



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2019

Shamrock Football Philosophy Building good Catholic Men

In recent years, there has been a discernible change happening at St. Patrick's School and Parish. An authentic Catholic identity is being recaptured, led by a revitalized staff, an influx of large, devout Catholic families, and the influence of the Holy Spirit working among us. One of the most obvious of these changes has been noticed within the football program at St. Patrick's. Shamrock football fans are noticing encouraging signs of growth from the players, coaches, and their families, and it has drawn attention to our incredible school. People have noticed the difference within our program. This is the story about the change.

Three seasons ago, Head Coach and Athletic Director Pat Russman was presented with the difficult challenge of replacing veteran defensive coordinator Al Schrauben upon his retirement from football, along with the loss of his other assistants. The daunting task of replacing such a valuable staff left him with some decisions to make. Ultimately, Coach Russman decided that he would hire men who were strong in their faith first, and knowledgeable about football second. Not to say that his choices

for his assistant coaches were ignorant of football, but more importantly, they were men who would put their faith ahead of all other considerations when mentoring and coaching young men. Coach Russman chose to hire Ben Cross, a longtime coach in the Shamrock program, as his Defensive Coordinator; Aaron Thelen, a teacher at St. Patrick's and multi sport coach; and Todd Davlin, a youth football coach at St. Patrick's. Along with long time booth men, Mike Coyne and Ross Schneider, the staff is fully committed to

their faith.

St. Patrick's has had a very successful football history and has been even more successful since moving to 8-man football in 2012, leading to a 60-12 record since that time. Everybody loves to win, but the coaches at St. Pat's decided that there are far more important things than just winning games. Prayer was already part of the team concept, so throughout the first season, the coaches didn't change things a great deal. The real breakthrough for the staff came during the Lenten/Easter season in early 2017. The coaches all went to the Paschal Triduum, attending the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil masses out of love for God and passion for their Catholic Faith. In the discussions that ensued in the off-season, the staff determined that they were going to go all-in on raising a Catholic team and really embracing their faith.

The staff has identified that the main reason they work at St. Pat's,



The Shamrock team prays together before the 2018 semi-final game.

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Student Spotlight

Danica Ginther

Danica Ginther is a fifth-grade student at St. Pat's. She has been a student there since she started in preschool. As her Dad, I am biased about her accomplishments and great things she has achieved, literally since before her birth.

Her Mom was hospitalized at 14 weeks due to premature labor. Mom was on total bed rest for a month, meaning Miss Danica could be born any day.

At 24 weeks and 4 days, she was born, weighing in at a whopping 1 lb 12 oz and measuring 13 inches long. She was on every machine imaginable to keep her alive and help her continue to grow. She had heart surgery at about three weeks old and continued to grow for 94 days in neonatal intensive care. She came home at just shy of 5 lbs. About 1 month later she went through eye surgery to reattach her retinas in both eyes.



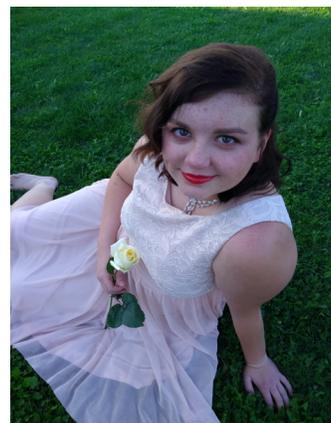
Fast forward to the present. Of all the medical problems she was supposed to have because of her early birth, she hasn't had any issues as of this time. She has been in gymnastics, various dance classes, and tennis. She finally settled into Irish Dancing with the Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe and travels with them to many events. She also got involved in Tae Kwon Do and worked her way up through the ranks to 1st Degree Black Belt in December 2017. Along the way she competed in many tournaments medaling in all but one she entered. In doing so she became the Michigan State Champion in two of four categories of competition for Black Belt recommended girls of her age group.

If that were not enough, she is becoming a fine young lady that continues to make her family very proud.

Beginning with this issue, we will be printing parent-submitted information about St. Patrick School students and their accomplishments. Information can be sent to shamrockeditors@gmail.com. The next issue will be mailed in late September. Deadline for submission is September 10, 2019. Thank you to Ritchie Ginther, Carolyn Heckman, and Jocelyn Rockey for these stories. Thank you to Ben Cross who submitted the information about Brandon Scheurer.

Kaitlyn Kwiecinski

Kaitlyn Kwiecinski is the second of ten children in her blended family. Kaitlyn has attended St Joseph Catholic School in Howell and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic School in Brighton. She moved to Portland from Gregory, Michigan, in 2015 and joined the Shamrock family as a freshman.



Kaitlyn has participated in youth ministry, track, art club, and Psalmists. She is an avid reader and an artist. She plays guitar and has studied violin. She enjoys her job at The Wagon Wheel. Kaitlyn will attend Ferris State University to major in social work. Her area of interest includes child welfare and family counseling. Kaitlyn scored a 33 on the ACT and maintains a GPA of 3.98. Her academic achievements earned her the Woodbridge N. Ferris Founder's Scholarship which will cover the full-tuition cost throughout her undergraduate program.

Brandon Scheurer



On Saturday, February 9, 2019, a great milestone was achieved by Portland St. Patrick's senior guard Brandon Scheurer. After hitting a free throw, the entire Shamrock crowd went wild, as unbeknownst to Brandon but known to the crowd, Brandon had scored his 1,000th career point.

Brandon, displaying humility and grace as befits a fine young man, was surprised and unaware of how close he was to hitting 1,000 points. "It was a crazy moment for sure. Definitely something I will never forget. At the time, it came as a big surprise. I had no idea how close I was, and when everyone started cheering after I made that free throw I was super confused."

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In the Spotlight

Anne Bennett



Some people are born with a short umbilical cord. They live their lives happily and safely tied to their parents and their hometown. Anne Bennett's cousin Dawn once claimed that Anne has a bungee cord instead. For the past 30 years, she has travelled far from home, rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, and had adventures more numerous than the most ardent globetrotter. But, she always comes home, though sometimes it's just long enough to catch her breath and to prepare herself for the next quest. Anne is home now, teaching at St. Patrick School and no doubt sharing her tales of adventure with her students.

As children, Anne and Mark Bennett would spin the globe and run their fingers along it until it stopped and say, "That's where I'll live when I grow up." Anne doesn't remember which places her finger landed on every time, but it seems that she's been trying to make the game real ever since.

Her first globe trot was in 1989, her senior year at Western Michigan University (WMU). With twelve French language students, she went to Paris and Lyon, where she ditched her American compatriots and explored France with other French learners from Taiwan, Spain, Germany, and Italy. Her sense of adventure had been born!

After WMU, Anne nannied in New York and London for twin baby girls. She travelled with the family, visiting France and Switzerland and also vacationed in Greece. In London, she became lifelong friends with an Australian barmaid named Corallee.

Anne returned to Michigan after a year and was quickly asked to nanny in Boston. Of course she went and subsequently spent many summers on Cape Cod and exclusive Fishers Island in Long Island Sound.

The wanderer then moved to Pasadena, CA, where she took on another nanny job, working for lawyers (who are now judges). In California, she camped in Joshua Tree National Forest, watched the Rose Parade, and spotted many celebrities. With the lawyers, Anne visited several U.S. locales including Hawaii, San Diego, Palm Beach, and La Quinta. In Little Rock, she took the baby to see Jerry Seinfeld's stand-up comedy. The baby slept through most of the performance but woke up with a "Bawk!" for a failed Seinfeld joke, to which Jerry responded sarcastically, "Did someone REALLY bring a baby?"



Anne in Jerusalem at the 5th Station of the Cross.

As became Anne's habit, she returned to Michigan after a few years in LA to check on her family. For the next several years, she bounced between the two coasts and Michigan, earning one master's degree in LA and one at CMU and working as a teacher, instructor, editor, and secretary. In 2001, she had a short nanny stint for the owners of the Venetian in Las Vegas. On their private jet, she flew to Malibu, Boston, DC, London, Madrid, and Israel, where she spent time in Tel Aviv and visited the Dead Sea and Jerusalem.

In 2012, Anne moved to the Marshall Islands and taught English to Marshallese, Filipino, Taiwanese, and Micronesian college students. She enjoyed constant 80-degree weather, year-round 6:30 am sunrises and 6:30 pm sunsets, and amenities like electricity and running water 80% of the time.

In addition to sailing and snorkeling, Anne took a few motor boat trips to other Marshallese islands and one



Anne and her dad, Bruce Bennett, fishing off the Marshall Islands.

holiday adventure to Australia. She visited Brisbane and The Gold Coast with her Scottish friend who worked at the electrical plant in Majuro, and she spent the holidays in Sydney with Corallee, the barmaid from London.

When the bungee cord pulled tight again, Anne moved to Toledo. Then

she sprung back out to Washington DC and most recently rebounded to Michigan, meanwhile getting a degree in Library and Information Science. She's back teaching high school English at St. Patrick High School.

At some point during her sojourns, Anne's childhood friend, Dave Ward, dubbed her "Two Annes and a Truck." She sang

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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.

BIRTHS

To **Brandon and Christen (Simon, 2004)** Anderson of Spring Lake, MI, a son and a daughter, on August 31, 2018. Twins Nathan Allen and Emily Rae join one sister, Samantha (2).

To **Beth and Marty Leik** (1999), of Boston, MA, a daughter, Bridget Addison, on June 26, 2018. She joins brother, Henry Thomas (2).

To **Kristen (Schraubens, 2001)** and **Aaron Smith**, a daughter, Holland Marie, on June 11, 2018. She joins sisters, Harper (5) and Hadley (3).

To **Kelsey (Sheaffer, 2006)** and **Brandon Rocky**, a daughter, Paxtyn Anne, on May 15, 2018.

To **Aaron** (2006) and **Beckie Thelen**, a daughter, Nora Anne, on January 20, 2019. She joins sister, Emmelyn (2).

To **Corie (Pung, 2001)** and **Mike Post** of Grand Rapids, a daughter, Hope Catherine, on January 25, 2019. She joins brother, Samuel (1 1/2).

To **Kim (Krieger, 2000)** and **Kurt** (1999) **Schafer**, a son, Griffin Lawrence, on July 23, 2018. He joins siblings, Peyton (9) and Olivia (7).

To **Ryan and Kayla (Hengesbach, 2005)** **Snellenberger**, a son, Jay Edwards, on May 12, 2018. He joins sisters, Ava (5) and Emma (4).

To **Patrick** (2000) and **Alison Finkbeiner**, a son, Abraham Murphy, on August 31, 2018. He joins brothers, Noah (9) and Benjamin (2).

To **Derek** (2006) and **Jennifer (Sandborn, 2006)** **Brown**, a daughter, Charleigh Kaye,

on February 3, 2019. She joins brothers, Nick (4) and Eli (1 1/2).

To **Kaylyn (Kramer, 2008)** and **Kenneth Livingston** of Ionia, a daughter, Adyson Rose, on September 9, 2018. She joins siblings, Austen (4 1/2) and Averie (2 1/2).

WEDDINGS

Cristin Stiffler (2009) and **Brandon Bigham** were married on October 6, 2018, at St. Patrick Catholic Church. They reside in Portland.

Joshua Rogers (2007) and **Rachel Gonzalez** were married on September 15, 2018, in Seattle, Washington. They reside in Redmond, Washington.

Chris Lay (2010) and **Caitlin Joy** were married on October 20, 2018, at St. Patrick Catholic Church. They reside in Eagle, MI.

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom (1961) and **Mary Leik** celebrated 50 years of marriage on January 27, 2018.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Allison Hodge (2015) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders on December 15, 2018.

IN MEMORY OF

Kathileen A. Gross, age 87, of Portland, passed away on Sunday, September 9, 2018. She was born on March 29, 1931, in Portland

the daughter of Walter and Raymunda (Pung) Fedewa. Kathileen was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She enjoyed crocheting, cooking, and an occasional trip to the casino. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Richard; sons-in-law, Richard McCrumb and Jerry Goodrich; and brother, Donald Fedewa. Surviving are her children, Susan (Michael) Fox, Diane (Kevin) Schlemmer, Sharon (Charles) Allen, Ann Marie McCrumb, Janice Goodrich, Daniel (Cathy) Gross, and Michael (Beverly) Gross; 15 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; brother, Robert (Catherine) Fedewa; many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Hospital in memory of Kathileen.

Patricia Elizabeth Baker, age 85, passed away on Thursday, September 20, 2018. She was born on April 9, 1933, the daughter of Bernard and Anna (Schafer) Smith. On February 12, 1955, she married Keith Baker and they shared 63 years of marriage. Pat had many jobs around the Portland area including working at Dr. Anderson's office, playground helper with Portland schools, babysitting, the Portland Elevator, the Portland Hardware store, and the laundry mat. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepmom, Ida Smith; brothers, Mike and Fritz Smith; sisters Carolyn Wirth and Dorthea Kelley. Surviving are her husband, Keith; children, John (Cheryl) Baker and Deb (Gary) Beard; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters Donna Hubbard and Ernie Root; sister-in-law, Joann Smith; brother-in-law, Dick Kelley. The family would like to thank the staff at Portland Assisted Living and Memory Care and a special thank you to Betty Honsowitz for her love and care she gave our mother. Memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Hospice or St. Patrick Church in memory of Pat.

James Warner Lansdell, Sr., age 73, of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. He was born on December 5, 1944, in Humboldt, TN. He was a veteran of the US Air Force and served during Vietnam. Jim worked as a Communications Technician at AT&T for 30 years before retiring and beginning a second career as a Real Estate Agent for Coldwell Banker Frewen Realty. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosanne; five children, Becky (Jeremy) Beechler, Jim (Debbie) Lansdell, Liz (Todd) Weller, Renee (Terry) Peterson, and Emily (Ryan) DeFour; 15 grandchildren; sister, Ruth Ann Sides of Tennessee; in-laws, Mary Ann Thelen, Louie and Diane Smith, Ron and Teresa Spitzley, Mike and Joan Weller, Jim and Germaine Thelen and Mary Lansdell; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Eula Lansdell, his brother, Clifford Lansdell, Jr., and his sister, Vicky Card. Jim was a long-time member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and loved spending

his free time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He always said if he'd known how much fun they were, he would have had them first. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services.

Richard Robert Mauren, age 85, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. He was born on December 30, 1932, in Lansing, the youngest son of Fred and Catherine Rose Mauren. Dick was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and graduated from Portland High School in 1951. On June 21, 1951 he joined the U.S. Air Force. He went to Sampson AFB in Geneva, NY for Basic Training and then was off to B-29 School in Shepherd Field, TX. He later was stationed around the country and the world. After his discharge from the Air Force, he attended the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma and was employed by Capital Airline in Pellston, MI, where he met his wife, Fran. Dick also worked for the family newspapers and later at T.R.W. in Portland where he eventually retired. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 55 years, Fran; sister, Margaret Schrauben; and brother, John Mauren. Surviving are his children, Mark (Julia) Mauren, Anne Mauren, and Mike (Kathy) Mauren; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother-in-law, Richard Schrauben; sister-in-law, Clara Mauren; and many nieces and nephews.

Dolores Ann Beard, age 70, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. She was born on July 17, 1948, in Portland, the daughter of Edwin and Ruth (Augst) Huhn. Dolores was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and retired from Meijer Corp. in Lansing after 44 years of service. She loved being with her family (always making sure they were well fed at family dinners) and putting others first. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; brothers, Thomas Banash and Douglas Huhn; mother-in-law, Marie Beard; and brother-in-law, Timothy Beard. Surviving are her children, Rick (Joan) Beard of Portland, ME, Kirk (Carisa) Beard of Sunfield, Kaye (Rene) Gonzalez of Lansing, Vicki (Mike) Vargas of Clarkston, and Tim (Amanda) Beard of Laingsburg; 11 grandchildren; brother, Keith (Sandra) Huhn; sisters, Marilyn (John Jenkins) Selden and Mary (Roger) Miller; sister-in-law, Paulette Huhn; many nieces and nephews.

Mary Margaret Martin, age 92, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. She was born on October 25, 1926, the daughter of Louis and Clara Rademacher. Mary was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a Past President and Chaplain of the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed playing cards and spending time with her family. Mary was preceded in death by

her parents; husband of 55 years, Reynold; grandson, Lee Martin; and brothers Edward, Charles, and Norbert Rademacher. Surviving are her children, Kathleen (Kurt) Pitch, Arlene (Carl) Randall, Terry (Dawn Hinds) Martin, Jerry (Sharon) Martin, Daniel Martin, Kenneth (Laurie) Martin, Mary Ann (George) Hilton, and David Martin; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; brothers, Jerry Rademacher, Leo (Janet) Rademacher, and Matthew (Jean) Rademacher; sisters, Clarita (Bob) Fedewa and Janice (Mike) Fox; sisters-in-law, Sue Rademacher, Clare Rademacher, and Janet Rademacher. The family would like to thank Portland Assisted Living and Memory Care for their compassionate and loving care given to their mother. Memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Caring Hospice in memory of Mary.

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.

Alice Dawn Sunday, age 82, of Portland, passed away Friday, November 16, 2018. She was born August 9, 1936, the daughter of Leo M. and Marie P. (Fischer) Selden. Alice served in the lunchroom at Oakwood for nearly 20 years, was a wonderful cook, and enjoyed canning. Alice truly treasured spending time with her family and loved ones. Preceding Alice in death are her parents; brother, Howard Selden; brothers-in-law, Robert Sunday and Robert Hollabaugh; and sister-in-law, Rita Mason. Alice is survived by her beloved husband of 63 years, Leon Sunday; children, Dolores Sunday, Joyce (Jon) Bower, Connie Rosas, Steve (Kendra) Sunday; 7 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; siblings, Ernie (Marian) Selden, Joann Hollabaugh, and Mary Lou Lash; brothers-in-law, Jerry (Gertie) Sunday and Jim (Marsha) Sunday; sister-in-law, Marilyn Selden; and many special nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ionia Commission on Aging Meals on Wheels or the Alzheimer's Association in honor of Alice.

Mary Frances (Schaffer) VanOstran was born in Lansing on October 14, 1951, the daughter of Herbert and Mary Jane Schaffer. She passed away on November 18, 2018, and is survived by her loving husband, Garry; her son, Christopher (Candice) Pohl of Fishers, IN.; 3 grandchildren that she adored, Anna, Alex, and

Emily; brother Stephen (Debbie) Schaffer of Lakeland, FL.

Frederick G. Schelter, age 84, of Mulliken, died November 22, 2018, at his home. Mr. Schelter was born April 24, 1934, in Lansing, son of Earnest and Helen (White) Schelter. He was a retired G.M. employee, a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and belonged to several muzzle loading clubs. Fred was preceded in death by his son, David. Surviving is his wife of 63 years, Marcia; children, Gwendolyn Schelter of Mulliken, Stephen Schelter of Lansing, Andrew Schelter of Grand Ledge, Joseph Schelter of Mulliken, Susan (William) Marshall of Gaylord, Julie Speckin of Lansing, and Kathryn (Christopher) Rice of Lake Odessa; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Ernest (Meredith) Schelter; several nieces & nephews.

Richard Earnest Schrauben, passed away on December 3, 2018, at the age of 91. He was born in Riley Township, Clinton County, on August 10, 1927, the son of John and Amelia (Feneis) Schrauben. He was the youngest of 14 children. Dick was a lifelong resident of Portland, a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and a past member of the church choir and the Knights of Columbus Council #2168. He loved the outdoors, sitting on his front porch (which he said was the best porch in town), and above all, he loved his family. Dick married the love of his life, Margaret Mauren, on May 26, 1951, and they were happily married for 55 years until her death on July 28, 2006. He was also preceded in death by infant brother, Harold and infant sister, Adeline; brothers, Herman Sr., Isadore, Raymond, Clarence, Edwin, and John; sisters, Martha Doll, Agnes Stump, Mildred Wight, and Alice Veltman. Dick is survived by his children, Keith (Carol) Schrauben, Ann (Greg) Lantzy, Kathy (Edmund) Hermelyn, Amy (Bob) Hitchcock, and Kevin (Kris) Schrauben; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Kavanagh; sisters-in-law, Mae Lehman and Clara Mauren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A special thank you to the doctors and nurses of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Sparrow Hospital for all their kindness and care given to our father.

Luke Alan Hoppes, age 50, of Lyons, passed away Sunday, December 9, 2018. He was born June 27, 1968, in Lansing, Michigan, the son of Stanley and Joan (Weber) Hoppes. Luke was a devoted employee at General Motors. He was extremely proud of his daughters and their achievements in school and sports, especially swimming. Preceding Luke in death are his parents and father-in-law, Robert Cook. Luke is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughters, Katherine and Valarie; siblings, Roxanne Burnham,

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Students Enjoy Special School Visitors

On March 5, 2019, a special visitor named Zeke came to St. Patrick School to help kick off “Paws” to Read, which is the theme for *March is Reading Month*. As he wandered from classroom to classroom, Zeke evoked smiles from students and staff alike.

Zeke was such a hit that he’ll be returning to the school weekly.

Who was this guest you wonder? Zeke is a four-year-old boxer! He also brought along his human, Ms. Starr. They belong to a group called Buddy’s P.A.L.S (Pet Assisted Learning Services).

“Our main objective is to provide a relaxed and dog-friendly atmosphere, where students can achieve individual goals with confidence,” said Kindergarten teacher Cortney Smith. “When Zeke came to visit, it was easy to see that the students were relaxed and willing to take more risks.

“Alexis Knoop, from Mrs. Cook’s fourth grade class, quickly introduced her two new classmates with poise. Another student reflected on his behavior and how he could be more responsible.”

Studies show that having the dogs visit the students has



positive effects, including the following:

- Lower stress levels
- Increased physical well-being
- Decreased anxiety
- Dramatically increased positive mood
- Increased confidence

Dogs in the classroom also appear to ease social isolation and help children learn social skills

Buddy’s P.A.L.S is a non-profit organization led by Ms. Lolie Fabela. She has four teams (dog and human) set up to join Zeke and is thrilled to partner with St. Patrick School.

More Special Visitors

It’s not every day that you walk into the school and come face-to-face with three domesticated South American camelids, better known as llamas.

As a part of a presentation for her Aquinas College dual enrollment class, junior Anna Schasser arranged for three llamas to visit the school. The llamas, named Caccini, Morgana, and Mariae, were a hit with everyone.

Thank you to Emerald Glen Farm for bringing the llamas in for a visit.



St. Patrick School

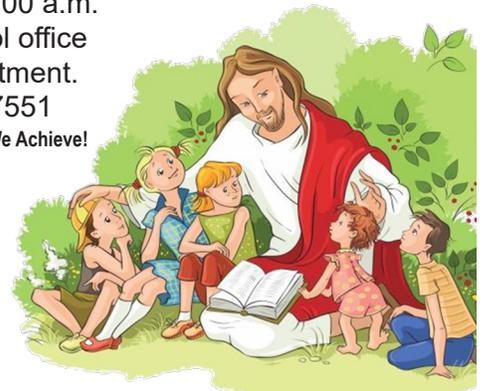
DK/Kindergarten Screening
Friday, April 26, 2019

Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Call the school office
for an appointment.

(517) 647-7551

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!





Senior Class Theology Survey

As a Theology Class project, the Portland St. Patrick seniors are conducting a survey to determine how many St. Patrick Alumni continue to practice their Catholic faith after graduating from high school. If you graduated from St. Patrick School, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it to Mr. Dan Rockey, 122 West Street, Portland, MI 48875, by April 6, 2019. You can also take the survey online here:  Survey participants are totally anonymous; please give honest answers.

1. Do you attend Mass: _____ Daily? _____ Weekly? If not, how often? _____
2. Do you believe in the true presece of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist? _____
3. Do you see the sacraments, especially baptism, reconciliation, holy communion and confirmation as important to your faith and salvation? _____
4. Do you pray regularly? _____ Daily? _____ Weekly? _____ Only when you're in need
5. Do you read any of these regularly? _____ The Bible _____ Other Catholic religious articles _____ Non-Catholic religious articles
6. Do you agree with the Church's teaching on sexuality that marriage is between a man and a woman? _____ Why or why not?

7. Do you agree with the Church's teaching on contraception? _____ Why or why not? _____

8. Were you raised with both parents in the home? _____ Yes _____ No If not, which parent raised you? _____
9. Did your parents divorce? _____ Yes _____ No If they divorced, how old were you at the time of the divorce? _____
10. Which parent was most intrumental in your faith development? _____
11. Was there a person, priest, parent, godparent, or someone else who significantly changed your faith-life positively or negatively? _____

12. Was there an event that significantly changed your faith life for good or bad? _____

13. Do your parents practice their Catholic faith? _____
14. Were your parents instrumental in your faith formation? _____
15. What do you like most about your Catholic faith? _____
16. What do you dislike most about your Catholic faith? _____
17. Did your Catholic education enhance or lessen your faith? _____
18. What year did you graduate from St. Patrick High School? _____
19. Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic today? _____
20. What percentage of your classmates do you believe are still practicing their Catholic faith? _____



Faith Formation is Flourishing at St. Patrick Church!

by Carolyn Heckman,
Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization

There are some great things happening at St. Patrick Church. Faith Formation is flourishing!

For the last few years, the *Ignite* and *RCIA* programs have been the backbone of our Adult Faith Formation. While we continue to provide *Ignite* special events and a dynamic *RCIA* program that will bring thirteen individuals into the Catholic Faith this Easter, we are working hard to offer you more to renew and deepen your faith.

This year, your opportunity to grow multiplied with the addition of six brand-new ministries, a new multimedia resource, and a vibrant parish mission that followed the successful *Padre Pio* mission of last year. These include the following:

ALPHA premiered in September with a group of 55 participants. *Alpha* is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. *Alpha* has been experienced by thousands around the globe, and everyone is welcome. Evenings include dinner, discussion, and community.

SYMBOLON builds on the success of *Alpha*. Combining a stunning video series, teaching, and discussion, it presents the big picture of the Catholic Faith. Like *Alpha*, each evening begins with dinner and a warm, welcoming environment. Both *Symbolon* and *Alpha* are offered on Monday evenings 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. No registration is required.

LIT (Ladies in Truth). For over six months, ladies of all ages and backgrounds have met to build a new women's ministry in our parish. All ladies are invited to pray together, encourage one another, build friendships, and encounter the living Christ. *LIT* meets in room 110 of the school, Saturday mornings 8:30 a.m.- 10 a.m.

THAT MAN IS YOU. For over twelve years, we have supported a thriving Saturday-morning men's group. Taking their lead from Fr. Mike, these men launched a new program this Lent. *That Man is You* honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. All men are encouraged to participate in the Lenten Journey portion, with a full program launch to begin in September 2019. Men's Group meets Saturday mornings 6:30-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

BELOVED. Prior to this year, our parish lacked a truly comprehensive Marriage-preparation program. *Beloved* addresses that need. *Beloved* asks our engaged couples to explore the true meaning of Marriage and how to live it out together. Led by mentor couples from within our Marriage Enrichment Team, they discover the deepest spiritual, emotional, and practical realities of Marriage through Scripture, Tradition, and Church Teaching. This year, over twenty engaged couples benefited from *Beloved*.

REBORN. Our parish also needed to offer more to parents preparing for the Baptism of their child. In June of this year, we initiated *Reborn*. *Reborn* explains the deeply personal and sacred relevancy of baptism. With a step-by-step explanation of the rite itself, including its place in Scripture and Tradition, *Reborn* shows how Baptism reveals the heart of God's love for His children.

FORMED.ORG. For the first time, we are bringing family faith formation right into your living room! St. Patrick Church now subscribes to *Formed.org*. Using a login code, our parishioners can create an account to get free access to thousands of online Catholic resources from children's cartoons to full-length family movies, original series, and audio books. Haven't checked out *Formed.org*? Here's how to do it:

Please pray for the following Candidates and Catechumens from St. Patrick Parish who will enter the Catholic Faith this Easter:

- Heidi Schafer
- Christian Rivard
- Ashley Schneider
- Jeff Sandborn,
- Joshua Lantz
- Melissa Bowerman
- Kim Miller
- Sean Rutka
- Justin McCafferty
- Kyle Smith
- Karen Dugan
- Zach Johnson
- Alexis Hilliard

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FAITH FORMATION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

1. Go to *Formed.org*
2. Click on "Enter Code"
3. Use parish code: TFJWMQ (to set up your account)

PARISH MISSION. In August 2018, over 350 parishioners gathered for an inspiring three-night parish mission led by nationally-known Catholic speaker and author, Jon Leonetti. Save the dates this year, August 11th-13th, as we welcome Adam Storey from the Diocese of Des Moines, IA, to further uplift and encourage us in our faith!

These are just some of the wonderful happenings at St. Pat's. I would like to personally invite you to explore all our parish has to offer. To learn more or volunteer to share your talents in one of our programs, please contact me at carolynheckman@portlandstpats.com. There is a place for everyone!

ADORATION CHAPEL

by Mike Cook

St. Patrick's new Eucharistic Adoration chapel on the east side of Church Street has been open for just over a year, and already it's led to increased regular Adoration hours. Adoration is now available on Mondays, noon to 7 p.m. and Wednesdays, noon to 11 p.m. While our world today seems to overwhelm us with constant activity and noise, many are discovering the benefits of quiet time in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist.



is available by calling the parish office at 517-647-6505 or Mike Cook at 517-242-1352.

If your schedule doesn't fit regular Adoration hours when the tabernacle is open, you are welcome to stop in any time. Been away from the Church for a while? No problem. Jesus will welcome your company. The keyless entry code

**FATHER
FLOHE
FOUNDATION**



Education Bell Award Presented to Sandy Pearson

The Father Flohe Foundation has chosen 1988 grad, Sandy (Brown) Pearson, as the recipient of the 2018 Education Bell Award. Sandy has been a lifelong member of the parish and since graduation, has dedicated her life to providing proper family housing for families in need. After many years as an employee of the State of Michigan, Sandy felt she could better provide housing solutions by joining Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, where she assumed the duties of CEO and President. Sandy loves her work and cares deeply about the people she is able to help. In 2016, she was awarded the Duvernay Award, the highest award given for housing and community development in Michigan.



Sandy and her husband, Rob, are active and involved in the parish and community, and they are avid supporters of St. Patrick School. Their three daughters are fifth-generation students to attend St. Pat's, following in the footsteps of their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great grandparents!

Sandy also has a passion for enjoying life with family and friends. She's not afraid to participate in the God-given opportunities presented to her, including skydiving, rock jumping, riding motorcycles, and cheering for all teams green and white.

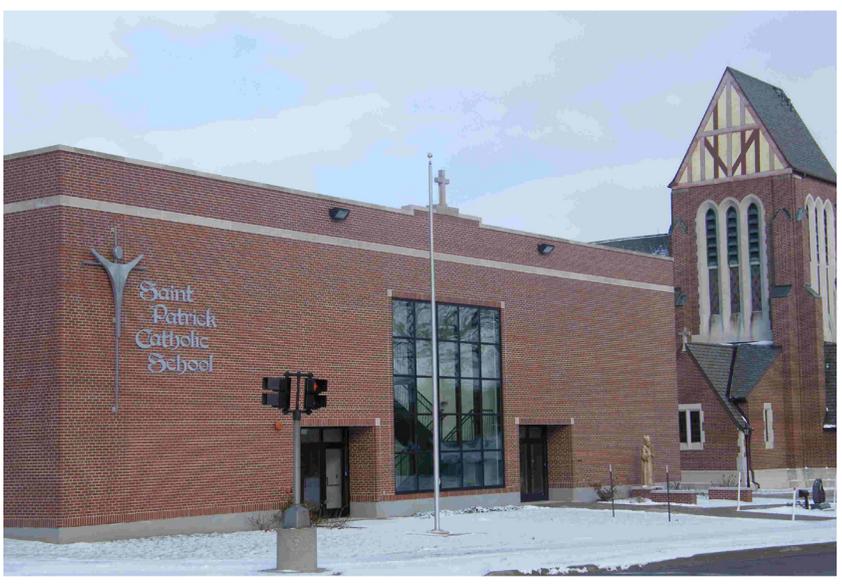
Congratulations, Sandy, on this well-deserved recognition!

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

Nominations Open

If you would like to nominate someone for the Father Flohe Foundation Education Bell Award, please visit the St. Patrick School website for instructions and a form. Go to www.portlandstpats.com/school > Other Links > Father Flohe Foundation.

Taking Care of Our School



Dealing With an Aging Roof

St. Patrick School is aging. The original part of the building was constructed in the early 1950s with additions in the 1960s and 1990s. The building has held up remarkably well, due in no small part to the Herculean efforts of the maintenance staff.

Now is the time to upgrade and protect our assets so St. Patrick Church and School can continue quality education, share wisdom, and provide a safe environment for our students to hear the word of the Lord.

The school's roof has not undergone any major repairs, rehabilitations, or renovations since the original construction of each building phase. Parts of the roof are now 65+ years old. Minor repairs have been made, but these have been a temporary, not a long-term, solution.

We have far surpassed the life expectancy of the roof. It has been leaking for way too long and has lost most of its insulating value (R-value). This quite literally means most of the heat is going through the roof.

The Plants and Grounds Committee has been evaluating roof replacement options which includes a long-term rehabilitation plan that will increase the R-value to meet the existing Energy Code and will offer almost four times the current long-term thermal resistance (LTTR) of the existing roof system. This option will offer a 20-year warranty and will have a life expectancy of 30 years. Preliminary estimates exceed \$240,000 and funding is needed in order to move forward.

The roof protects every single investment made inside the school and NOW is the time to address the situation.

Would you be willing to contribute to some much-needed roof maintenance at St. Patrick School? By protecting the roof, we protect everything underneath it, as well. Donations are being accepted now. Please note "Roof Project" when you make your contribution.

PLANTS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Father Mike has reorganized the Plants and Grounds Committee to address known projects and repairs of parish properties.

Under his guidance, Maintenance Supervisor, Pat Heckman, has assembled a cast of talented volunteers to evaluate, analyze, and develop a strategic plan that encompasses short-term needs and long-range project goals. Each member of the committee possesses a unique skill-set and career experience that will expedite this important task.

If you have a talent or skill that would be beneficial to the parish, please call any member of the group.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Members of the new
Plants and Grounds Committee:

Pat Heckman
Jay Boyd
Mike Bozung
Todd Davlin
Heather Hedges-Davis
Bob Lenneman
Andy Mosser
Ken Schneider
Graham Smith
Mike Theis



“Part of the roof on the school is over 65-years old—the heat is literally going through the roof.”

“The roof protects every single investment inside the school. Now is the time to address the situation.”



The top photo shows the failing flashing which is leading to leaks. The bottom photo shows the results of the leaks—deterioration of the bricks and bricks actually falling out.

Good Things are Happening Already!

SOUND SYSTEM: Due to generous donations by the family of a St. Patrick student, there will soon be a new sound system in the gym. The equipment has arrived and is scheduled to be installed during spring break. The new digital system can be operated from a computer or tablet. It will provide wireless technology and a better listening experience for Drama Club productions, NHS ceremonies, graduations, and more.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING: Through the God-given skills and professional connections of a school family, the lighting on the west side of the school was recently upgraded at no cost to the school or parish. The new lights provide a much brighter outdoor experience for the West Street area. Thank you to Jerry Bozung, Mike Bozung, Braden Bozung, Charlie Bozung, and Troy Smith for obtaining and installing the new lights.

SECURITY GRANT: St. Pat’s was one of five recipients of a security grant funded by the Michigan State Police. We were the only recipient to receive the maximum award of \$100,000.

The grant requires a lot of paperwork which is in the process of being completed with hopes that the safety improvements can be completed before the beginning of the next school year. Plans are to fully replace and install new doors at the gym and office entrances and refurbish two secondary doors. Plans also include expanding the electronic access system that we invested in last year, and we are seeking options to add security cameras around the facility.

Thank you to school parent, Ross Schneider, for finding the information about this grant. Thank you to school parent, Heather Hendges-Davis, for writing the grant application and following through with the necessary paperwork. If you know of other grants that are available, please contact the school or parish office.

SEARCHING FOR TALENT

In moving forward, the Plants and Grounds Committee is seeking to identify parishioners, parents, alumni, and community members who have expertise and skills in several different areas.

If you would like to support their efforts or if you have an occupational talent or skilled trade knowledge, they would love to talk to you! As projects are forecasted, planned, and some parish work-days are organized, we need to know who we can count on for expertise, assistance, and quotes.

OCCUPATIONS/SKILLS

Including, but not limited to:

- Electrical
- HVAC
- Insulation/Roofing
- Carpentry
- Concrete & Repair
- Welding/Fabrication
- Plumbing
- Network Cabling
- Masonry
- IT/Technology Support
- Interior Design
- Cleaning/School Supplies
- Equipment Rental

NO SPECIFIC SKILLS OR TALENTS?

No extra time? No specific skill or talent? No problem! If you work for or have contacts with companies that provide these services or sell products that might be of interest to St. Patrick’s, let us know! We need these resources, too!

Many people don’t know how to get involved at St. Pat’s. Fundraising events aren’t their cup of tea, and they don’t know what other projects are available. This is the perfect time to step forth and put your talents to good use. Call the parish office and leave your name and number. Someone will get in touch with you!

alumni news

Reunion Information

The **Class of 1974** will hold their 45-year reunion on Saturday, September 14, 2019, at the home of Larry and Deb Fox. Contact Larry Fox at (517) 526-3532 for more information.

The **Class of 1979** will hold their 40-year reunion on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The celebration will begin with the 4:30 Mass in memory of Mark Simon, followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel. Invitations will be mailed out this summer. Call Tim Wilcox (517) 490-0359 for additional information.

The **Class of 1984** will hold their 35-year reunion on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at the home of Dan "Boomer" Trierweiler. Contact Brenda Smith (smithbl9@michigan.gov) for more information.

The **Class of 1989** is in the planning stages of their 30-year reunion. It is tentatively planned for August, on the same day as the TKIII Golf Outing, in order to include Tony Kolarik in their day. After the golf outing and dinner, they plan to go to Kris Platte's house for a bonfire/get together. Final details have not been completed; invitations will be sent out once everything is decided. For more information, contact Lisa Lehnert at 517-526-0322 or lehnerla@yahoo.com.

The **Class of 1994** will definitely be having a 25-year reunion, but the date and place have not yet been determined. If you'd like to help plan the reunion, contact Ben Cross at (517) 526-5144.

The **Class of 1999's** 20-year reunion will be on Saturday, July 13. Details and times are yet to be finalized but will involve canoeing and kayaking during the day with dinner in the Wagon Wheel Oak Room in the evening. Please RSVP to Heather Krieger at heatherhenges@yahoo.com, Kurt Schafer at k_d_schafer@yahoo.com or Mike Bozung at bozungm@gmail.com.

The **Class of 2009** plans to hold a 10-year reunion, but no concrete plans are in place at this time. Do you have ideas, or would you like to help with the planning? Contact Shelbi (Wilcox) Pline at slwilcox@svsu.edu.

The **Class of 2014** will be holding a 5-year reunion, but it has not yet been planned. If you have ideas or need more information, contact Mari Behovitz (MariBehovitz@gmail.com).

Attention, **Class of 1970**: Your 50-year reunion hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation will be held on September 12, 2020. The 50-year reunion is always the Saturday after Labor Day.

If you need an address list of your classmates, contact Janet Pung at the St. Patrick school office (janetpung@portlandstpats.com).

At your reunion: Don't forget to take a group photo. Then, send it to us, along with a short report about your reunion. Send those items to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

St. Patrick **Class of 1958** met at the Wagon Wheel in October 2018, to celebrate the 60th year of their graduation. Many classmates were there, and they all enjoyed seeing each other and talking about the old times. A prayer was offered for the classmates who have passed away. "Everyone still looks good and they're still very talkative," said Dick Trierweiler. Three hours passed quickly and the classmates look forward to their next reunion.



On Saturday, September 22, 2018, the **Class of 1993** celebrated their 25-year class reunion at Fabiano's in Westphalia. 21 classmates were able to attend, including Dawn Mikowski, who moved to Florida when the class was in fifth grade. Nathan Pung traveled the farthest, coming all the way from Colorado for the reunion. Former teacher and football coach Chris Schrauben also joined the group for some pictures and reminiscing. It was a terrific evening!



50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1969

Members of the Class of 1969 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 14, 2019. 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!

SUMMER FEST

June 21-22-23, 2019



Friday evening, June 21
21+ event
6:30 p.m. Gates Open
7:30 p.m. Legal Immigrants
9:00 p.m. Freebird:
Tribute to



Saturday evening, June 22
21+ event
6:15 p.m. El Kabong
9:30 p.m. Lookin' Back
Tribute to Bob Seger



Sunday, afternoon, June 23
Bring the whole family!
Noon-1:30 We Three Strings
1:30-3:00
Hubbardston Irish Dancers

Online tickets available, beginning April 29, 2019.
Buy tickets at eventbrite.com. \$10 each.
Tickets also available at the gate.
Beer, craft beer, wine, soft drinks available.
Must be 21+ to enter the tent after 6:00 p.m.

Festival Food

Our famous Elephant Ears
Sweet Caroline's BBQ
Kona Ice Truck
(kids and adults non-alcoholic slushies)
Other food trucks
to be announced

Sunday 11:00-2:30
Chicken/Swiss Steak Dinner
with all the fixin's
plus beverage
and homemade dessert

Saturday afternoon, June 22
Free for the whole family!
2:00 p.m. S.N.O.T
Chamber Orchestra
and
3:00 p.m. D.J. Dill Pickle
back by popular demand!

www.stpatsummerfest.com

Saturday
Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Volleyball Tournament
Youth Baseball Tournament

Saturday & Sunday:
Midway full of games,
activities, and inflatables.
All-day bracelets available.

Sunday:
11:00 a.m. Buffet-Style
Chicken/Swiss Steak Dinner
11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Classic Cars Cruise-In
3:00 p.m. Raffles



The Shamrock Auction

Hawaiian Luau

Saturday, April 27, 2019

For the past 17 years, April at St Patrick School means more than just the arrival of spring - it also means the Shamrock Auction is approaching quickly! Our annual auction-based fundraiser, which was implemented in 2003 in an effort to boost fundraising profits, has become one of the largest fundraisers for St. Patrick School and the SPS Athletic Association. The proceeds from this event have enabled us to continue the Tradition of Excellence both in the classroom and in our athletic programs. With your help, we hope 2019 is the year we surpass \$1,000,000 in total funds raised to date.

New this year! Online ordering!
Buy your entry tickets.
Buy your raffle tickets.
Bid on silent auction items!
at bidpal.net/shamrockauction2019

New to the auction this year, we've partnered up with OneCause, a user-friendly fundraising platform, that will make buying, bidding and checking out online a breeze. Electronic bidding allows for immediate "check out" when you are done. This means no more waiting in long lines at the end of the night!

Can't attend this exciting event? But still want to help fund the Tradition of Excellence? You can make a difference by choosing to DONATE NOW on our online bidding site: bidpal.net/shamrockauction2019

Attention SPS classes of 1997 and 2001! You were chosen as our two highlight classes, and a class representative should have recently reached out to you regarding a special donation. If you have not been contacted, please call Ann Kissane at 517.604.1852 for more information.

THANK YOU! Your generous donations make a difference!

Mike & Ann Kissane and Jason & Jennifer Chamberlain,
2019 Shamrock Auction Committee Co-Chairs

Don't miss this night of fun!
Saturday, April 27, 2019
at the KC Hall in Portland
Doors Open at 6:00

Tickets are \$20 & include:
delicious food, drinks,
and entry into the
Shamrock appreciation raffle,
a live and silent auction,
raffles, 50/50,
entertainment and more!

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nicholsinsagt@gmail.com

A special thank you to our platinum sponsor!

Rest in Peace, Sister Philippa

Sister Mary Louise Germain, CSJ, passed away on March 11, 2019. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, on March 12, 1921, the daughter of David and Helen (Greb) Germain. She was a member of St. Benedict Parish in Highland Park, Michigan, at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on June 18, 1938. She received the name Sister Philippa at her reception on January 9, 1939, but later returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Mary Louise earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Nazareth College and a Master of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame. Well known for teaching and administrative skills, Sr. Mary Louise became a beloved teacher in Detroit, Lincoln Park, Ferndale, Portland, Flint, Kalamazoo, Muskegon and Royal Oak. She was also a Principal at St. Philip Neri (Detroit), St. Benedict (Highland Park), St. Mary (Williamston), and Adult Education at Mott in Flint. Sister Mary Louise combined her teaching skills as a librarian at St. Veronica's until her retirement to Nazareth in 1995 where she continued to reach out in love and service to those around her.

Sister Mary Louise Germain was a gracious woman who always greeted people with a warm, welcoming smile. Her special gift for spreading joy, love, kindness, and friendship in the spirit of Christ permeated those whose lives she touched. Dedication, consistency, a well-balanced sense of humor, sensitivity, and a genuine love for people were traits she carried throughout her life. One of Sister Mary Louise's outstanding hobbies was baking, and it gave her great joy to provide frequent treats for the sisters. Sister Mary Louise appreciated the deep loyalty of her family, friends, and community members who enriched her life with their love and concern. She was grateful to CSJ leadership for all the opportunities she was given for spiritual and professional growth and development and for their encouragement to reach for "the more." May Sister Mary Louise now enjoy eternal life in the warm embrace of the loving God she so faithfully served all her life. May She Rest In Peace!



PICTURE CONTEST FROM FALL

The winner of the picture contest from the Fall 2018 issue of The Shamrock is Elizabeth (Manning, 2000) Hager who remembers that the photo was taken at a bridal shower, planned by the students, for their kindergarten teacher, Miss Rowley. She was engaged to MSU basketball player, Bill Cawood.

"Mrs. Cawood came back to St. Pat's in 2000 for our graduation," said Elizabeth. "She was the speaker at our commencement."

It should be noted that the Class of 2000 was the first Kindergarten class at Portland St. Patrick School.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Gracelyn Rockey

Gracelyn Rockey (age 10) won the State Championship in the K of C Free Throw Contest on March 17, 2019 at Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart. Gracelyn had previously won the districts and regionals in her age bracket. The Luck of the Irish came through to help her win the championship!

Two other students from St. Pat's also went to the state championships. Hannah Weller and Payton Russman both received runner-up awards.



Spring Picture Contest

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS EVENT?

Where was this photo taken? What was the event? Who are the people in the picture? Were you there? Send us your memories—or your guesses. We'll draw the winner from all entries. No prize for this contest, just the satisfaction of knowing that you won!



WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Denise Hoppes, Michael (Cindy) Hoppes, and Pat (Dora) Hoppes; mother-in-law, Helen Cook; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bruce (Carie) Cook, Steve Cook, and Susan (Jim) Nurenberg; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Michael Frederick Manning, age 79, of Portland, passed away on Saturday, December 29, 2018. He was born on December 12, 1939, the son of Donald and Florelle (Morelle) Manning. Mike was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus #2168, and Fraternal Order of Eagles #1039. He loved flying and was a pilot and Major in the Civil Air Patrol. He enjoyed being an amateur radio operator (N8EUQ) and an occasional visit to the casino. Mike retired from the State of Michigan in 1997 after 34 years of service as a Systems Analyst. He was preceded in death by his parents. Surviving are his siblings, John Manning, Nancy (Larry) Schueller, and Steven Manning; several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Mike.

Nancy L. Schrauben, age 70, of Portland, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 6, 2019. She was born on February 27, 1948, the daughter of Louis and Esther (Nurenberg) Bedenbender. Nancy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She retired from MESSA after 30 years of service. Nancy loved her family and always put the needs of others in front of her own. She is preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Sylvester Thelen; in-laws, Isadore and Esther Schrauben; and a brother-in-law, Jon Arendsen. Surviving are her beloved husband of 49 years, Gary "Dewey" Schrauben; daughter, Staci (Pablo Hernandez) Schrauben; son, Jason Schrauben; twin granddaughters; brother, Jack (Nancy) Bedenbender; sisters, Patricia (Francis) Leik, Jan Maxwell, Betty (Joe) Peters, Susan Arendsen, Debi Bedenbender, and Sheila (Steve) Kemp; step-sister, Elaine Fox; step-brothers, Michael (Pat), Charles (Sue), Steve (Mary Lou), Alan (Mary), and Luke Thelen; several in-laws; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to McLaren Hospice or St. Patrick Athletic Association in memory of Nancy.

Eloise Carolyn Gilbert, of Portland, passed away on January 17, 2019, at the age of 91. She was born on October 13, 1927, in Portland (Orange Township), the daughter of Frank and Mary (Pline) Fandel. Eloise was a beautician who worked out of her home for 65 plus years. She held a special place

in her heart for her 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She is survived by sons, Steve (Kathy) Gilbert, Terry (Phyllis) Gilbert, Jeff (Jean) Gilbert, and Scott (Shawn) Gilbert. She is also survived by her lifelong "best buddy," sister, Mae Lehman. She is preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Jack Gilbert; brothers, Christy (Helen) Fandel and Hubert Fandel; and sister, Annabelle (Louis) Werner. Special thanks to the Robert Hoppes family and Kelly and the staff at Country Living Nursing Home for all of their kindness they have shown through the years.

Jacob Daniel Heckman, precious son of Patrick and Carolyn Heckman, passed away on January 17, 2019. His funeral was held at St. Patrick Parish on January 22, 2019. Jacob is loved and missed by his parents; siblings, William, Kaitlyn, Brian, Grady, Claire, Emma, Lily, Mary, and Sarah; grandparents, Jeff Belprez, Dave and Deb Walker-Chmielewski, and Celeste Heckman; and other aunts, uncles, and cousins. He joins his grandfather Fran Heckman, uncle George Heckman, and cousin Grant Heckman in eternal life.

Bernadine Rita Witgen, age 88, of Portland, passed away Sunday, February 3, 2019. She was born on August 26, 1930, in Westphalia, the daughter of William J. and Verina (Kloekner) Thoma. Bernadine was a life-long member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Her family was her first priority. Surviving Bernadine are her children, Larry (Noreen) Fandel, Sheri Fandel, Robert (Roxanne) Fandel, and James Fandel; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; siblings, Dolores Pline and William Thoma; and in-laws, Ernestine Fox and Marilyn Fandel. Bernadine is preceded in death by her first husband, Edgar "Bud" Fandel; her second husband, Jerome Witgen; grandson, Christopher Fandel; brothers-in-law, Denis Fandel, Alvin Fox, Bernard Bengel, and Wayne Pline; sisters-in-law, Virginia Thoma and Genevieve Bengel. A special thank you to Kelly Grys and the staff at Country Living for their excellent care and compassion shown in the care provided to our mother.

Steven M. Kahn, age 66, passed away February 15, 2019. He was the son of Ralph and Ruth (David) Kahn. Steve was born on January 10, 1953, in Manhattan, New York. He attended Brooklyn Tech High School, the University of Rhode Island, and was a graduate of Michigan State University. In 1971, he met the love of his life, Carol Miller, at Camp Equinunk in Pennsylvania, where they were both camp counselors. They were married on September 7, 1972, at St. Patrick Church in Portland. Steve retired from the State of Michigan Department of Laboratories, where he worked on rabies vaccine production. He loved his family, friends, faith and photography. He

was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; aunt; uncle; cousins; and brother-in-law. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Carol; three children, David (Silvia) Kahn, Matthew (Amy) Kahn, Amy (Darren) Abbott; and granddaughter, Mya Kahn. He is also survived by his sister, Renee (Rick) Schoenmann; nephew, Derek Schoenmann; uncle, Harry Kahn; and second cousin, Adam (Christina) Miller; sisters-in-law, Susan Miller and Joyce Pline; and brother-in-law, Ted (Mary) Miller; as well as beloved nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Father Flohe Foundation or the Portland Area Service Group in honor of Steve.

John Peckins, 70, of Lyons, passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2019. He was born in Ionia, on April 10, 1948, the son of Francis and Dolores (Barry) Peckins. John was a lifelong dairy farmer and a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church. Most of all, John loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Preceding John in death are his parents and son-in-law, Denny Leik. He is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Mary; children, Michael (April) Peckins of Lyons, Shelly (Craig) Corbeil of Lyons, Melissa (Cory) Ackerson of Mulliken, and Amanda Leik of Lyons; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and siblings, Fran (Les) Linsemier, Jim Peckins, and Joe (Marilyn) Peckins.

ANNE BENNETT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Karaoke to stunned Singaporeans, skydived in Las Vegas, deep sea fished in Mexico, lost a dog in London's Hyde Park, was in a minor cruise ship accident in Greece, attended Easter sunrise service at the Hollywood Bowl, and got kicked off a private island in the Marshall Islands.

Anne's parents gave her the proverbial roots and wings. When her itchy feet point toward home, her family, and by extension, St. Pat's and Portland, provide a stable place to which she can return. Anne is blessed to have a root family and a winged family, both precious and supportive.

What's next? In July, Anne will visit upstate New York to attend the wedding of one of those baby girls she nannied 29 years ago.

Read more about Anne's worldwide adventures in her blog at <http://misplacedmidwestner.blogspot.com/>.

SHAMROCK FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and their children attend the school is because they want to become better Catholic men themselves. This leads to a mission of evangelization and mentoring of the young men in the parish, thereby building better young men. Football is an excellent tool to facilitate that mission. Winning football games is a byproduct of their mission, but winning is not the mission.

As coaches, fathers, and Catholic men, nothing pleases the coaches more than knowing that they are promoting their Catholic faith and giving the young athletes opportunities to take ownership of their choices and to discover the sense of self worth that comes from trying to be an upright man.

One of the changes the coaches have instituted is three weekly goals. Each athlete writes out his goals and they discuss them as a team.

Athletic Goal—How do you become a better football athlete? Pick something that is going to improve your skills as a player. Things like extra push-ups or sit-ups, or extra sprints at practice, etc.

Team Goal—How do you become a better teammate? Choose something that is going to make you a better teammate. It may be making sure the football shed is swept up and cleaned for the week. It may be making sure to talk to every teammate after or before practice.

Man Goal—How do I become a better Catholic man? This one extends to the community and home. You have to pick something you will work on that week that will make me a better Catholic man. The coaches state that this one usually takes the most effort. Oftentimes men have to humble

themselves and slow down enough to make this work. This goal often involves identifying ways to serve others.

Many parents, grandparents, and community members have noticed these young men setting their cell phones down and spending time talking to their parents, complimenting their mother or father on dinner that night, raking leaves for a stranger, spending time with a grandparent, and other things that help make the world a better place.

All of these goals are unique to the individual, and if done right, allows them to get pride out of the way, and to take ownership of their actions and work to become better Catholic men. At the end of the week, the players and coaches gather to discuss how each individual did in accomplishing these goals.

Other activities that have instituted by the coaching staff:

- Endeavor to show class and sportsmanship throughout the game, playing a very aggressive game with respect for our opponent.
- Make a point of hitting our opponent hard but help them back up every time.
- Have athletes pray in Eucharistic Adoration as a team.
- Pray the rosary as a team before each game.

They have also relearned the St. Michael prayer to help them defeat their weaknesses as men.

The staff has been repaid by their efforts. Dozens of times in the past few seasons they have been blessed with the obvious fruits of their evangelization to other teams. Opponents notice their obvious faith and the respect shown to them, and it inspires them to return that respect. They have had many reports from other school administrators, coaches, and fans who notice how our school families and our athletes carry themselves. The coaches find this to be very rewarding, indeed.

The Shamrock Coaches Say:

Coach Pat Russman: "It did not happen overnight, and we are not done improving. As Catholics much of what we profess is counter-cultural and hard for these men to embrace fully. I am blessed to be part of this team, and its core purpose humbles me and pushes me to be a better man. I look forward to seeing how far our men can take this mission."

Coach Todd Davlin: "I love being with the boys. I cherish every moment with my son, but the reason I keep coaching is to pray with young men. We pray before practice. We pray after practice. We pray before games in the locker room, on the bus, on the field, and then on the field when the game is over. We pray the rosary as a team, and we commit to Adoration a few times a year as a team. Prayer changes all of us, boys and coaches, for the better. The football field is a great place for learning self discipline, working as a team, facing fear, and suffering through the inevitable setbacks that come with life. Prayer is the glue that binds it all together and keeps things in the right perspective. When Jeff was a little boy, we were driving home from practice, and he told me his favorite places in the world are St. Patrick's Church, Father Flohe Field, and home."

Coach Aaron Thelen: "This team works its tail off to be better football players, better students, and better men. Their commitment to self improvement in every aspect is inspiring to anyone who is around them."

Coach Ben Cross: "I can only repeat the words of Pope Benedict XVI, '*The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.*' I would also like to express my gratitude to Bishop Walkowiak for sending us our new Pastor Fr. Mike Alber. His focus on exercising the Catholic Virtues as men is particularly valuable to our mission as Catholic athletes and he has assisted us immensely with his wisdom and strong teaching."

LOST SHEEP

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

If you know the whereabouts of any of these Lost Sheep, please send us their current address. A current list of Lost Sheep can be found on our school website (www.portlandstpats.com/school). Click on Other Links, then Alumni.



1956 Duane Irrer	1981 Mike Binder
1959 Joyce (Howe) Davis	1985 Scott Osmar
1961 John D. Pung	1990 John Huhtala
1966 Dan Lehman	1991 Elaine Mauer
1966 Tony Blundy	1993 Darcy (Hinds) Vandecar
1973 Lillian Castranova	1994 Jeremy Pohl
1975 Susan Thelen	1995 Andy Carr
1977 Brian Jenkins	2000 Jeffrey Pung
1977 Bob Rensi	2001 Segrid Johnson
1980 Angie Young	2004 Donald Vollman
1980 Patrick Ellis	2004 Cara Monks

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
 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

Senior Appreciation Dinner	March 30, 2019
DK/Kindergarten Screening	April 26, 2019
Shamrock Auction	April 27, 2019
Confirmation	April 28, 2019
MS/HS Play	May 5, 2019
Graduation	May 19, 2019
Summer Fest.....	June 21, 22, 23, 2019
First Day of School	August 22, 2019
Class of '69 50-Year Reunion ..	September 14, 2019
Fall Festival	October 13, 2019
Fall issue of The Shamrock	Late September
Deadline for submitting info....	September 10, 2019

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/school/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.

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 We can't wait to meet you!
 (517) 647-7551**