she worked for the parish in the 1970s. She was an avid gardener and loved flowers. Irene was a wonderful cook and enjoyed sewing when her children were young. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Reynold Martin. Irene is survived by her cherished husband of 63 years, Michael; children, Larry (Mary Ann) Schafer, Sue (Steve) Heiden, and Michelle Schafer; two grandchildren; siblings, Hilary (Donna) Martin, Bernie (Robert) Pung, and Rita (Jerry) Schrauben; sister-in-law, Mary Martin; and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend a special "thank

you" to the Portland Burger King Family for the kindness they have shown to our parents over the years.

Phillip A. May, age 52, passed away on Saturday, February 18, 2017. Phil was born on March 9, 1964, in Lansing, the son of Leon and Jeri (Utterback) May. Phil was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a volunteer for the faith formation classes. He was an employee of the U.S. Postal service for 38 years, mostly as a rural carrier. Phil was a member of the Fourth Degree Fr. Godez Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, serving as a Fourth Degree Marshall. He was the Past Grand Knight of the Portland Council #2168 and served as a District Deputy and Treasurer. He was involved with Big Brother/Big Sister program and the Portland youth baseball program, serving as a past president. Phil served on the Danby Township Board of Review and also enjoyed woodworking, making items such as toy trains and furniture. He was preceded in death by sisters-in-law, Carol Schrauben and Dorothy May. Surviving are his loving wife of 14 years, Heidi; children, Erin, William, and Amanda; parents, Leon and Jeri; siblings, Ron May, LeAnn (Dan) Main, Steven May, and Luke (Holly) May; father and mother in-law, Kendall and Barbara Sandborn; in-laws, Chris (Kaye) Sandborn, Denise (Mike) Ouendag, Joel (Robyn) Sandborn, and Scott Sandborn; brother-in-law, Dave Schrauben; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to Phil's children. A college fund is being established.

Ruth Jean (August) Huhn, age 94, of Portland, Michigan, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2017, surrounded by her loving family during her last days. Ruth was born on November 22, 1922, in Lake Odessa, Michigan. She was the daughter of Ernest and Reva (Cross) August. Ruth was a remarkable woman, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and whose spirit will remain in all the lives she has touched through the years. She had one of the kindest hearts ever, always thinking of someone else first. Mom had a dry sense of humor that we are sure helped her get through some difficult days. She was constantly picking on people, just ask her aides at Hazel Findlay, who cared for her these last few years. She loved to read, write and receive letters the old-fashioned way with pen and paper in hand. She also enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers (or maybe it was just Justin Verlander). She enjoyed cooking, baking, and canning various items. She also enjoyed sitting in her chair and crocheting or darning socks to make them last a little longer. She had countless friends over the years and would enjoy getting out for breakfast a couple of times a week. Mom especially loved her grandchildren and great-

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Meet the Counselor

Valerie Hynes-McCaul became the School Counselor at St. Patrick School in the fall of 2015. We wanted to do an article on her at that time, but she was so busy getting her new job up and running that we decided to wait a year and let her become more acclimated to our school and school family. She is still very busy, squeezing more into her school hours than should be humanly possible. She agreed to write an article herself, letting you know why she feels so happy and so privileged to be working at SPS.

Hi everyone. I am your school counselor. It is a privilege to work at St. Patrick School, and I am grateful that God clearly placed me in this position for such a time as this!

My path to St. Pat's started when I received a call from a St. Pat's parent who knew about the counselor opening and suggested that I talk with Randy Hodge about this great little Christian school in Portland. I knew that God wanted to use me in a Christian school environment, and after speaking with Randy, I was so excited at the thought of being able to pray with children and families at work. I accepted the position and joined the SPS team.



I grew up in Sunfield and graduated from Lakewood High School many moons ago. I have a teaching degree and a counseling psychology degree from MSU (please don't hold that against me blue and gold fans!!). I have worked

as a teacher, special education teacher, counselor, principal, educational director, florist, homeschool mom, and an artist/designer for MSU. I grew up in a home where church was the norm. My parents and grandparents prayed for us and told stories from the Bible to us as children. I honestly don't remember life before knowing Jesus!

As for my work here at SPS, there are some things that are very important to me as your school counselor. Communication, problem solving, counseling lessons, college preparation services, removing social and academic barriers, and student success are all very important to me. Helping your child succeed is my goal!!

I have worked in the public schools for quite a few years. There are some truly amazing, dedicated teachers working in the public school trenches, people I admire and respect. Our school environment at SPS is different. I would like to share my heart with you and encourage you that this school offers some benefits that are unique and make an eternal difference. Your children are safe here, they are prayed over here, they learn the significance and traditions of their faith, they are cared for by a staff who are here to serve and who are like minded in their faith in God. It matters. It truly does. It matters now and in eternity. I appreciate the sacrifices you make to provide your children with a Christian education. I appreciate the trust you have in us as we help you mold your children into future leaders, servants, priests, and great citizens who shine in this sometimes dark world.

Partnering together with you.

Valerie Hynes-McCaul

Big Rocks/Little Rocks

by Randy Hodge, Secondary Principal

One of the things we enjoy at St. Patrick School is having all of our Preschool-12 students under one roof. This simple arrangement helps foster the family atmosphere that is so important to us. Our popular and successful Big Rocks/Little Rocks program would not be possible if our students were housed in different buildings.

Big Rocks/Little Rocks began many years ago and initially was a small program that involved only a few students. Over time, we saw the positive results of the program and looked for ways to extend it to all of the students. By merging Big Rocks/Little Rocks with our Church Buddies program, we came up with a top-notch program that contributes positively to our entire school family.

How does it work? When a student enters St. Patrick School as a DK through 5th grade student, (s)he becomes

a Little Rock and is assigned a Big Rock student in the corresponding 6th through 12th grade to be his/her special friend and mentor. When new middle and high school students enter, they are assigned a Little Rock and you can see how this mentoring can go both ways! Most of the time, the Big Rocks and Little Rocks remain a team until the younger student reaches the 6th grade.



The older students take on the responsibilities of assisting their elementary peers throughout the school year. This reminds them regularly that they are role models with little eyes watching them.

The younger students understand they are valued because they have an older student looking out for them, who is there to help them with special projects or just to say hello. They take pride in watching their own Big Rocks participate in extracurricular activities throughout the school year. Little Rocks usually can't wait to grow up and be old enough to have their own Little Rock.



Big Rocks and Little Rocks compete in a game of chess while others look on.

Each week before school Mass, the older students go to elementary classrooms and meet up with their Little Rocks. They make sure their elementary peers have filled out a slip of paper listing any good deeds from the week or offering prayer intentions to participate in Offertory. The Big Rocks escort their Little Rocks to Mass and sit with them, modeling good behavior and helping them become active participants in the Mass.

At least once each month the teams go back to the classrooms after Mass to work on a service project. They

also participate together in fun events during Spirit Week, Homecoming, and Catholic Schools Week.

Every time I see the students interact, from scheduled activities to impromptu high-fives in the hallway, I am reminded of what a terrific program this is. Each year the 5th grade students purchase and share a cake with their graduating Big Rocks during the seniors' last week of school and will often present them with graduation gifts as well.

Essentially, we have found the sky is the limit for providing opportunities for our older and younger students to work together learning, praying and in service to others. It is very satisfying to watch them come together and grow in many ways throughout each school year.

BIG ROCKS/LITTLE ROCKS TEAM=FRIENDS FOREVER!

Mr. Hodge received this letter from parent, Heather Scheurer, last fall.

I want to share something I think is pretty special about the Big Rocks/Little Rocks program.

When our daughter, Emma, was in kindergarten Mrs. Russman chose Amy Wieber to be Emma's Big Rock. Not only did they go to school Mass together on Thursdays and work on special projects together during school throughout the years, they formed a very special friendship. Even after Amy graduated they have stayed in contact with each other by talking to each other on the phone, text, and Snapchat. They get together for special occasions, like holidays or when Emma needs help getting ready for a school dance. They also get together just to hang out when Amy is home from school.



Amy Wieber and Emma Scheurer have been a team since Emma was in Kindergarten.

Now Emma is starting to get ready for Confirmation and guess who she wants to ask to be her sponsor. Amy!! She is hoping to ask her this weekend when Amy is home for Thanksgiving. This just warms my heart!!! Just wanted to thank you for this journey you started for Emma in kindergarten. This is one special relationship that will last a very long time.

Heather Scheurer

Additional School News can be found on pages 16 and 19.

SUMMERFEST

Always the Weekend After Father's Day!

June 23-25, 2017

Bring the entire family to Summerfest for music, food, fun, and games. We'll have Kids Karnival games, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a youth baseball tournament, a volleyball tournament, a beer & wine tent, and musicians from Traverse City, Michigan, and Nashville, Tennessee! There's something for every age group. The weekend is open to everyone! Alumni, come on home and spend the weekend with your friends and classmates!

Friday/Saturday Night Entertainment is Better Than Ever!



New this year is a first time ever Friday night concert featuring **The Journey Tribute Band**, courtesy of Meridian Entertainment. This band is well-known in the tri-state area and has performed at casinos around the state. The opening act for their concert will be **EI Kabong**. Tickets are \$10 each and are available online:

www.stpatsummerfest.com

- Doors open at 5:00. Music begins at 6:15. **Journey Tribute Band** takes the stage at 9:30.

- Food trucks will be serving up delicious fare. Beer, craft beer, and wine will be available, as well.

- Saturday night, our own **Shelby Ann-Marie** and the **Royal Ramblers** will be on stage, beginning at 5:00. Shelby is back in town from Nashville, Tennessee, where she is making her mark in the music industry, opening for acts including Chase Rice, Craig Morgan, The Band Perry, Trace Adkins, Parmalee, and Steve Azar.

- At 7:30, we are excited to welcome **Skank!** They'll entertain us with **4 Decades of Skanky Rock n' Roll!**

- There's a \$5 cover charge on Saturday night. Our own Summerfest Food Court will be open. Beer, craft beer, and wine available, too.

Saturday Tournaments For Players and Spectators

- **3-on-3 Basketball** (ages 8-13)
- **Youth Baseball** (9U thru 13U)
- **Volleyball** (ages 16+)
- **Euchre** (no age limits)
- **DJ Trivia**

Plus, **Kids Karnival** will be back to entertain the kids at economical prices! Saturday wristbands will be available. And Summerfest wouldn't be Summerfest without the delicious homemade food! Come and enjoy a hot pork or hot beef sandwich, homemade french fries, elephant ears, and more!

Sunday: Outdoor Mass, Chicken Dinner, Car Show, and More Music!

The weekend ends with our famous **Outdoor Mass** in Alton Park and all-you-can-eat **Chicken/Swiss Steak Dinner!** **Three Husbands on the Loose** will be on stage, as well as the **Hubbardston Irish Dancers**. **Classic cars** will be on display on Union Street too.

Schedules, entry forms, and complete information available at www.stpatsummerfest.com

There's a lot going on June 23-25, 2017! Join the fun!



Student's Photo Captures Remarkable Image

Every year, as part of St. Patrick School homecoming activities, the students build a huge bonfire on Father Flohe Field. The fire burns hot and fast, and the glow can be seen from miles away.

On September 23, 2016, following the football game students and families gathered on Father Flohe Field to enjoy the tradition!. While attending this event, sixth-grader Grady Heckman snapped a picture of the bonfire.

"I was there mainly because I wanted to hang out with my friends," said Grady. "I took the picture because I simply thought it would be cool to take a picture of the bonfire. Later, when I looked at the picture for the first time, I couldn't believe what I saw. It looked like an angel praying!"

A couple of weeks later, Grady's father, Pat Heckman, met a man, Brent Heyer, who had stopped by St. Patrick Parish Office. During their conversation, Pat showed Brent the picture that Grady had taken. Brent asked permission to post the picture on his website (www.dailyapostle.org). Three days later, the photo was on the website, and beside it was another photo of Saint Padre Pio. The resemblance between the two photos was remarkable. Even more remarkable were the words that appeared with the photos. They explained something that Pat and Grady had totally overlooked. The feast day of St. Padre Pio is September 23.

An event from last summer made the photos even more exciting. In June 2016, the chalice of St. Padre Pio was in Portland for a few hours. Father Larry actually used the chalice when he said Mass, and the Heckmans had held it in their hands.



The top photo was taken by Grady Heckman at the homecoming bonfire on September 23. The bottom photo is St. Padre Pio, a friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic, now venerated as a saint of the Catholic Church. Padre Pio became famous for exhibiting stigmata for most of his life, thereby generating much interest and controversy. He was both beatified (1999) and canonized (2002) by Pope John Paul II.

The Shamrock Auction



Presents

Prom Night 2017

Saturday, April 22
KC Hall-690 Maynard Road



Doors open 5:45 pm
Dinner begins 6:00 pm
Live auction starts 7:30 pm



**\$20 Admission includes
dinner, drinks, and bid paddle**

Auctions-Raffles-Fun for all!
Prizes awarded for best-dressed prom couple!



stpatshamrockauction17
www.freewebs.com/spsauction



KING'S COLUMN

by Father Larry King

Increasing Vocations in Our Parish

The current issue of *FAITH Grand Rapids* has a wonderful story about two seminarians from St. Patrick Parish. Michael Steffes, Jr. and Jonathan Johnson were classmates and graduates of St. Patrick High School in 2008. Both are wonderful and gifted men. (You can find the link to the magazine in the article on page one.)

In addition, two other recent graduates of St. Patrick High School heard the Lord's call and responded with an enthusiastic "YES!" They are Fr. Ryan Riley, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lansing last year, and Wendy Rutherford (Sr. Mary Evangeline), who entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in September of 2015.

Several other students here at St. Patrick have expressed to me an interest in exploring the possibility of priesthood or religious life. At least a couple of them are very seriously discerning a vocation to the ordained priesthood.

Our young people need positive role models. They need to understand that being a priest is filled with joy and fun.

Two years ago, we were privileged to have a young seminarian, Dan Schumaker, do a six-month internship here at our parish. It was a wonderful experience for everyone. Dan's positive attitude, his example, and his enthusiasm gave new energy to young people discerning the Lord's call in their life.

Our Permanent Deacon, Don Sobolewski, has also had a

huge and positive impact on the young people of St. Patrick Parish, especially through the Altar Server program which he directs. The altar servers, both male and female, really respond to him, and learn so much about their Catholic faith from him.

I do my best to be a positive role model for the young, as well. By interacting with them on the playground, by being a bit goofy at times, I hope to show them that priests are human and that we do have fun. I believe this helps make the possibility of a vocation more real for them.

Sometimes people ask me what they can do to encourage vocations. I always tell them that first and foremost they need to pray. Pray for vocations, and pray also for all young people to be open to letting God lead them—wherever that might be. We have a strong prayer group at St. Patrick Parish and praying for vocations is one of their areas of focus.

I also encourage parents and grandparents to talk to their children and grandchildren about being open to the Lord's call and to speak positively regarding the vocation

to service in the church. I tell these parents, grandparents, and other parishioners to model a strong faith to the youth; to actively participate at Mass; and to be involved in some ministry in the church. When the young people see that their parents take their own faith seriously and put it into practice, it enables them to look more deeply at their own lives and where the Lord is calling them.

We're doing a lot of things right here at St. Patrick. With prayer and example abounding in our parish, the Lord can and will do marvelous things!



Sixteen new altar servers completed their training in February and began serving Mass on March 4. We now have 96 active altar servers, one more than last year at this time. Our parish should rejoice in this outpouring of service at God's altar.

Diocesan Diaconate Program Resumed

Last June, Bishop Walkowiak announced that he was resuming the Permanent Diaconate Program in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This program is open to all men (married or single), age 30 or older who are active, practicing Catholics, in good standing with the church.

Men who are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming permanent deacons can contact Father Mark Przybysz at fathermark@saparish.com.



2016 Education Bell Award

by Zach Wight, President of the Father Flohe Foundation

On October 3, 2016, the 25th Annual Education Bell Award was presented to Doug Schneider.

Doug graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1974 and is a lifelong member of St. Patrick Parish. He is a strong supporter of the school, the parish, and particularly the Athletic Association. He has served as the Athletic Association president, chaired the Fall Festival for many years, and has been involved with countless other fundraising efforts.



2016 Education Bell Award winner, Doug Schneider, and his family

Doug is also very involved in all aspects of his family and leads by example. He and his wife Deb, have three children, Dana, Kyle, and Ben, who are also successful examples of St. Patrick alumni.

Doug is a terrific role model for others with his continued support of St. Patrick Parish and School and the surrounding communities. He used his integrity, values, and strong work ethic to build a vital retail business in Portland and continues to use his time, talent, and treasures for the betterment of the Parish and surrounding community.

Congratulations, Doug!

Nominees Needed

The *Education Bell Award* is awarded annually to an alumnus of St. Patrick School who in their life has exemplified the lofty goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick can achieve. The recipient of the Bell award uses their God-given time, talent and treasure to demonstrate the ideals taught at St. Patrick and serve as a model on how to lead their lives and be of service to others.

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 July 30, 2017.

The winner will be announced in the fall issue of *The Shamrock*. The award will be presented during Catholic Schools week on January 28, 2018. Nomination forms are also available on the Father Flohe Foundation page of the school website.

Teacher Grants Announced

The Father Flohe Foundation is excited to announce a new teacher grant program which will be piloted in the 2017-2018 school year. Since 1989, the Foundation has striven to ensure the stability of St. Patrick's as a DK - 12 school for future generations. This has been primarily achieved through direct contributions to the school to offset the cost of tuition borne by the families attending St. Patrick School.

Because we recognize that our dedicated teachers are one of our most valuable resources, we have budgeted \$5,000 for the upcoming school year to provide grants for our teachers. Grants will be made available to all current St. Patrick's teachers to fund new classroom lesson plans, student experiences, or classroom supplies. Interested teachers should submit their grant requests to the Foundation for consideration. Grant recipients will be announced in future newsletters.

HOW THE FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION BENEFITS THE SCHOOL AND THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY:

- Makes direct contributions to the school to offset the cost of tuition (\$1,380,605 since 1989)
- Funds three scholarships for seniors graduating from St. Patrick's
- Funds the 50-year class reunion
- Funds the publication of *The Shamrock* newsletter
- Funds the new teacher grant program

Alumni News

Reunions & more!

Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1961* will hold their annual class reunion on Friday, September 15 at noon at the Wagon Wheel American Grill.

Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1991* held their 25-year reunion on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at Olivera's Restaurant in Ionia.



The Class of 1961 gathered at the Wagon Wheel on Friday, October 28, 2016, to celebrate their 55-year reunion.



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 this fall.

The date will be Saturday, September 9, 2017. The Father Flohe Foundation will contact you soon asking you to send information for a class reunion book.

You will also receive an invitation and complete information about the reunion. 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!

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.

*Sister Diane Densmore (1967)
will celebrate her 50th Anniversary
in the Congregation of St. Joseph
in July, 2017.*

*On Sunday, August 27,
the 11:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church
will be offered in her honor.*

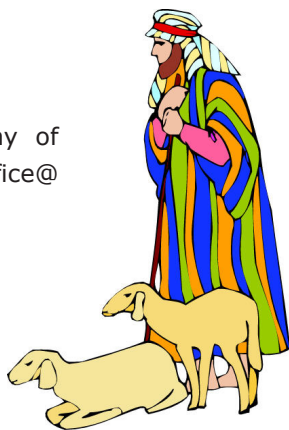
*An Open House will be held in the Parish Hall
following Mass. Family, friends, and classmates are
invited to attend.*

www.facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends-451159388427010/

LOST SHEEP

If you have current address information on any of these Lost Sheep, please contact Amy Smith (parishoffice@portlandstpats.com) 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875. (517) 647-6505 ext. 410.

1956 Duane Irrer	1979 John Fedewa
1957 Patricial Hilligan Immonen	1980 Angie Young
1961 John D Pung	1980-Patrick Ellis
1963-Kathleen Moriarity	1981 Mike Binder
1966 Dan Lehman	1982 Mike Sines
1966 Tony Blundy	1985 Scott Osmar
1968 Carolyn Rowe Embree	1987-Dan Kissane
1973 Lillian Castranova	1991 Elaine Maurer
1973 Terry Baker	1994 Jeremy Pohl
1975 Susan Thelen	1995 Andy Carr
1977-Brian Jenkins	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa



2000 Jeffrey Pung
2001 Segrid Johnson
2004 Don Volman
2005 Haley Hill Emmons

Class of 1966 Makes Generous Donation

Thank you to the Class of 1966, who recently made a large and generous donation, totaling nearly \$11,000, to St. Patrick School and the Father Flohe Foundation.

The Father Flohe Foundation received a donation of \$5,770, which will be added to the foundation fund balance. Earnings from the fund are used to offset tuition costs for all families in the school.

The school received \$5,366 to be used toward technology. The school's technology committee is currently putting together a technology plan, with the hopes of having a 1:1 Chromebook program soon.

From the administrators, staff, students, and families at St. Patrick School: Thank You, Class of 1966!

Coach Al Achieves 600th Win!



Only four girls basketball coaches in the state of Michigan have won 600 or more games, and Al Schrauben is one of them. He reached the milestone in January.

Al has many career accomplishments, recognitions, and awards, but he remains the same humble man, as devoted to St. Patrick School as he was when he started coaching more than 30 years ago. Those who knew him before 1985 are probably silently agreeing with Al that he's definitely more humble now than he was as a youngster!

Al's unbelievable accomplishments can be summed up in one word: TEAMWORK.

This word is the epitome of what sets his teams apart from others, and the evidence is in the statistics.

If you look at the individual records for girls basketball on the MHSAA website, you won't find any state-recognized high scorers or achievers from the Al

Schrauben franchise. His wins aren't a result of standout players; they are a result of a cohesive machine.

Chloe Cross, a junior on this year's varsity team said, "It's more of a family when you're on his team." Cross also commented on what makes Schrauben successful: "When there's a problem, he knows how to solve it. And he's constantly keeping the team up by making us laugh."

Longtime Al Schrauben fans love to compare his coaching techniques to those of rival coaches. Certainly, Al could have patented the glare from the bench that says, "I have a dozen reasons in my head right now for why

I'm going to make you run tomorrow." But he actually does most of his coaching before the games or during time-outs. While his contemporaries are nervously pacing the sidelines offering advice to their players, Al is usually able to relax and appreciate the hard work he and his girls executed in previous practices.

A lifetime of persistence and a devotion to St. Pat's make Al Schrauben an important member of the St. Patrick School family. We are thrilled he's on our team.



Coach Al Schrauben hoists the state-runner-up trophy over his head in 1988, following his first trip to the state finals.

Alum Finds Success as Inventor

Rick Beard graduated from St. Pat's in 1985. This article, by Julie Richie, originally appeared in December 2016 in PPAI Publications, an online news source. It has been edited to fit the space available.

It was 1985. Rick Beard, founder of Hat Trick Openers, had just graduated from St. Patrick High School in rural Portland, Michigan, and like many of the men in the town, he had gone to work in a local steel factory.

"I was working the midnight shift," Beard says. "There was bellowing, black smoke, and rodents running around. One day I looked around at all these guys who had been there for years and thought, 'I gotta get out of here. I joined the Navy and two weeks later I was in boot camp.'"

Beard, whose grandfather had been in the Navy during World War II and then in the Merchant Marines, grew up with a fascination for sailing, lobstermen, and lobster boats, so when the time came to choose where he would be stationed, he chose a ship that was being worked on in Portland, Maine. "It was the first ship to be outfitted with the Tomahawk missile," he says.

From 1985 to 1989, Beard circled the world.

Though the Navy wanted him to stay when his commitment was up in 1989, Beard—who was married to his wife, Joan, and had a young son, Rory—decided he wanted the opportunity to be a hands-on dad, so the family settled in Portland, Maine. "I wanted to be the Little League coach and all that kind of stuff," he says. Their daughter Chelsey was born shortly after he left the Navy. The kids grew up playing multiple sports, especially hockey, and Beard

became a hockey dad. "I used to build the hockey rink in the back yard and all the neighborhood kids would come over."

One day his teenage son came home from traveling with his junior hockey team with a pair of flip-flops that had a bottle opener built into the bottom of them. "He was like, 'Dad, check these out, they are so cool but don't tell mom because they cost \$45!'"

Beard was skeptical of the bottle opener being on the sole of the flip-



Rick Beard from Portland, Maine, shows off a few of the dozens of inventions that he sells through his company, Hat Trick Openers.

flop, given the potential for stepping in something unpleasant and then transferring it to the top of your bottle. It got him thinking about another, more hygienic way to have a bottle opener as part of a product.

"I came up with the original Hat Trick bottle opener, which attaches to the strap on the back of a baseball cap. It has a magnet that automatically sticks to the bottle cap when in use. It keeps the bottle cap from falling to the ground and makes people think twice about littering. It also had a can tab opener on the back," says Beard. At the time Beard was a manager at the post office, so inventions were just a part-time gig.

"Then I just started to add products. I took that opener and said, why not add it to a can and bottle cooler? And why not add it to a sunglass strap?" Ideas kept coming to him, especially when he took up playing golf. That's when he saw a need and created his 6-in-1 Divot Tool, which features a bottle opener, can opener, cigar holder, divot tool, club rest, and ball marker. He looked for two and a half years all over New England for a manufacturer, but the tooling costs and minimums were prohibitive. He started manufacturing it in China but wasn't happy with the quality and he really wanted to make his product in the U.S. "It's not like I'm this big company and I have people over on the ground in China," he says.

Beard persisted in looking for a U.S. manufacturer and finally he found the right facility to produce the product at a reasonable cost. "All of my golf accessories, which is what I'm focusing on now, are made in the USA," he says. "I can control inventory so much better. I know what I'm getting because I visit these places every few weeks. They know my expectations. It's worked out extremely well," he says.

"I get so many positive responses and feedback about the fact that my product is made in the U.S.," he adds. "Between Canada and the U.S., there are about 425,000 golf tournaments per year. Almost every company, it seems, has a golf outing. They give out goodie bags at every golf tournament. I get a lot of repeat orders from distributors. They initially start out wanting them for a golf tournament and they end up loving them so much that they get them for another outing, or for a

(continued on page 17)

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

Jennifer Anderson
 Mary Anderson
 Anonymous Donor
 Larry Barley
 Judith Baxter
 Donald (Tex) & Rosie Beard
 Jeff & Angie Beckhold
 Bruce & Noel Bennett
 Gert Bennett
 Tony Bennett
 Gary Blundy
 Gary & Patty Bogard
 Dale & Linda Bower
 Richard Bozung
 Chad & Jennifer Brown
 Dick & Mary Lue Brown
 Gary & Janet Brown
 Michael Brown
 Tom & Cindy Brown
 Harv & Diana Burgoyne
 Jeffrey & Samantha Campbell
 Jason & Jennifer Chamberlain
 Deward & Roni Christmas
 Fr. Daniel Cook
 Michael & Gail Coyne
 Calvin & Jeanine Cross
 Joyce Curns
 Phil Decke
 Leon & Barb Densmore
 Sean Eddy
 Craig & Becca Fedewa
 Gary & Janet Fedewa
 Jim & Ann Fedewa
 Lisa Fedewa

Patricia Fedewa
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 Larry Feldpausch
 Gladys Fisher
 David Fox
 Mike & Sue Fox
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 Tom Geller
 Sr. Bernita Gensterblum
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 Scott & Keelie Honsowitz
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 Marc Huhn
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 Tyler & Kaitlyn Kramer
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 Amy Lajoy
 Kyle Lay
 Brayton Lehman
 Ellesse Lehman
 Genevieve Lehman
 Michael & Lisa Lehman
 Craig & Lisa Lehnert
 Andy Leik
 Charles Leik

Edward Leik
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 Phil & Heidi May
 Jacquelyn McCracken
 Marc & Lynn Nichols
 Dick & Jane Pohl
 Barb Pung-Trierweiler
 Fritz & Anne Russman
 Joe & Peggy Russman
 Dan & Jane Schafer
 Allison Schlosser
 Don & Sharon Schneider
 Adam Schrauben
 Al & Karla Schrauben
 Bill Schrauben
 Luke & Melissa Schrauben
 Marie Schrauben
 Paul Schrauben
 Sharon Seidel
 Bernice Sibal
 Dave & Marlene Simon
 Jacob & Jessica Simon
 Janice Simon
 Mike Simon
 Bruce Smith
 Joan Smith-Milley
 Jim & Doreen Spohn

Gladys Stiffler
 Jim & Germaine Thelen
 John & Christina Thelen
 Terry & Carol Thelen
 Patrick Tichvon
 Ronald Trierweiler
 Robert & Sue VanLente
 Kathy Verska
 Jill Werner
 Robert & Jessica White
 Tom Wieber
 Hannah Wight
 Zachary & Julie Wight
 Jim & Carol Wilcox
 Doug Willemin
 Michael & Janice Wolfston
 Joyce Wooden

(Donations received as of February 28, 2017.)



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like to make a donation to the:

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.

Thank you for your generosity!

_____ Check payable to St. Patrick School

_____ Credit card number:

Exp. date: _____ V-Code: _____

Signature: _____

Payments can also be made online using our secure Online Giving option. Go to 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, ME 48875.

MAIL CALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Our warmest appreciation for The Shamrock newsletter. Great job!

Father Van Lente---Thanks for serving God in an extraordinary way.

I'm still around, though with some health problems the last eight months. Pray for us.

There are a lot of Saints in Portland. I pray the daily rosary for all of you.

Go Shamrocks!
Dick Dornbos

I finished up my parish internship this past summer where I spent five months at Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Rockford, MI. I really enjoyed my time at the parish and I learned a lot. I am now in Third Theology which basically means I am close to the finish. My Diaconate Ordination is going to be on May 9 and all of you are welcome to attend. Then one more year until my Priesthood Ordination in June 2018.

My classmates and I are going to be in the Holy Land from January 13-March 16. I am looking forward to this trip as we will be able to walk in the steps of Christ. We will have a blog if any of you are interested in seeing where we go. Each member of the class will write two times and it will include pictures: <http://2017mundeleinpilgrimage.blogspot.com>.

Thank you for all your prayers and the support that you have shown over the years. Know of my prayers for you, especially in the Holy Land. I would not be where I am today without St. Patrick's Parish!

Mike Steffes
USML/Mundelein Seminary
1000 East Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

I hope the Christmas season was blessed and merry for all. It was great to be back in Portland for two weeks to spend time with family and friends, and of course seeing so many of you at parish functions and Mass.

I am starting my second semester of 1st Theology (1 of 4). Meaning I have completed philosophy and have moved into theological studies. This past summer I attended the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska, on the campus of Creighton University. It was truly impactful on my life and my journey towards the priesthood. It taught me what priestly identity looks like and where my gifts fit into it. This past semester I spent more of my time on weekends serving the poor in the Chicago area, by bringing breakfast, toiletries, and clothing to the homeless on the streets downtown, as well as helping with the Fransiscan Sisters of the Eucharist monthly food and clothing drive. This semester I am blessed to have the opportunity to go for the first time to the March for Life in Washington DC.

I have been truly blessed in my time at seminary and I appreciate all of your prayers. Be assured of my prayers for all of you and the St. Patrick community. God Bless!

Jonathan Johnson
USML/Mundelein Seminary
1000 East Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Making Our Mission Effective

by Jennifer Davlin, School Board Member

St. Patrick School Board has a committee whose purpose is to ensure that we maintain and enhance our identity as a Catholic school. Each school year the Mission Effectiveness Committee puts together some special events to fulfill that purpose.

This year, during Advent, St. Patrick School helped with the Community Fund Shoebox Project. It was a great way to prepare for the Christmas season, by putting others first. Through our Big Rocks/Little Rocks mentor program, we had teams of four fill shoeboxes with things that middle-school-aged children might need—along with a couple of fun things they would enjoy. Our goal was to fill 80 shoeboxes.

We were thrilled by the generous response of our students and their families, and ended up filling 150 shoeboxes—almost double our goal! To finalize the project, the shoeboxes were brought to the gym and the whole school gathered for a blessing of the boxes by Father Larry. What a wonderful way to wrap up the Advent season and look forward to Christmas!

The Mission Effectiveness Committee sponsors other efforts, as well. Last year we coordinated a day of Eucharistic Adoration.

At all times during that school day, the chapel was full of students and teachers praying and sitting with the Sacred Host.

We also invited the Trinitarian Sisters from Lowell to visit the school and lead a school-wide Holy Hour. It was a beautiful experience for our students and an opportunity for them to learn more about religious life.



The student body gathered in the gym in December while Father Larry blessed 150 boxes that had been filled as part of the Shoebox Project sponsored by the Mission Effectiveness team.

If you have an idea or suggestion that could enhance our Catholic identity at St. Patrick, please contact the school board or any member of the Mission Effectiveness Committee: Brandi Bengel, Diane Simon, Erin Martin, or Jennifer Davlin.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

She attributes her successes to her parents, who always pushed her to do her best, and to teacher Mrs. Kaye Sandborn, who she says has been a great inspiration.

Mrs. Sandborn, who also serves as the advisor to the Student Council, had this to say about Abi: "Abrielle is a fun to be around, she always puts a smile on my face. She has grown into an amazing individual. As Student Council Vice President, she has helped me out tremendously. There is no doubt in my mind that she can do and be anything she wants to."

Abi is the daughter of Andrew and Christine Mason. Her father is a professor at Michigan State University and her mother is a dentist in St. Johns. She also has a younger sister, Darian. The Masons are a close knit family who enjoy doing many things together. They especially love traveling outside the country as a family.

SPOTLIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

October through April. Over 80 people attend each of those parties, and John considers them all to be part of his family. If someone doesn't attend because of illness, he leads the entire group in prayer and passes around a get-well card for everyone to sign. He also helps organize bus trips to the casinos.

Though John occasionally retires from one job or another, he always maintains the relationships that he has built along the way. Through ties with his old employer, now named Homeworks-Tri County, he has procured the donation and installation of new scoreboards. He knows every graduate of St. Patrick School by name, and can quickly tell stories about

special plays that occurred in games over the past fifty years.

Though it could be argued that John never sits still, he does find time to go fishing a couple of days a week. But, once again, those relaxing fishing trips give him another way to share. Each fall, he hosts a fish fry for the Shamrock football team and all of their fans. There is never a cost to attend, he provides the entire meal free of charge. He also invites whichever opponent the Shamrock play that night to come, as well.

We are so blessed that John and Eleanor chose Portland St. Patrick as their home and extended family so many years ago. Thank you, John!

INVENTOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

trade show, or to hand out at the office to their customers and employees." His products are also in several large corporations' company stores. "It's great for me because it's repeat business," he adds.

As Beard reflects on his many careers, he says, "It's all been great. One thing leads to another. That's life."

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

monastery in Lowell, praying for our parish. The eight sisters there practice Perpetual Adoration. Currently the small building across the street from the church's east entrance is being renovated, with private donations, to become a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. This will allow the total hours of Adoration, to be increased.

But this can only happen when we as individuals are willing to make time to spend in Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist.

If you have questions or would like more info call Mike Cook at 517-242-1352.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

grandchildren and treasured their visits, smiles, and beautiful faces. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Thomas Banash (1941) and her second husband of 49 years, Edwin Huhn; son, Thomas, at age 19, and son, Douglas; great-grandchild, Jeremiah Kiter; and brother, Gerald (Arlene) Clark. Surviving are her children, Dolores Beard, Keith (Sandra) Huhn, Marilyn (John Jenkins) Selden, Mary (Roger) Miller, and daughter-in-law, Paulette, who was like another daughter to her. She had 18 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. Ruth is also survived by her brother, Richard Clark and sister-in-law, Mert of Hastings, Michigan, along with several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Father Flohe Foundation or WKAR-PBS, who gave her countless hours of entertainment.

Eric J. "E.J." Berry, age 74, loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother passed away on Friday, February 24, 2017, surrounded by his family. He was born on November 23, 1942, in Newberry, MI, the son of Jay and Fern (Terrian) Berry. He was a member of St. Patrick Church, the Resurrection Choir, and the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Fr. Godez Assembly. E.J. graduated from M.S.U. and worked for the State of Michigan - Office of Services to the Aging and then the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Michael. Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Mary; children, Eric (Carrie) Berry, Janelle (Craig Pierce) Berry, and Keith (Jennifer) Berry; five grandchildren; sister, Babs (Sharon) Berry; sisters- and brothers-in-law, Garry and Margo Wieber, Carol and Leonard Germain, Ann Wieber, Louis and Debera Wieber; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Educational Fund, Portland Food Bank, or K of C Diaper Drive in memory of E.J.





The spring issue of *The Shamrock* is packed full of inspirational stories about alumni and parishioners of St. Patrick. As Mr. Dornbos and Fr. Van Lente both said—there’s lots of good things happening here! There are 31 words hidden in the puzzle below. All of them are taken from the stories within the newsletter. Find all 31 words. Use the letters left over to spell out the answer. Good luck!

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

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, 2017. 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 _____

AUCTION
 BELL AWARD
 BIG AL
 BIG ROCKS
 BONFIRE
 CELEBRATE
 COUNSELOR

DEACON
 FAITH
 FEAST DAY
 IGNITE
 INVENTOR
 JOHNATHAN
 JOURNEY

KCS
 LITTLE ROCKS
 LOST SHEEP
 MICHAEL
 ORDAIN
 PADRE PIO
 PRIEST

RELAY
 SCHOLARSHIPS
 SHAMROCKS
 SHOEBOX
 SUMMERFEST
 TALENT
 TIME

TREASURE
 VALLIER
 VOCATIONS



The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words that related to 1966. The quote, and the answer to the puzzle was: ***If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries was Linda (Smith) Huhn, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Linda. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

Upcoming EVENTS

- Shamrock AuctionApril 22, 2017
- First Communion May 7, 2017
- Graduation.....May 21, 2017
- Summerfest June 23-25, 2017
- Class of 1967 50-Year Reunion.....Sept. 9, 2017
- Fall Festival October 8, 2017
- Fall issue of *The Shamrock*Early October

Lights! Cameras! Action!

St. Pat's Drama Club is back! Parent surveys over the past few years have noted the lack of non-athletic extracurricular activities for the students. In response, many activities have been added, including a Drama Club.

The club is directed by Mrs. Sara Pohl and Mrs. Mattie Timmer, both of whom are involved in Portland Civic Players productions. The afterschool program meets one day each week.

This spring, the co-directors led the drama students in the fast-paced production of *The Entire American Revolution (in 40 Minutes or Less)*. In two performances at St. Pat's gym on March 9 and 10, 2017, students from all grade levels played well-known historical characters. Actors included Simon White as Paul Revere, Rana Tekinel as George Washington, Letti Pohl as Ben Franklin, and Sophie Schrauben as King George III.

Based upon the reaction of the audience and the rave reviews that poured in, the Drama Club's inaugural play was a resounding success and the participants look forward to future productions.



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
- Parish website:** www.stpatrickportland.com
- School Facebook:** facebook.com/portlandstpatrick
- Alumni Facebook:** facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends-451159388427010/
- Parish Facebook:** facebook.com/StPatsPortland
- School Twitter:** @PortlandStPats
- Mr. Hodge Twitter:** @principalhodge

To download our parish app, you'll need a smartphone or tablet. Go to 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!



The Shamrock Newsletter

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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.

If you would like to join The Shamrock team, please contact any of the staff. Meetings are held twice per year.

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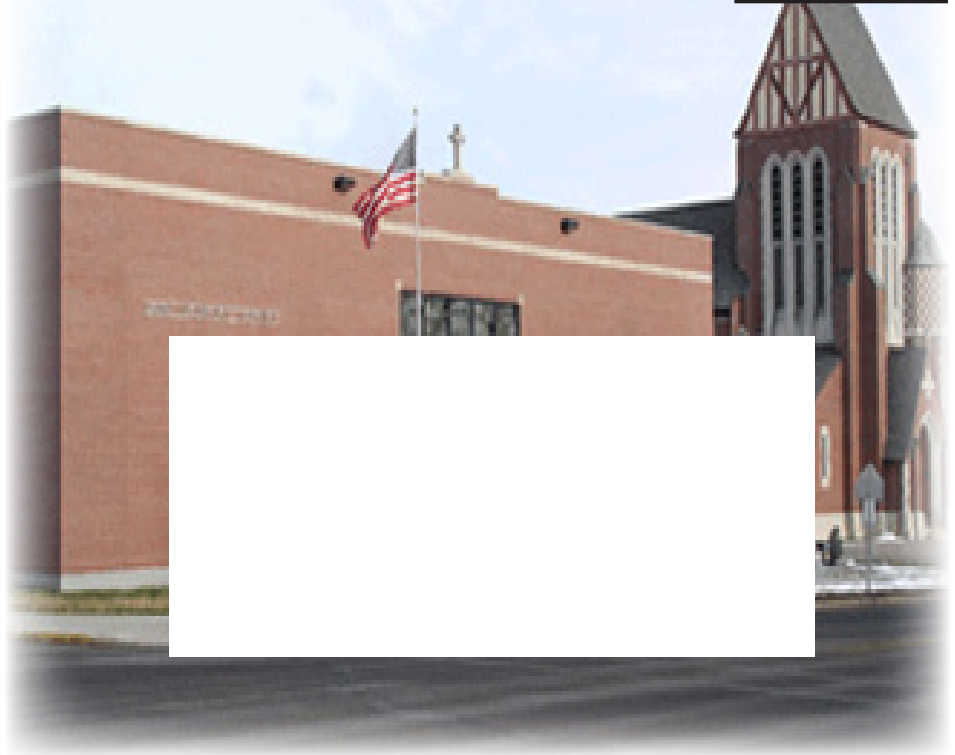
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**St. Patrick Parish School
140 Church Street
Portland, MI 48875**

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Faith-based education for all

Our students are part of a strong and loving school family. Christian values are fully integrated within the entire curriculum and all activities.

Our parents know that their children are cherished as children of God while they are being educated. There is never a doubt that their children are safe and cared for.

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 and learn to love.

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

