



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 32 No. 2 SPRING 2018

Football Team Goes to State Finals Shamrocks are State Runners-Up



The luck of the Irish ran out a little early for the Shamrock football team, as they were defeated by Crystal Falls-Forest Park 54-12 in the inaugural 8-Player Division 2 final on November 18, 2017, at the Superior Dome in Marquette, Michigan.

It had been 20 years since a Shamrock football team had advanced to the state finals. They brought home a championship trophy in 1992, as well as runner-up trophies in 1991 and 1997. All three of their previous games were played at the Silver Dome.

The 2017 team finished the season with an 11-2 record. Their only loss during the regular season was to the

Bellevue Broncos. They outscored their opponents 442-140 overall.

Despite the loss, Coach Pat Rusman had praise for his team, especially the seniors. "They're such great leaders on and off the field," he said. "That's what's going to carry over for us."

"I hope they continue all those things going into their next sports season," he said. "And, we'll build on it next year."

St. Pat's switched to 8-man football in 2012 and have made it to the semi-finals three times since then, including their first season when they finished with an 11-1 record.

A large crowd of Shamrock

supporters traveled to Marquette for the game, filling hotels in the town, and attending Mass as a group at St. Peter Cathedral before the game.

Principal Randy Hodge said, "As a Catholic School, we expect our student athletes to represent our school in a positive manner, bringing Christ to everything they do, and making us proud with their sportsmanship. Without a doubt, they have done so in what turned out to be an extremely successful follow-up to our great spring sports season. They represented our school mission statement: We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!"

Student Spotlight

Grace Maria Heins

Grace Maria Heins, the daughter of Derek and Susan Heins, is a third grade-student at St. Patrick School who has been dancing ballet since she was a preschooler. Her family says that she may be genetically predisposed to dance, since her great-grandmother was also a dancer in Spain.

Grace Maria was chosen to perform for the Capital Ballet Theatre's production of *The Nutcracker* at the Wharton Center in November. She played the parts of Ginger, Party Boy, and a townspeople. When asked why she likes to dance, Grace Maria said, "It is my passion, I just like to dance. Also, I get to make new friends."

Her favorite part of being a student at St. Patrick School is religion class. "I get to learn about Jesus Christ," she said.

Grace Maria will also perform in the Capital Ballet Theatre's spring production of *The Wizard of Oz* where she will play four roles. She has been rehearsing every weekend since January as well as every Wednesday and Friday evening. Performances will be May 4, 5, and 6 at Holt High School.



St. Patrick students extend their hands over Father Larry, offering a blessing on him as they present him with cards, letters, and gifts.

aloud during the gathering. The students and staff also presented him with going-away gifts.

Visibly touched by the outpouring of love, Father Larry said, "I'm not married. I don't have kids. You are my family."

He continued, "What a great joy in my life it was, when I returned here to St. Pat's as your pastor."

Father Larry served for three years as Associate Pastor at St. Patrick Parish from 1994-1996. He returned nine years later as the pastor. "You seniors who are getting ready to graduate---you were just tiny little kids when I came back," he said. What a marvelous and holy day that was. There's so much I'm going to miss."

To watch a video tribute scan the code above or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/77z6Wlilks4>.



Welcome Father Mike Alber

The staff and parishioners from St. Patrick Parish extend a warm welcome to Father Mike Alber, who became our new pastor on February 1, 2018. Father Mike will continue to serve as pastor of Wyoming St. John Vianney until June 30, so he will be splitting his time between the two parishes for the next few months.

A complete story about Father Mike will appear in the October issue of *The Shamrock*.

Welcome to Portland and to our parish family, Father Mike!



Goodbye, Father Larry King

On Friday, January 26, 2018, the entire student body from St. Patrick School gathered in the gymnasium to say goodbye to Father Larry King, who attained Senior Priest status on February 1. Every student in the school wrote Father Larry a goodbye card/letter; one representative from each class read their letter

In the Spotlight

In memory of Elizabeth Leone (Moyer) Wieber October 18, 1925 - April 20, 2017



Elizabeth (Eib) was one of 13 children born to Russell and Emma Moyer of Eagle. After her marriage, to Bob Wieber, she moved to Portland and became Catholic. She loved to play poker and played for years at every family get together. The last time she played was April 12, 2017, with her sister, Eleanor, her brother, Bud, and two of her children. Everyone was feeling good and they all hugged before they left. On April 16, Elizabeth went to the hospital because she was having such trouble breathing, and found out that Eleanor was also there. On April 19, the sisters were put in the same room at Sparrow Hospital. They had a talk, said they loved each other and would see each other in Heaven. Elizabeth died the next day and Eleanor died two weeks after that.

There has been one less voice rooting in the stands at St. Patrick sporting events this year. Elizabeth Wieber loved her Shamrocks and attended as many games as she could when her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were playing—over a span of some 60 years—at the school.

Elizabeth died on April 20, 2017, at the age of 91. She is missed, not only in the bleachers, but in our entire parish and school community. To her, the St. Patrick Community was home, a pillar in her life, an important place where she quietly played a huge role.

Yet, even after passing, Elizabeth is still giving to our community through a generous, far-sighted, and thoughtfully-planned financial gift from her estate to the school and athletic program. The fact that her husband, Bob, a lifelong parishioner, left a generous gift to the Athletic Association when he died in 1998 no doubt influenced her decision to follow suit.

When she married Bob in 1944, she converted to and fell in love with the Catholic faith. Going to Mass was a priority as were bi-monthly trips to the confessional for the family. She liked to be at Mass a half-hour early so she could pray the rosary. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother continued throughout her life, so much so that she requested that her family pray a Novena to Mary in the final

moments of her life.

When Elizabeth moved to Church Street in 2001, it was so she could be close to the church and school. Her home became the place for grandchildren and then great-grandchildren to go both before and after school to be spoiled with baked goods and comfort foods that only grandmas can make. They brought along their friends and teammates to “fuel up” before games.

When she needed help raking leaves (in her late 80’s) the grandkids signed her up for the “Pay It Forward Days,” just before Halloween. She always brought out trays of cupcakes for all of the workers.

Elizabeth Wieber embraced the St. Patrick mission statement of celebrating the Eucharist, proclaiming the Good News, encouraging Stewardship, and growing in Faith, Justice, Love and Service. Her passion for St. Patrick’s didn’t just stop with her. She passed it on to her children and grandchildren, creating a love for St. Pat’s that has

spanned five generations.

Even in death, Elizabeth is still giving to our community. Her generous gift, coupled with those of other parishioners making estate bequests, will help ensure that St. Patrick continues for another century.

If you would like to know more about Planned Giving & Bequests, call the Parish Office at 517-647-6505.



Elizabeth Wieber and her poker group. From left, Elizabeth, brother, Bud Moyer, sister, Eleanor Ackerson, daughter, Pam Brown. Standing, son, Jim Wieber.

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 **Mick** (1999) and **Anastasia Hamberg** of Goshen, KY, a daughter, Luella Catherine, on February 23, 2018. She joins sisters, Bethany (3) and Evelyn (1).

To **Ben** (2008) and **Annie (Lawless, 2008) Schneider** of Hudsonville, a daughter, Catherine Therese, on November 5, 2017.

To **Curtis** (2009) and **Katrina (Schrauben, 2008) Meyers**, a son, Trevor John Meyers, on October 28, 2017.

To **Matthew** and **Brittney (Hengesbach, 2008) Spitzley**, a son, Leon Matthew, on October 24, 2017.

To **John** (2006) and **Christina Thelen**, a daughter, Katherine Ann, on September 10, 2017. She joins sister, Lucy (2).

To **Jeff** (2008) and **Samantha (Hengesbach, 2008) Campbell**, a daughter, Baylee Grace, on February 6, 2018. She joins sister, Peyton (2).

To **Tony** and **Michelle (Hitchcock, 2001) Smith**, a son, Jayce Richard, on December 11, 2017. He joins sisters, Macie (8) and Avery (4).

To **Jacob** and **Mallory (Schrauben, 2005) Strotheide**, a son, Kasen Keith Edwin, on December 27, 2017. He joins sister, Maylee (1½).

To **Ross** (2008) and **Camille Klein**, a daughter, Colette Siena, on October 19, 2017.

Jake (2008) and **Abby Gross** a boy, Landon John, February 14, 2018. He joins sister, Aleah (2)

To **Jake** (2003) and **Jessie (Theis, 2003) Simon**, a daughter, Isabella Ann, on November 8, 2017. She joins brother, Eli (2 ½).

ENGAGEMENTS

Nick Simon (2008) became engaged to **Nicole Eggleston** over the 4th of July holiday. They will be married August 4, 2018, in Battle Creek. Nick is employed by Consumers Energy, and Nicole is a special education teacher in Marshall.

Cristin Stiffler (2009) and **Brandon Bigham** will be married at St. Patrick Church on October 6, 2018.

Elle Lehman (2013) and **Colin Lay** (2013) became engaged during a large family vacation to the Florida Keys. They will be married at St. Patrick Church on August 3, 2019.

Chris Lay (2010) and **Caitlin Joy** will be married at St. Patrick Church October 20, 2018.

WEDDINGS

Matt Pung (2001) and **Dana Rademacher** were married on October 28, 2017, in Laingsburg, MI. The couple resides in Grand Ledge.

David Pung (1999) and **Emily Oakely**, of Brush, Colorado, are engaged to be married September 15, 2018

Josh Schneider (2012) and **Emma Stanners** were married on October 28, 2017 at St. John the Apostle. The couple resides in Grand Rapids.

Pat Heckman and **Carolyn Kwiecinski** were married at St. Patrick Church on April 7, 2018. Pat is the Maintenance Supervisor at St. Patrick Parish and a long-time resident of Portland. Carolyn moved to the Portland area in 2015 and ministers to our parish as the Director of Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization. The couple will reside in Lyons with their combined family of nine children, William, Kaitlyn, Brian, Grady, Claire, Emma, Lily, Mary, and Sarah. Eight of their children are students at St. Pat's. William graduated in 2017 and is attending Aquinas College. The couple joyfully looks forward to family life together and asks for prayer as they celebrate this happy time.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sam Hodge (2017) has completed nine weeks of basic training and six weeks of Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as an infantryman. He has also successfully graduated from Airborne School. All of these were completed at Fort Benning, GA.

Clara Shattuck (2014) graduated from Grand Valley State University in December 2017 with a bachelor of science degree in natural resource management.

IN MEMORY OF

The Honorable **Thaddeus Casimir (Ted) Stopczynski**, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away peacefully at his home on September 14, 2017. Born February 16, 1940, in Hamtramck, MI, son of Honorable Stephen and Cassie Stopczynski, Ted served as a State Representative of the State of Michigan from 1973 to 1982. He also served as a Detroit Police Officer from 1962 to 1973, and as Chairman of Detroit School Board Region 6. Ted also served as Director of Legislative Liaison for the Michigan State Police from 1983 to 2002, before retiring in 2002. Ted was a former member of St. Patrick Church in Portland. Ted is survived by his wife of almost 58 years, Judith Evelyn (Drost) Stopczynski; 12 children: Suzanne Wokuluk (Paul), Peggy Dumas (Clayton), Lawrence (Jill), Gregory (Julie), Judith Wright (Richard), Matthew (Denise), Timothy, Elizabeth Stopczynski, Rebecca Mariage (David), Thaddeus (April), Johnathon (Brooke), and Andrew; 11 foreign exchange students; 33 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and brother, the Honorable Stanley Stopczynski (Donna). He was predeceased by his parents, Honorable Stephen and Cassie Stopczynski, and brother, Stephen. Memorial donations may be made to Knights of Columbus Council 2168, Parkinson's Foundation, or American Lung Association.

Duane B. Wilcox, age 82, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2017. He was born August 7, 1935, the son of Ivan and Bernita (Trierweiler) Wilcox. Duane was a beloved husband and father. He was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. He was a graduate of St. Patrick High School and a graduate of Michigan State University. Duane retired from General Motors in Flint and was a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army. He loved golf and following MSU and St. Pat's sports. Duane is survived by his cherished wife of 57 years, Jacqueline Wilcox; loving children, Len (Jen) Wilcox, Caroline (Rodney) Epps, Bob (Becky) Wilcox, and Lorrie (Walter) Wilcox; beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren; dear brothers, James (Carol) Wilcox, Jack (Janet) Wilcox, and Steve (Barbara) Wilcox; and in-laws Patricia (Eugene) Wilcox, Luane (Pat) Goodman, Lana (Denny) Holly, and Diane Russell. He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Walter Wilcox; brother, Eugene Wilcox; and brother-in-law, Dennis Holly.

Gertrude "Gert" Manning, age 98, of Portland, MI, was born November 16, 1918, to William and Elenor (Smith) Bohr in Westphalia, MI. She and her husband, Dan, were owners of Portland Concrete Supply & Block Company for over 40 years. Gert loved to quilt, travel, and play cards. She was a very loving mother, grandmother, and aunt. Gert was a devoted member of St. Patrick Parish and the Resurrection Choir. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 50 years, Dan C. Manning; sisters, Adeline Platte and Revella Becker; brothers, Rev. Joseph, Robert, Edward, Casper, and Delbert Bohr; and daughter-in-law, Willa (William) Manning. Gert is survived by her two daughters, Sharon Jean (Joseph Fisher) Wright of Denver and Jayne (Michael) Huhn of Portland; three sons, William (Gloria Jean) Manning, Richard (Janice) Manning, and Jack (Laurel) Manning, all of Portland; brother, Ronald Bohr of Lansing; and sister-in-law, Lucille Bohr of Lansing. Also surviving Gert are her 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; and many special nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Resurrection Choir or Country Living A.F.C. in honor of Gert.

Mark Alan Simon, 56 years old, died peacefully on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at Portland Assisted Living and Memory Care Center with Sparrow Hospice Care after battling melanoma of the brain for a year. Mark was born January 6, 1961, in Lansing, MI, to William and Mary Ann Simon. He grew up in a loving, close-knit family with one sister and three brothers in Portland, MI. He graduated in 1979, from Portland St. Patrick School. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was set up on a blind date with the love of his life,

Christine Avery. Mark and Chris married at Portland St. Patrick Church on October 25, 1986. Mark enjoyed supporting his children at sporting events, gardening with his wife, celebrating holidays with family, playing DJ at work and family get togethers, listening to classic rock, commentating movies, traveling out west, camping, visiting lighthouses, taking pictures and videos, and playing with his beloved dogs. Mark is survived by his wife, Christine Ann-Avery Simon; children, Heather (George) Cassel, Nicole (Justin) Schafer, and Cameron Simon; father, William (Sandra Olson) Simon; father and mother-in-law, Lyle and Erika Avery; siblings, Marlene (Mike Keusch) McAllister, Michael (Christina) Simon, Bryan (Leona) Simon, and Pat (Sally) Simon; sister and brother-in-law, Catharine and Mark Haworth; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Mark is predeceased by his mother, Mary Ann Simon; maternal grandparents, Michael and Elizabeth Smith; paternal grandparents, Arthur and Martha (Fox) Simon. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation.

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.

Harry E. Hattis, age 91, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, November 15, 2017. He was born January 14, 1926, to Harry and Margaret (Williams) Hattis. Harry was a proud WWII Veteran, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He retired from TRW in Portland after many years of service. Harry was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the VFW in Portland. Harry was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He enjoyed woodworking, family vacations, and free cell solitaire. Harry is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 38 years, Marie, and his brother, Reece. Surviving him are his children, Gary (Deb) Hattis of Portland, Sharon (Bill) Hoffman of Portland, Linda (Eric) Johnson of Westford, VT, and David (Mary) Hattis of Plains, MT; many grandchildren; wife of 25 years, Delores Hattis; and special friend, Sylvia Smith.

Rita Marie Miros, age 83, of Portland, passed away peacefully with her family surrounding her on Sunday, November 19, 2017. She was born October 21, 1934, the daughter of William H. and Catherine

E. (Kneiper) Warnke. Rita was a devoted member at St. Patrick Catholic Church and St. Michael Catholic Church, Remus, Michigan. She loved spending time at Tubbs Lake, working and being outdoors, and tending to her garden. Rita is preceded in death by her husband, Stanley, and sisters, Theresa Kabelitz and Delores Michutka. Surviving are her children, Mark (Ellen) Miros of Port Austin, Jean (George) Rowe of Portland, Neil (Debra) Miros of Portland, and Thomas (Beth) Miros of Jacksonville, FL; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the American Alzheimer's Association in honor of Rita.

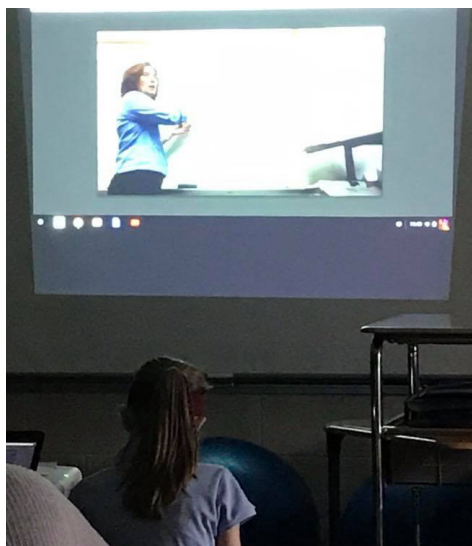
Roy Carl Spitzley, age 82, of Sunfield, was called home on Saturday, November 25, 2017. Roy was born on February 7, 1935, in Ionia, MI, to Leo and Theresa (Fox) Spitzley. He was a graduate of Portland St. Patrick High School and a longtime parishioner at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. After serving in the U.S. Army (post-war Korea), he returned to successfully farm, which he did until his retirement. He married MaryAnn Bohil on May 11, 1957, in Lansing, MI. They were married 25 years and had five children. MaryAnn passed away on March 7, 1983. Roy married Alice Simon on August 21, 1987, in Pewamo, MI. They were married 26 years. Alice passed away on September 10, 2013. Roy loved a good laugh, cards, golf, Florida in the winter, friends, and family. Roy's final 18 months were spent at Green Acres Assisted Living in Ionia, MI, where he entertained the wonderful staff with his humor and received many visitors, including lifelong friend, Jerry Schrauben. Roy was preceded in death by his father and mother; brothers, Leo, Robert, Harold, David, and Jerome; sisters, Joan and Alice; numerous brothers and sisters-in-law; and grandson, Adam Miller. He is survived by his children, Tim (Jodi) Spitzley, Bryan (Sue) Spitzley, Cindy (Phil) Ritter, Brenda (Dan) Armbruster, and Mark (Katie) Spitzley; step children, Ron (Carol) Simon, Barb (Ben) Wesley, Bruce (Kristine) Simon, Scott (Lorri) Simon, Therese (Jeff) Hudak, Beth (Dennis) Hagan, and Dawn Feldpausch; 27 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brothers, Philip and Alvin (Rosemary); sister, Wilma Schmitz; brother-in-law, Ed Schmitz; sister-in-law, JoAnn Spitzley; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lakewood Education Foundation, St. Patrick Catholic Church of Portland, Sunfield Area SPYs, Great Lakes Caring Hospice, or Green Acres Assisted Living, in memory of Roy.

Forrest William "Bud" Peake, age 93, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, surrounded by his family. He was born on October 14, 1924, in Portland, the son of Guy and Pearl (Pryer) Peake. Bud

(continued on page 16)



Technology in the Classroom



Middle School math teacher, Jan Simon, takes full advantage of the technology provided to her for her classroom. Each day she records her math lessons using *Screencastify* and then posts it in her *Google Classroom*. This allows students who are absent or need to

review a lesson the chance to watch it anytime.

In January when she knew she would be out of school for a funeral, she recorded the lesson alone. Though the students had a substitute teacher the next day, they were able to watch Jan teach the lesson herself during their class time.

School Receives Healthy-Kids Grant

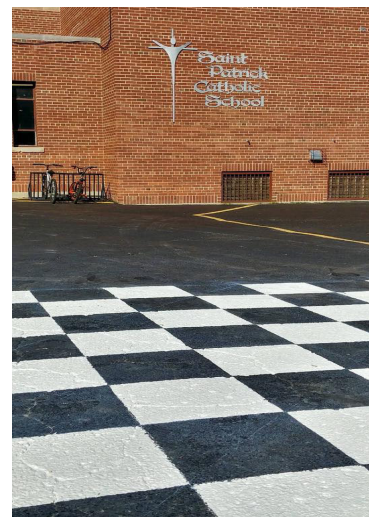
Last fall, St. Patrick School was awarded a Healthy Kids grant for \$2125. The funds were used to purchase new, interactive, and multi-player playground equipment. The equipment chosen were as follows:

- Three Ga-Ga Ball pits. Two were erected on St. Patrick property for use by the students during recess; the third

was gifted to the City of Portland and erected in Alton Park. Ga-Ga Ball is a variant of dodgeball that allows an entire class to remain active.

- Mega chess and tic-tac-toe sets (the chess pieces are over two feet tall). Checkerboards were painted on the parking lot between the school and the church so that children can test their skills during recess.

Thank you to volunteers Chris Pung, Doug Smith, father and son team Jeff and Alex Fedewa, Troy and Courtney Smith and their sons Ben and Henry, Mark Davis, Heather Hendges-Davis, and Lynn Gillotte. These school parents donated their time and talents to launch the exciting project.



Oratory Winner Moves on to State Competition



Pam Brown, President of Portland Right to Life, hands a beaming Jake Pung a "Ben Franklin" (\$100) for winning the 29th Annual High School Oratory Contest held Sunday, March 11, in the St. Pat's Parish Hall. Sitting behind them are judges Pastor Ed Filter of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, recently retired Pastor Marilyn Danielson of the First Congregational Church of Portland, and Jamie Quinn, who sits on the board of Positive Solutions/Informed Choices of Ionia. The judges gave Jake a lot of good feedback that he can take to Holt at the state level competition on May 5.

Student Ambassador Team

Last spring, the marketing subcommittee of the school board recruited Ralph Willemin to help them with marketing outreach to other parishes. Ralph joined the committee, ready and willing to take on that responsibility, and quickly outlined a plan that would involve several students from St. Patrick High School, who were looking for an opportunity to help with the task.

The Student Ambassador Team was created at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, and the group has already surpassed all expectations. Among the projects that they have taken on since October:

- Assisted with the annual Right to Life Dinner in Lake Odessa
- Planned and implemented an All Saints Day Mass, which took place in the school gymnasium. The Mass featured artwork of the saints, a table filled with statues and information about particular saints, and a special video after Mass. The entire student body from St. Patrick School attended. Middle school students from Ionia SS. Peter and Paul were special guests.
- Worked with Mr. Hodge and the staff to begin a special Thanksgiving event named Thanksliving, which replaced the school's annual Pay It Forward Day. Every student in the school did community service on Thanksliving Day. Younger students worked in yards and parks close to the school; older students traveled to soup kitchens, assisted at the pregnancy services facility in Ionia, visited nursing homes, sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive, and did many other types of service.



Student Ambassador Team performed Living Stations during Lent.

- Planned and performed a Living Nativity on December 23 and 24, in front of The Little Manger Adoration Chapel. Live animals were brought in, refreshments were

(Continued on page 17)

Shamrock Boys Basketball Sets MHSAA Record

The Shamrocks played host to Saranac on January 2, 2018, winning the game 76-58. The St. Patrick team hit an incredible 17 three-pointers, earning the team a place in the MHSAA record book as a team. Brandon Scheurer led the way with seven, followed by Nate Leahy with five, Graham Wohlscheid with four, and Sam Mauren with one.

Cross Country Team Earns Top Award



A special congratulations to the St. Patrick boys cross country team who received the top Academic All-State Award in Class D by having the highest combined GPA. Congratulations to Tyler Coyne, Devin Fedewa, Seth Hoppes, Jake Pung, Joe Timmer, Graham Wohlscheid, Coach Lawless, and the high school teachers who educate the students. Missing from photo is Devin Fedewa.

Bowlers Go To State Finals

The boys bowling team and two individual bowlers, Stephen Wernet and Kayla Shaw, traveled to Battle Creek on March 2-3, for the MHSAA State Bowling Finals.

The boys team finished 11th in the qualifying round. Only the top eight go on to the final round. Stephen Wernet finished in the 17th spot, barely missing the top 16 who advance to the finals. Kayla Shaw finished 20th overall. The top 16 advanced. Congratulations to these bowlers and their coaches.



Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Becomes a Reality

by Mike Cook

Two years ago St. Patrick Parish purchased a small, one-apartment building on Church Street, on a lot adjacent to the Parish Office. It came through a generous donation by Joe and Pat Klein. The long-term plan for the building was to renovate it to be a diocesan-sanctioned worthy space for Eucharistic Adoration. The wonderful opportunity of Eucharistic Adoration was already available in the church, but the hours were limited because of other necessary activities (funerals, weddings, maintenance, rehearsals, etc.) that take place there.



The Little Manger Adoration Chapel

A year prior to this purchase, a group of parishioners met with Father Larry to discuss the possibility of finding space that could be converted to a dedicated Adoration chapel. They explained to him and to then-intern, Dan Shumaker, that more parishioners were discovering the amazing benefits of spending quiet time in Jesus' true presence in Eucharist. At the meeting, Dan pointed out the amazing fact that most vocations to the priesthood come from parishes that have Eucharistic Adoration, especially Perpetual Adoration (24/7).

The idea was presented to the Pastoral Council, and once they approved it, parishioners who personally experienced

the blessings of Adoration made donations to fund the building renovation.

The day we finished gutting the building, a friend voiced a profound realization. "This place used to be an old barn," he remarked. Nodding in agreement I suggested we name the future chapel "Rome," because it sure wasn't going to be built in a day.



December dedication of the new chapel

It ended up more true than expected. Almost any problem imaginable when renovating an old building was encountered. There were surprises and setbacks, but after hundreds of man-hours, it was transformed.

No, the chapel wasn't named "Rome," but "Little Manger." It was completed in November, 2017, then blessed and opened in December. Landscaping and a few minor things will be finished in the near future.

Regular Adoration hours have already been increased and hopefully will be increased again as the need grows. While our culture leads us to be perpetually busy, Eucharistic Adoration is wonderfully countercultural. It allows you the realization of truly being in Jesus' presence and also the value Jesus places on your presence with Him.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the tabernacle only during regular Adoration hours, as listed in the bulletin, but people are welcome to stop in anytime to spend some quiet time with our Lord.

Call or email Mike Cook (517-242-1352 or artofishi@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.

So many people contributed to the effort that they can't all be named here. Work horses, however, included Ken Schneider, Dale Kramer, Loren Heilman, Dave Snitgen, and Gary Brown. Work they did for occasional coffee and donuts was amazing. All who contributed were great examples of parishioners giving their time, talent, or treasure.

PORTLAND ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC PARISH'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT

SUMMERFEST

June 22-24, 2018



DJ Dill Pickle

WHAT'S NEW?

- The name! If you look closely, you'll see that Summerfest (all one word) has changed to Summer Fest (two words). We received a call from an attorney in Milwaukee in March telling us that they had copyrighted the name Summerfest (one word), so we could no longer use it. The two-word option was okay with them and simple for us to implement. Going forward, our event will be called Summer Fest.

- Saturday 2:00-4:00 pm, teens and pre-teens will enjoy music by DJ Dill Pickle, a young star from Mount Pleasant, who has been entertaining crowds all over Michigan. This free performance will be on the main stage in the beer tent.

- The Outdoor Mass has been cancelled this year because our new pastor, Father Mike, is doing double duty until July 1 (see article on page 2). We hope it will be back next year.

WHAT'S BACK?

- Skank - 4 Decades of Rock & Roll will perform on Friday night. Admission is \$5. Sweet Carolines BBQ will provide the food. Beer, craft beer, wine, and cider will also be available. Online tickets will be available at the door, or online (beginning April 27, 2018).

- Back, by popular demand---Journey Tribute Band. You loved them last year; they're back for a Saturday night performance. Tickets are \$10 and are available online (beginning April 27, 2018) or at the door. Food and drinks will be the same as on Friday night.

- Youth baseball, 3-on-3 basketball, volleyball, Euchre tournaments, and the Summer Fest Cruise-In, sponsored by the Portland Cruisers.

- The Sunday Chicken/Swiss-Steak Dinner will be served in the tent beginning at 11:30 am. While you are eating, you'll be entertained by Three Husbands on the Loose, followed by the Hubbardston Irish Dancers.

SUMMER FEST SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

6:30-11:30 pmFood/Beer/Wine

7:30 pmSkank

SATURDAY

8:00 am.....Baseball Tournament

8:00 am-7:00 pm Tent open to all

9:00 am..... Volleyball Tournament

9:00 am-11:30 pmFood available

10:00 am-7:00 pmKid's Karnival

10:00 am.....3-on-3 Tournament

Noon..... Euchre Tournament

2:00-4:00 pm DJ Dill Pickle

6:15 pmEl Kabong

9:30 pm Journey Tribute Band

SUNDAY

11:30am-2:30 pm Chicken Dinner

11:30 am-3:00 pm Food Court

11:30 am-3:00 pm .Portland Cruisers

Noon-3:00 pmKids Karnival

Noon-1:30 pm 3-Husbands Music

1:30-2:30 pm ..Hubbardston Dancers

3:00 pm Raffles

www.StPatsSummerfest.com.
Always the Weekend After Father's Day!



Mission Trip Reveals Mission for Life

Individual faith journeys are not short, sweet, simple stories. Each is different and each is complicated by factors that are mostly unseen by the outside world. Last summer Morgan Bengel (2013) made the decision to join the religious life as a Dominican sister. To many, her decision seemed like a sudden change from the path she'd been on to become a pediatric oncologist. Little did they know that God had been calling her since her middle school days. Let her tell you the story!

I grew up in Portland, surrounded by family, faith, and friends. From the very beginning, I was an intelligent and social child who thrived inside and outside the classroom. I loved to read, play with my sisters, create, explore, and imagine. My Catholic education at St. Patrick School served me very well, teaching me about the faith that I was born into and how to see the world and God's people the way God sees them. My childhood was quiet, sacred, happy, and full.

It was January 2, 2010, when my life changed forever. I was sitting in the living room with my family watching *Up*, when my dad got a phone call from my uncle telling him that my cousin, Trent, had been diagnosed with brain cancer. I was young and my mind could not comprehend what this meant. My thoughts were bombarded with images of IV drips, bald heads, chemo pills, benefit walks, cancer ribbons, and hospitals. Would that be my family's reality?

We are and always have been, as tight-knit as any family could be. Aunts, uncles, and cousins galore, we use every reason in the books to get together. I knew that Trent's cancer diagnosis would be no exception. I see so clearly now that God used that diagnosis to bring our family even closer, giving us something/someone to rally around and pour our strength into.

For three years we stood by Trent as he underwent surgery after surgery, attempted to stay in school, struggled to play sports, and tried to remain engaged with his life. For two and a half of those years, I was thoroughly convinced that he held that brain cancer in the palm of his hand. He could overcome

this; I had no doubts. He was the picture of health, except for his bald chemo head. I remember walking with him for miles and miles at the Relay for Life; we dreamed up a future in which we'd own our own practice: I would be the doctor and he would be the child life specialist. Together, we would finally cure this disease that claims so many lives before they can truly be lived.

However, right before my senior year of high school, Trent's condition began to rapidly deteriorate. Before we

knew it, he was bedridden and doctors were no longer talking in years, but months or weeks. There was no longer mention of the future, just past and present. There was no longer joy, but forced smiles and bloodshot eyes. The stroke Trent had endured caused him to lose all ability to communicate and he could no longer eat. My naive faith told me that God would fix this; God would NEVER allow my cousin to die. Nobody told me, nobody prepared me

for what could be coming next. How could they have?

On January 12, 2013, Trent died early in the afternoon. I still remember everything about that day. It was an unseasonably warm winter day; I was in a Grand Valley sweatshirt and jeans. My parents were frantic as we left my house. My father drove 80 miles per hour on the backroads to get to my aunt and uncle's house. I remember not understanding the rush, only knowing that something was wrong. I felt the pit in my stomach grow heavier as we got closer; a 20-minute drive took



Morgan plays with one of the children that she met during a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2016.

just nine minutes. As we pulled into the driveway, I remember checking Twitter and seeing a dear friend's tweet that read "R.I.P. Trent, you will be missed." Everything went blurry and I couldn't breathe. No, no this couldn't be happening. Not only was he gone, but we didn't even get to say goodbye.

Despite the beautiful community I was surrounded by, I was angry at God and that anger became something that I carried with me for years to come. God was not my friend, God did not have mine or my family's best interests at heart, God was not holding me through this pain. If good people had to die in order for God's plan to be accomplished, then I wanted absolutely nothing to do with this God. My heart was so heavy. Meanwhile, people moved, on and I felt as though I would be left behind if I did not join them. So, I moved on, too, toting a broken relationship with God. I didn't need him now. He and I were simply acquaintances.

Right in the middle of all of this, I began to sense God calling me. I was sitting in Mass one day during my junior year of high school. I do not remember what the sermon was about, nor the songs we sang, but I do remember that I felt this unexplainable pull somewhere deep inside me. I remember not understanding why, but knowing that I was being called to be a sister. It's as though God just put this neatly packaged idea right inside the walls in my head. I spent the rest of high school and most of my college years trying to throw this package right back over the wall.

This became a daily struggle that I hid for several years. I went through the rest of high school telling others and myself that I would go to college for a pre-medical degree and go on to become a pediatric oncologist.

When I went to a Steubenville youth conference the summer before college, I felt God calling so strongly that it was all I could do to not lose my mind. The constant battle my thoughts were waging against me was exhausting. Mass every Sunday consisted of me praying that God would let my mind rest that week. I told no one, kept my head down, and pretended like everything was fine.

I started college at Aquinas. I went through classes, loved going to parties, and spent countless hours studying and enjoying my time with friends. On the outside, everything looked perfect. It honestly felt perfect(ish) on the inside too. I had friends galore and I was on a path that I believed would make me happy. But all along it felt like there was still

something missing.

I couldn't get a grasp on what was absent until the summer of 2016. I had just finished my junior year at Aquinas, and my friends and I were set to go on a service learning trip to the

Dominican Republic. It was my first time on an airplane, first time out of the country, first time truly going outside of my comfort zone. I was terrified, mostly of the bugs and the heat and the unknown. But I also had this nagging feeling that there was something bigger at work.

My heart was not prepared for how completely it would be shattered. I held children who were so malnourished that they couldn't even pick their heads up off my shoulder. I handed vitamins to families who could not provide a scrap of food for their kids. We spent a day hiding and seeking with preschool children who were aching for someone to play with. We embraced life and those who were living it with us. The entire trip was soaked with grace, not a stone left unturned.

Tears filled my eyes as our plane took off toward the United States. I knew something had changed; the Morgan who left the United States would not be the same person returning.

I remember thinking that this was it, mission work had changed my life so that's what I'd devote my heart to. I was in the middle of convincing God that this was indeed the path for me and that nothing else would make me happy when I heard

a distinct voice in my head that said, "That's not enough, and you know it." My heart skipped a beat. How could that not be enough? Of course, I knew what God was referring to and I knew this was something that I could ignore no longer. I could not keep trying to throw the box back over the wall; my arms were getting too tired. I was exhausted from trying to keep this up. There in that middle seat of the sixteenth row, I said the meekest, most timid "yes." I felt like I was going to vomit. What did this mean? Where was I going? How on earth was I going to tell anyone? I wanted to take it back almost immediately. But, something inside me told me to keep going. Keep exploring the possibilities that this could bring.

Women who were influential in my life:

—**My mother, Tammy Bengel.** She taught me that having a good sense of humor is crucial to human connection and an essential way of tapping into our relationship with God. She modeled to me what a strong and independent woman looks like. My voice is to be loud and my arms are to be held wide.

—**Erin Martin.** She taught me so much more than middle school English, she also educated me in the area of independence and determination. She always encouraged me to be completely and wholly me. She fueled my desire for knowledge and was another model of a strong and independent woman.

—**Jennifer Hess, PhD.** Dr. Hess was one of my professors at Aquinas. She is the most intelligent woman I have ever met, and is a fierce advocate for women in sciences. She also fueled my desire for knowledge and gave me the tools to succeed not only as a student, but as a citizen, an advocate, and a human being.

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alumni news

The *Class of 1977* held their 40-year class reunion on October 14, 2017, at the Wagon Wheel. There were 16 classmates and nine spouses for a total of 25. Everyone had a great time catching up and sharing memories from their class trip to Toronto.



Can you identify this hat?



A graduate of St. Patrick High School recently found this hat packed away with other mementoes. It's an unused, vintage Shamrock baseball hat, exactly like the ones worn by a past team.

If you can identify the year that this hat was worn, contact shamrockeditors@gmail.com. The first person to correctly identify the year will win the hat!

The *Class of 1987* held their 30-year reunion on September 30, 2017, at the Wagon Wheel. They had a good turn out with 21 classmates in attendance. Trivia from 1987 was put together by Mike Schrauben, and it was definitely a hit. Many memories were shared and a good time was had. Thank you to Jonda and Chopper for a great meal.



Upcoming Reunions

Plans are underway for a *Class of 2013* reunion. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact Jennifer Bosworth at 517-614-5789.

The *Class of 2008* reunion will be held on August 11, 2018. Contact Johnathan, Ross, or Sam if you have ideas or need additional information.

The *Class of 1993* will definitely have a reunion later this year, but no specific plans have yet been made. Watch for details this summer.

Bob Russman is organizing the 35-year class reunion for the *Class of 1983*. Plans are for classmates to meet at the beer tent at Summer Fest on both June 22 and June 23. Info will be sent out soon. Contact Bob at bob.n.tracy@icloud.com

50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1968

Members of the *Class of 1968* should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion that will be held in your honor this year. The date will be Saturday, September 8, 2018. Someone from 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, too.



The Bennetts in Fátima and Lourdes

Bruce and Noel Bennett are long time devotees of Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared to three children outside the village of Fatima, Portugal. Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, were first visited several times by an Angel of Peace in 1916 before being visited six times in 1917 by Mary, Our Mother of God. The last vision was on October 13, 1917.

Bruce and Noel made their first life-changing Catholic pilgrimage to Vatican City several years ago when Pope John Paul was the Holy Father. Although they have tried to live and pray as Mary instructed in those visions, the Bennetts had never thought about visiting Fatima until they saw a notice in the St. Patrick Parish Bulletin in 2017 regarding a tour to Fatima, Portugal, and Lourdes, France, scheduled for October of 2017. They immediately made the decision to take the journey.

Their initial tour group consisted of four people from the Lansing Diocese and Bruce and Noel. The group flew into Lisbon, Portugal, where they stayed for three days.

During these first three days in Portugal, the Michigan Six took a tour van to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, which is located in Cova da Iria, the site where the children saw the visions of Mary. On October 13, the Michigan Six attended mass with "a sea of Catholics" as Noel puts it. The driver of their van said he had never seen that many people at Fatima before. The mass included 300 priests and several big screens showing the altar. Although it was difficult to describe, and she gets teary thinking about it, Noel says, "It was amazing to see so many Catholics in one place at one time, and they were perfectly quiet during Mass." The sanctuary consists of Our Lady of Fatima Basilica, several chapels, many monuments, a rectory, and other buildings. The basilica is at the head of a large open-air plaza, Monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Michigan Six came together back in Lisbon with a larger bus tour group, with whom they spent the rest of their journey. The thirty or so people on this bus were from all over the U.S. and Canada and included a priest who said Mass almost daily, usually in one of the churches on their tour. The tour first took them back to the village of Fatima, where they toured the homes of Lucia dos Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their families. In addition, they revisited the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and explored the many chapels and the original church. Noel and two other women participated in an evening rosary procession. The rosary started in a tiny outdoor chapel and continued in a procession following the statue of Mary and priests.

The three women did not want to get separated in the procession, so they held each other's shirts while winding their way through the plaza with hundreds of people. During the rosary, Noel heard a message: "God was saying to me: 'I am not only here, I am also in Portland.' In other words, you do not have to be here to find me."

Once they left Fatima, they made their way through Portugal and Spain. They

arrived in France at the site of the Sanctuary of Lourdes. On February 18, 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, giving her many messages and asking to have a chapel built on the site. The site now includes the grotto, many churches, and the spring of healing waters, which millions of people visit every year. The Bennetts and their travelmates visited the spring, gathering the water in containers (not considered holy water), and some of the group members were immersed in the healing baths.

Although the bus group ate dinner together every night, they were free to tour the cities they visited during the day. There was a lot of interaction among the people from all

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The Michigan Six in front of one of many cathedrals. Terry and Sue Brya, Cheryl Welton, Judy Minark, and Bruce and Noel Bennett.

Father Flohe Foundation Announces 2017 Bell Award Recipient

The Father Flohe Foundation has chosen Deacon Stephen Schaffer as the recipient of the 2017 Education Bell Award. The award originated in 1992 and is given to an alumnus who has lived his/her life in such a way that he/she can be held as a model for our students.



Deacon Steve graduated from St. Patrick's in 1966, and spent 41 productive years in the automotive, aerospace, and product-packaging industries, primarily working in a finance and general management role. Following his time in business, Stephen was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 1997. He is currently active as a Deacon in the Diocese of Orlando, serving as a Director of Operations for the Resurrection Church and School in Lakeland, Florida.

When Deacon Steve is not tending to the duties that come with being a Deacon, he finds time to play musical instruments (piano and guitar), enjoys walks in nature, and is very active in his church/school community. Steve and his wife Debbie enjoy travel and visiting with their four children and grandchildren.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition Deacon Steve!

The Bell Award will be presented to Deacon Steve later this year. A photo of the presentation and additional information will be printed in the fall issue of The Shamrock.

DK/Kindergarten Screening

Friday, April 20, 2018

Call (517) 647-7551 for an appointment



St. Patrick School: Where Jesus is present in the classrooms and faith permeates everything we do.

MORGAN'S STORY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

So I resolved to make my life the answer to God's question, whatever that would mean.

It has been two years since I said yes for the first time. I still have to say it every morning, and some mornings I say no instead. But it's as though my life is now in high-definition. Bright, vivid color. It's as though I've come up from a long time underwater. Those walls in my mind have started coming down. Brick by brick, I have become more myself and I have created the space in my heart for more authentic relationships. I have released the grip on who I thought I should be, who people told me I should be. I've realized that to be who I am is the greatest gift, and I'm so excited to share this gift with the world.

These excerpts are a very condensed version of Morgan's faith journey. To read the entire story, visit the alumni page of the school website and click on Morgan's Story, or use your smart phone to scan the code.

Morgan wants young girls to know that a vocation as a sister isn't as scary as you think it's going to be. There's a lot of change involved, but if this kind of life is what gives you joy, the change will be manageable.

She says that God's ONLY plan for you is for you to be in a relationship with God. There is no road map of your life, God trusts you and asks that the two of you become partners and walk the road together.



Join us for the 2018 Shamrock Auction
SHAMROCK OLYMPICS
Saturday, April 21, 2018
at the K. C. Hall

6:00 p.m. Doors Open
Dinner/Drinks available

6:00-9:30 Silent Auction
8:00-11:00 Live Auction

Raffles all evening



Students for Life

On November 1, 2017, St. Patrick middle and high school students were treated to a visit by Christen Pollo, Executive Director of Students for Life of Michigan. Christen spoke to the student body, following the All Saints Day Mass in the gymnasium. She was at school to help a group of students set up a Students for Life Chapter at St. Pat's.

The group grew quickly, and they quickly began working on a plan to attend the March for Life in Washington, DC in January. Within weeks, they had enough interested students and chaperones to fill a bus.

The trip to DC was an awesome adventure for the group. In addition to participating in the march, they attended rallies, did some sightseeing, and attended Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The theme for the March this year was, "Love Saves Lives." Junior



The newly formed St. Patrick Students for Life filled a bus with students and chaperones and traveled to Washington DC for the annual March for Life in January.

Summer Russman made the following observation.

"While I was marching, I began to meditate on the ways that this phrase embodies the pro-life movement. I came to the conclusion that the only

way that we can win the battle against abortion is through love. The March for Life is rooted in love. We do not march with hateful hearts, but march with loving hearts, full of hope for the future."

Why We Moved to Portland

by Merry Haas

Brian and Merry Haas and thier family moved from Grandville to Portland in 2016, due in no small part to their daughter Lexi's urging. Merry explains what led up to their move.

"Ring Ring"

"Just a second," says our excited 15-year-old daughter who had just returned from DYMO camp. Placing her phone to her ear she explains, "It's Jesus." 'Yes Jesus....oh you want me to move to Portland.' "Mom and Dad, it's Jesus here and he wants me to move to Portland. He is calling you too and I think you should answer."

Well, Lexi had a week before leaving on her summer mission trip to try to convince us of why we should move to Portland. Before leaving, she gave me a note about how serious she was. She was looking for a host family (I think she almost had the Bengals convinced to take her in). If she didn't

find a host family, she was willing to live in a box.

Little did she know that we were seriously considering the move. After she left for her trip, we brought her younger sisters to Summer Fest and Mass here in Portland. It did seem like a great fit for them. As I was sitting in Mass, many tears were shed as I began to slow down and hear God tell me he wasn't just calling Lexi, he was calling me as well. Every song seemed to speak to my heart with His calling and my openness to do His will.

When Lexi arrived at our home in Grandville a week later, Moriah showed her our freshly-painted basement. Moriah explained, "Mom and Dad thought a new coat of paint would help the house sell faster." Once again there were tears of joy.



The Haas family. Back row: Brian (Dad), TJ, Brandon Middle row: exchange student, Maria Cabanas, Merry (Mom), Moriah, Lexi, Courtney Front row: Naomi

We sold the house, enrolled the girls at St. Pat's, and began this awesome new journey that God has put us on. We love it and we feel extremely blessed to be a part of such a great school, church, and community.

And I will always have that precious letter from Lexi. I find myself quoting it sometimes when she asks for something and we say no. "But hey Lex, you could be living in a box."

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a lifelong farmer. He enjoyed golfing, playing cards, bowling, an occasional casino trip, and spending winters in Florida. Bud retired from Michigan State University Beef Research. He was preceded in death by his parents and "mother" Maude Peake; son, William "Bill" Peake; great-granddaughter Margot Hengesbach; and brothers Wilbur (Mary) Peake and Lynn Peake. Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Eleanor; children Randy (Donna) Peake, Sue Hengesbach, Leanne (Kevin) Simon, Nancy (Ted) Schrauben; daughter-in-law, Sharon Peake; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, Margy (John) Moyer; many in-laws on the Gensterblum side; and many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletics or Portland Athletics in memory of Bud.

Herman W. (Bill) May passed away at Thornapple Manor on December 26, 2017, at the age of 100 years. Bill was born on October 28, 1917 to Herman and Martha May in Detroit, Michigan. Bill volunteered for the military service on December 8, 1941. He served in the Army Air Corps, 10th Air Force, stationed at several bases in India, completing 41 missions in a B-24 as an Armored Gunner over Burma, China, Thailand, and Adaman Island. He was awarded two Battle Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Metal, and the Unit's President Citation for heavy bombardment missions. Bill returned to the states to complete his service and was discharged after serving three years and ten months. Bill met Katherine (Kay) Serbin in Detroit, Michigan. They were married on June 8, 1946, and were together until Kay's death on February 27, 2017. After retirement and with the family grown, Bill and Kay moved to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They lived in their "cottage" on Green Bay (Lake Michigan), later moving to Escanaba. Bill enjoyed picking wild cranberries and making cranberry juice. Bill is survived by his three children, Kathy (Gordy) Duffey, William (Virginia) May, and Marcia (Denny) Sekino; two grandchildren, Jeffrey Duffey and Jennifer (Jeff) Reynolds. Bill is preceded in death by Kay, his loving wife of 70 years; two brothers, James and Alan; and two sisters, Alice and Genevieve.

Jane "Jan" Hilda Sutherland, 78, of Grand Rapids, MI, went to be with the Lord on Monday, January 1, 2018, after many years of struggling with a debilitating illness. Jane was born on December 23, 1939, in Portland, MI. She was the daughter of the late Herman and Bertha Schrauben. Jane attended St. Patrick High School. She married Tom Sutherland and they raised their family in Hastings, MI. Jane owned and operated the

Portland Dry Cleaners for many years. She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Scott (Sue) Sutherland and her daughter, Susan (Mike) Messer; three grandchildren; brothers, Jerry (Rita), Kenneth (Donna), Roy (Carolyn), and Mike (Bobby); as well as many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her sister, Bernice and brother, Herman (Carole).

James Louis Hoppes, age 82, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, January 31, 2018. He was born February 21, 1935, the son of Leo and Philomena (Huhn) Hoppes. Jim was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and he owned and operated Hoppes Pole Barn for many years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, he started his "Buck Barn" in 1967, and it served as a gathering place for many during hunting seasons. Jim enjoyed various fishing trips to Alaska with friends, Ron Rock and Bill Shattuck. He often spent his free time playing cards, going to the casino, and he loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren dearly. Preceding Jim in death are his parents; infant son, James Leroy; son-in-law, Herb Platte; granddaughter, Amber Rose Platte; siblings, Virginia Townsend, Colleen Trierweiler, Dick (Carol) Hoppes, Stanley (Joan) Hoppes, Leon (Geraldine) Hoppes, and Jerry Hoppes. Surviving Jim are his beloved wife of 62 years, Sharon; children, Toni (Chuck) Miller, Craig Hoppes, Joe (Marian) Hoppes, Bonnie (Bob) Rockey, Michelle (David) Nurenberg, Kirk (Michele) Hoppes, Victor Hoppes, Becky (Scott) Hodge, Kristina (Dan) Platte; 28 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; siblings, Alice Kelly, Joe (Alice) Hoppes, Larry (Dee Dee) Hoppes, and Tom (Jill) Hoppes; and in-laws, Bill Trierweiler, Mary Hoppes, and Oscar Townsend.

Clarence Philip Spitzley, age 59, of Perry, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 12, 2018, at his residence. He was born on September 3, 1958, in Lansing the son of Donald and Ruth (May) Spitzley. Clarence retired from the General Motors Powertrain Division after many years as a Design Engineer. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and took many nice deer on his property. He was also active with Pheasants Forever and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was preceded in death by his parents and his infant twin brother, Clare. Surviving are his siblings Diane (Louis) Smith, Janice (Bruce) Fyan, Allen (Julie) Spitzley, Eugene (Gail) Spitzley, Elaine (David) Keilen, and Marilyn (Gary) Schneider; special friend, Sheila Six; many nieces and nephews and several aunts and uncles. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Michael Sylvester Smith, 93, of Ionia, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018. He was born on June 30, 1924, the son of

Bernard and Anna (Schafer) Smith. Mike was a member of St. Patrick Church in Portland and the Knights of Columbus #2168. He loved playing euchre and spending time with his family. Mike is retired from the Michigan Reformatory after many years of service and enjoyed working his "hobby farm." He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; son, Mark; granddaughter, Jessica; and two sisters and a brother. Surviving are his children, Mike (Julie) Smith, Sharon (Lynn) Lafler, Linda (Bruce) Fox, Mary (David) Cotter, Pam (Bill) Slater, Rhonda (Jerry) Wolbers, and Laurie Smith; 16 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; sisters Donna Hubbard, Pat (Keith) Baker, and Ernie Root; brother-in-law, Dick Kelley; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation.

Richard "Dick" J. Pohl, age 83, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on Friday, February 16, 2018. He was born May 17, 1934, the son of Herman and Nina (Early) Pohl. Dick was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Portland. He retired from General Motors after 43 years of service and continued giving back to the community by volunteering at the Senior Center Food Bank and the Portland Community Fund. Dick was very proud of his garden, loved his 1946 Oliver Tractor, and enjoyed woodworking. Dick was a loyal, dedicated, and compassionate family member of Lehman Funeral Homes since our opening in 1999. He was known as the "Old Man" and he cared about each and every person he encountered. Dick, you will be sincerely missed and will always be a part of our family. Surviving Dick are his beloved wife of 57 years, Jane; children, Barbara (Timothy) Falor, Patrick (Lynn Wood) Pohl, Daniel (Deb) Pohl, Gary (Alice "Beth") Pohl; ten grandchildren: siblings, Bernard Pohl, Jean Jones, Cecilia Gensterblum, Marie (Joe) Pohl, Loretta Esch, and Donald (Kit) Pohl; brother-in-law, Dennis (Denise) Gross; and sister-in-law, Geri Gross. Dick is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joe; sisters, Adeline and Helen; and several in-laws. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Compassus Hospice, Medilodge of Lansing, American Cancer Society, or St. Patrick Parish in honor of Dick.

Nicholas William Hoppes, born August 15, 1988; died February 19, 2018. Nick loved to farm; he worked hard at whatever he was doing. He played hard, riding ATVs, going out on the boat, and driving his truck. He had a passion for playing loud music and loved to sing. Nick could tell a story and have everyone laughing. He loved making Sunday morning breakfast for his niece and nephews and spending time with them. Nick's furbaby was his dog Odie; he loved him with his whole heart. He will be missed by many. Nick is survived by his parents, Nancy and David Spitzley, and Chris Hoppes: his brothers,

Clint (Sara) Hoppes and Colin Hoppes; grandparents, Joyce Dutcher and Marvin and Jeanette Spitzley; nieces and nephews, Brooklyn, Brody, Landon, Haven, and Cruze; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Preceded in death by grandparents, Richard and Carol Hoppes and William B. Dutcher.

Germaine Rose Shattuck, age 83, of Portland, passed away Thursday, February 22, 2018. She was born November 24, 1934, the daughter of Bernard and Olivia Mary (Fox) Meyers. Germaine was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and also of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW. Post #4090. Germaine was a valiant survivor of breast cancer for 40 years. She had a love for the outdoors, spending summers in Alaska gold mining and at her cabin on the Muskegon River, where she enjoyed fishing for steelhead with her husband, Bill. Germaine also enjoyed crocheting and the occasional trip to the casino. Preceding Germaine in death are her husband of 54 years, Bill; her parents; infant brother, Richard; siblings, John Meyers, Rosaline Bozung, Stella, Bernard Meyers, Sr. Mary Margaret, Steven Meyers, and Jeanette Winter. She is survived by her children, Kathy Lischke, Ken Shattuck, Jack (Mary Kay) Shattuck, Jon (Jean) Shattuck, and LeeAnn Shattuck; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Viola Meyers, Virginia Meyers, and Doris Shattuck; and brother-in-law, Vern (Leota) Shattuck.

Wayne Myron Pline, age 88, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 25, 2018. He was born October 20, 1929, in Lyons Township, the son of Gustav and Anna (Schafer) Pline. Wayne was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He enjoyed trap shooting, camping, hunting, and fishing. He was an excellent baker, especially when it came to bread, cookies, and pies. Wayne retired from General Motors and also devoted many years of service to the Portland Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments. Wayne is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Dolores (Thoma) Pline; children, Keith (Jane) Pline, Bonnie (Donald) Miller, Allen (Roxie) Pline, Joe (Janice) Pline, Lu Ann (David Offord) Bartlett, and Lori (Steve) Schrauben; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Robin Pline; and sister, Jean Walter. Preceding Wayne in death are his parents; son, Brian "Gus" Pline; granddaughter, Kelly Pline; great-granddaughter, Theresa Gianna; five brothers, Francis, Marion, Gus, Jim, and Leon Pline; three sisters, Vivian Schrauben, Doris Kohagen, and Judy Pohl; and several in-laws. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association or the Portland High School Athletic Association in honor of Wayne.

Alice Ann Hoppes, age 73, passed away, Sunday, February 25, 2018. She was born October 24, 1944, to Henry and Clarabel (Fenby) Noren. She is preceded in death by her parents; step father, Gordon Chorley; brother, Carl Noren; sisters-in-law, Shirley Noren, Virginia Townsend, Colleen Trierweiler, Carol Hoppes, JoAnn Hoppes, and Gerry Hoppes; brothers-in-law, Stan Hoppes, Leon Hoppes, Dick Hoppes, Jim Hoppes, Jerry Hoppes, Leonard O'Bannon, and Dick Kelly; and infant granddaughter, Angel. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Eugene "Joe" Hoppes; children, Gordy (Colleen) Hoppes, Amy (Brad) Parkhouse, and Denny (Pam Fedewa) Hoppes; six grandchildren; siblings, Jean Ellen O'Bannon and Jill Smith of North Carolina; brothers-in-law, Tom (Jill) Hoppes, Larry (Dee Dee) Hoppes, Bill Trierweiler, and Oscar Townsend; sisters-in-law, Alice Kelly, Mary Hoppes, and Sharon Hoppes; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Alice retired from the United States Post Office after 22 years of service, often times she gave dog bones to all of the dogs on her route. She had a great love for all of God's creatures, especially her beloved dogs. She also enjoyed going for rides in the country. She dearly loved her grandchildren and treasured spending time with them.

Agnes L. Hahn of Jackson, passed away at Henry Ford Allegiance Health on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the age of 97 years. She is survived by her daughters, Charlene Pung, Donna (Ken) Schrauben, and Kathleen (Paul) Verska; nine grandchildren; and nineteen great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Clarence G. Hahn, infant son Clarence G. Jr., son-in-law Roy Pung, and five siblings. Agnes enjoyed lake life, sewing, reading, and playing cards. According to her wishes, cremation has taken place. A Catholic Mass was held at the Vista Grande Villa, where she resided for 15 years. Instead of flowers, contributions to Queen of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church would be appreciated.

Leon Donald May, of Portland, passed away Monday, March 12, 2018 at the age of 80. He was born February 23, 1938, the twelfth of thirteen children to William E. and Anna (Bohr) May. Leon was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Fr. Godez Assembly. He retired after 32 years of service at General Motors. Leon loved to farm and in his later years he enjoyed gardening as well. Preceding Leon in death are his parents; son, Phillip May; daughter-in-law, Dorothy May; and all of his siblings. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Jeri; children, Ron May, LeAnn (Dan) Main, Steven May, and Luke (Holly) May; daughter-in-law, Heidi May; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR TEAM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

served, and a choir of students sang Christmas songs during the event.

- Performed Living Stations on March 16 in the church.

The SAT was also instrumental in starting a Students for Life chapter at St. Patrick School (see separate story on page 15).

After spring break, the SAT members will help spread the good news about St. Patrick School to members of Lake Odessa St. Edward and Saranac St. Anthony. They will also travel to Ionia SS. Peter and Paul and Grand Ledge St. Michael to talk about St. Patrick High School.

For more information about the SAT, call Ralph Willemin at (616) 308-3282.



BENNETTS IN FATIMA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

over the world. At Lourdes, Noel said that strangers were comforting each other, and she herself felt moved to hug a weeping woman.

After their return from the 10-day trip, Bruce and Noel had so much to tell, but at the same time felt that their experiences were indescribable. Bruce succinctly noted that it was "a faith-filled trip." (For more information about Fatima and Lourdes, visit these sites: <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en> and <http://www.fatima.pt/en>)



The theme of this puzzle is St. Patrick Catholic School. All of the words are related to the school, the activities that go on there, and the values that are so important to the students, staff, families, and supporters. When you have discovered all 28 of the hidden words, the leftover letters will spell out a quote from Pope Francis. Good luck!

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

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 15, 2018. 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 _____

ACADEMICS
 ACHIEVE
 ADORATION
 AMBASSADORS
 AUCTION
 BEQUEST
 CHAPEL
 CHESS

CHROMEBOOKS
 DEDICATION
 FAMILY
 FATHERMIKE
 FOOTBALL
 HEALTH
 HEALTHYKIDS
 LEARN

LIFE
 MISSION
 QUIZBOWL
 RESPECT
 REUNION
 SERVICE
 SHAMROCKS
 SMILE

STATECHAMPS
 STUDENTS
 SUMMERFEST
 VOLUNTEER



The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words from the sixties. The quote, and the answer to the puzzle was, ***“A mistake is only an error. It becomes a mistake when you fail to correct it.”*** These words of wisdom are attributed to John Lennon. The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Dolores Beard, who received \$50 for her efforts. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

LOST SHEEP

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

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



1956 Duane Irrer	1980 Angie Young
1961 John D. Pung	1980 Patrick Ellis
1966 Dan Lehman	1980 Marie Leik
1966 Tony Blundy	1981 Mike Binder
1966 Evie Silas	1985 Scott Osmar
1968 Carolyn (Roe) Embree	1991 Elaine Maurer
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova	1994 Jeremy Pohl
1975 Susan Thelen	1995 Andy Carr
1977 Brian Jenkins	2000 Jeffrey Pung
1977 Bob Rensi	2001 Segrid Johnson
1979 John Fedewa	2004 Donald Vollman

How to Stay in Touch!

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

School website: www.portlandstpats.com
 Parish website: www.stpatrickportland.com
 School Facebook: facebook.com/PortlandStPatrick
 Alumni Facebook: facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends-451159388427010/
 Parish Facebook: facebook.com/St.PatsPortland
 School Twitter: [@PortlandStPats](https://twitter.com/PortlandStPats)
 Mr. Hodge Twitter: [@principalhodge](https://twitter.com/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!



Upcoming EVENTS

DK/Kindergarten ScreeningApril 20, 2018
 Shamrock AuctionApril 21, 2008
 Group First Communion May 6, 2018
 Graduation.....May 20, 2018
 Summer Fest.....June 22-24, 2018
 Class of 1968 50-Year Reunion..September 8, 2018
 Fall Festival October 14, 2018
 Spring 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

Website: 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
 Kathy (Zimmerman) Schrauben kaschrauben@gmail.com
 Cindy (Stiffler) Selden cindyselden@yahoo.com
 Judy (Pung) Fleischer judyfleischer@portlandstpats.com
 Sue (Gross) Fox..... fox_mike@att.net
 Anne Bennett annebennett67@gmail.com
 Anne (Brown) Russman..... 517-647-4094
 Connie (Fedewa) Vallier..... vallierbc@sbcglobal.net

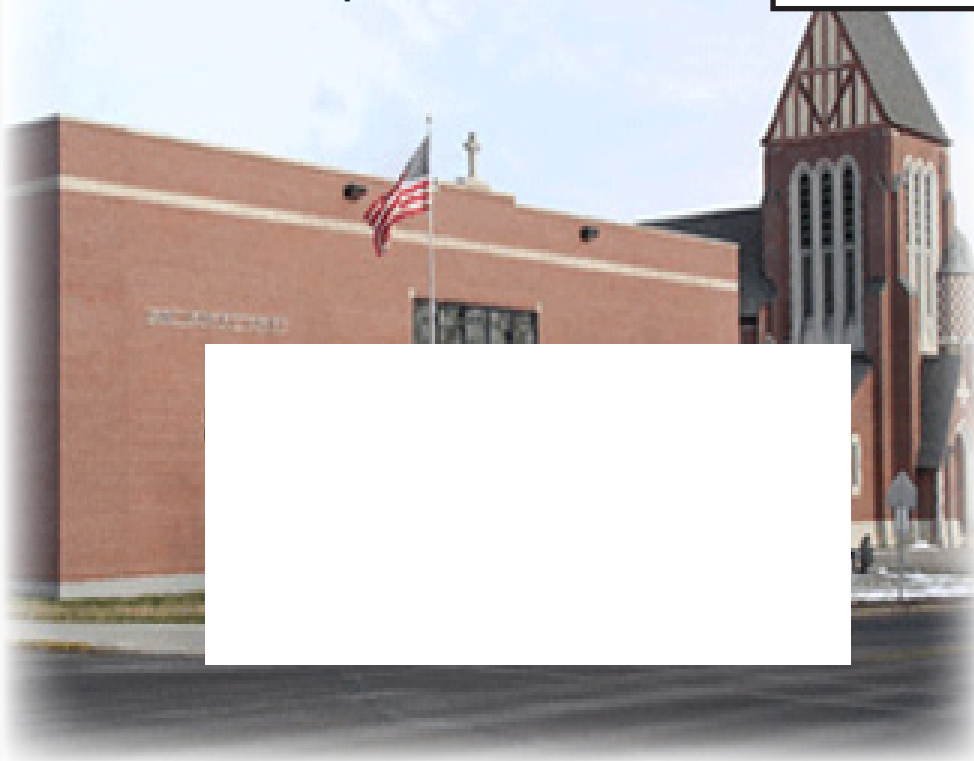
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