



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

Volume 20, No. 1

Fall 2008

*We're Beginning Our
20th Year!!*

St. Patrick School Welcomes New Principal

Father Larry King and the St. Patrick Education Commission are proud to announce that the new principal at St. Patrick School is Randy Hodge. Randy is a 1987 graduate of St. Patrick's High School. He received his bachelor of arts degree in secondary education and also his master of arts degree in secondary school principalship from Central Michigan University. He was a teacher at Central Montcalm Middle School from 1993 to 2008.

Randy and his wife, Michelle (Honsowitz, 1990) also became small business owners last year when they purchased the barbershop located in the Okemos Meijer Store. "Michelle had worked in that shop for 14 years, and when it was put up for sale, we took a leap of faith and purchased it. This summer we took another leap of faith by purchasing Rick's Barbershop here in Portland," said Randy. "This has

been exciting, since it has given me a chance to use the business degree that I earned from Lansing Community College before I switched to education."

Throughout the years that Randy and Michelle worked out of town, they began to feel the call to become more involved at St. Pat's parish. Randy began coaching JV Volleyball twelve years ago and eventually became the Varsity Volleyball coach. He also began teaching religious education to 8th graders and worked with the Confirmation students.



Randy and Michelle Hodge and their two children, Savannah, who is in sixth grade, and Samuel, who is in fourth grade.

The couple also became involved with the Parish Festival, working their way into chairing the very successful Outdoor Mass.

"Last spring, as my 14th year at Central Montcalm was ending, there was a lot of instability with my job. I wasn't sure if I would

Shamrock Begins 20th Year of Publication

Can you believe that The Shamrock newsletter is beginning its twentieth year of publication? It's been an amazing 20 years! Here's a little trivia from that first year:

-The Berlin Wall was still standing.

-The Dow Jones hovered around 2700.

-Deacon Dale Hollern and Barb Tichvon were the principal and assistant principal at St. Pat's.

-Father Richard Van Lente was the pastor.

-The Father Flohe Foundation had assets of just \$296,000.

-Volleyball was a brand new sport at St. Pat's.

-Varsity basketball games were still being played in our own gymnasium.

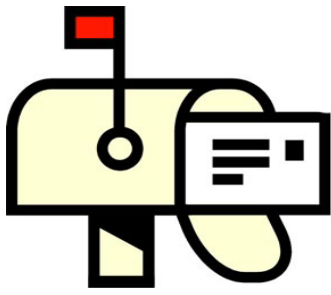
-Randy Hodge was barely out of high school.

-Al Schrauben had just one runner-up title under his belt.

-The Class of 2008, our newest group of graduates, hadn't yet been born!

Here's to the next 20 years! Keep sending in your news—and keep reading!

(Continued on page 2)



Mail Call

Editors of the Shamrock,

Thank you for your series on the history of St. Patrick School. You are commended for research and information...you definitely gave it new life.

The Sisters of St. Joseph continue to share life through prayer with you as you journey into the future. The groundwork and gift have and continue to be "alive" because of the mission and ministry and dedication of the many who have served.

I thank you for the years of ministry at St. Patrick's...you are and always will be my special blessing!

Peace,
Sister Bonita Janiszewski, CSJ

Shamrock Scholar

It's time again to start planning for the Shamrock Scholar Raffle which will be held at the end of Catholic Schools Week in February. The top prize is \$2000 that can be applied toward any Catholic education, or the winner can choose to accept \$1500 in cash. There are also ten \$100 prizes.

Generous family and friends of St. Patrick Parish have donated the top prize since the beginning of this fundraiser. If you are interested in contributing to this incredibly worthy cause, please contact Diane Bissell at (517) 230-5726 by November 1, 2008. Even if you are not able to donate the top prize, please support our families and Catholic education by purchasing a raffle ticket from any school family.

Principal (continued)

be teaching middle school or high school this fall," said Randy. "At the same time, I learned that Sister Maureen would be leaving St. Patrick's. After a lot of prayer, soul searching and asking God to place me where he wanted me, I decided to apply for the principal position here."



Mr. Hodge addresses the crowd at the Welcome Back Party on September 3.

Randy and Michelle received a call from Father Larry on July 23, which ironically was their 14th wedding anniversary, telling them that Randy was the top candidate for the job and that he was being recommended to the Bishop. They received a call confirming the appointment while they were vacationing at the Grand Canyon.

"All of these changes...the new job for me, opening the new barbershop here in town...are doubly exciting for Michelle and me," said Randy. "We feel like we've come home to where our hearts are—Portland and St. Patrick's School and Church."

Contest Winner

The winner in the contest put forth in the last issue by Ken Johnson is Jim Schaffer (1964) Of Grand Rapids. Jim won a week-end vacation at Ken's Keyes Lake Cottage in Florence, Wisconsin by correctly answering four questions.

1. When was the picture taken?

Answer: March 14, 1964

2. Where was the picture taken?

Answer: Lansing Everett High School

3. Identify all of the player.

Answer: Standing (left to right) Mike Morairty, Jim Schaffer, Ken Smith, Steve Schaffer, Mike Doherty, Larry Lehman. Kneeling (left to right) Doug Smith, Rick Beard, Gary Wight, Mike Schrauben, Joe Honsowitz.

4. Who is the presenter? *Answer: Tournament Director, Dean W.*

Shippey

Ken provided some additional facts about that 1963-64 basketball season:

- St. Pat's was a Class C school that year. It was the only time in the history of the school that it was Class C.

- It was the only year that Mike Doherty played for the Shamrocks.

- It was the only year that it would be possible for St. Pat's to meet the Portland High School Raiders in the tournaments. It was expected that the two schools would meet in the regional finals. St. Pat's made it. P.H.S. had been upset by Boys Training School.



In The Spotlight

The Original Cook Brothers

Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. is well-known in our community and parish. Very few projects happen without their involvement—and frequently, their services are donated. The company had very humble beginnings, built from the ground up by two hard-working brothers whose lives were too short. The company lives on in very capable hands and, in the words of one of the sons, “It makes me very proud to have been a small part of it all during my youth..”

Bill and Julius Cook, the original Cook Brothers, weren't natives of Portland and St. Patrick's, but they certainly poured their hearts and souls into many community and parish projects.

They came from a family of eight children, raised on a farm north of Portland near the intersection of Divine Highway and Kimball Road. Julius contracted polio as a child, so was physically unable to play sports or serve in the armed forces. Bill did both. He played basketball for Pewamo St. Joe, and also served in the army during the Korean War.

While Bill was gone to Korea, Julius and his wife Marge (Egan) borrowed \$8000 from Grandpa Cook to buy an apartment house located on Grand River Avenue at the top of Dilley Hill. Julius and Marge lived in one of the first floor apartments and when Bill came home from Korea and married Marie Theis, the newlyweds moved into the apartment upstairs. Eventually, as Julius and Marge's children began coming along, the two first floor apartments were joined into one and that's where their family lived for the rest of their days in Portland.

This property is also where the two brothers began their business. They bought a tractor and plowed

gardens. They bought a flatbed truck with side rails and picked up rubbish. They purchased a 40-acre farm north of town on Lyons Road and bought some hogs. They also bought a garbage cooker, since at that time, garbage could be used for hog feed if it was cooked to 118 degrees. The hogs were raised on the garbage that was picked up around town, then taken to Kalamazoo where they were auctioned off... and new piglets were purchased.

Around 1956, Ron Cook remembers going on a long trip with his dad and uncle to buy their first excavating equipment. They came home with a small used dump truck, a flat bed trailer and a backhoe, and soon began doing septic tanks and drain fields. The two oldest kids, Ron and Roger spent their after school hours stacking clay tiles in the backyard of the Cook home, which served as the main location for equipment and materials. The yard there was a constant bustle of activity.

At about the same time, the two men formed a business partnership and soon incorporated. They expanded with new and larger equipment, adding bulldozers, an exca-

(Continued on page 14)



Would You Like To Honor Someone In This Space?

If you would like to honor a special person by putting them *In the Spotlight*, contact The Shamrock.

You can write the article yourself, if you're comfortable doing that, or provide the information and photo and we'll do it for you.

Contact information can be found on page 16.

What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Paul and Trina (Simon, 1989) Anderson of Westphalia, a daughter, Lily Jane on April 7, 2008.

To Nick and Jenny (Fox, 1993) Sandborn, a daughter, Lily Nicole on May 5, 2008. She joins one sister, Torie, 2.

To Kurt (1995) and Kelly Manning of Lansing, a daughter, Sydney Rose on May 14, 2008. She joins one sister Gwendolyn, 2.

To Luke Willemin (1998) and Jessica Ludlow of Alpena, a daughter, Olivia Michelle on April 22, 2008.

To Jason and Julie (Pohl, 1992) Mullins a daughter, Ashleigh Leanne on March 7, 2008. She joins one brother, Christian, 9, and one sister, Chloe, 6.

To Randy and Terri (Boos, 1990) Bengel of Westphalia, a daughter, Alexia on March 12, 2008. She joins one sister and one brother.

To Andy (1993) and Nikki (1993) Mosser, a son, Aiden Quinn on March 3, 2008. He joins one brother, Riley.

To Justin (1999) and Dana (Schneider, 2001) Simon, a son, Mason Douglas on May 14, 2008. He joins brother, Brayden, 17 months.

To Derek Hinds and Ashley Miller (2006), a son, Brayden Jacob on February 23, 2008.

To Russell (1985) and Melanie Schneider, a son, Tyler Ray on March 6, 2008.

To Justin (1995) and Amanda Pung of Lansing, a daughter, Catherine Therese on March 13, 2008. She joins one sister, Ellie and one brother, Ethan.

To Matt (2002) and Teresa (Weller, 2003) Knoop, a daughter, Alexis Rose on May 29, 2008.

To Tim and Kayla (Schneider, 1988) Hengesbach of Westphalia, a daughter, Victoria Marie on May 24, 2008.

To Sarah (Van Der Woude, 1997) and Thomas Kiebach of Bellevue, a son, Kaleb Rinold on July 5, 2008. He joins one sister, Summer Rose, 2 ½.

To Tony (1992) and Leigh Anne Leik of Rochester Hills, a son, Jonathon Thomas on July 17, 2008. He joins one brother, Charlie, 2 1/2.

To Ryan (1999) and Audrey Atwell, a son, Alexander Ryan on August 4, 2008.

To Ryan and Paula (Hamberg, 1994) Ecklund, a daughter, Renell Roseann, on August 4, 2008.

To Bob and Jocelyn (Bos, 2001) Rockey, a daughter, Gracelyn Jo on July 21, 2008.

Readers tell us that the What's Happening pages are the first ones they read when their newsletters arrive. Be sure to let us know What's Happening in *your* life, so that we can let your friends know!

To Jeff (1992) and Ellie Thelen of Alto, a daughter, Claire Louise on June 28, 2008. She joins two brothers, Landon and Nathan.

To Ryan and Nikki (Goodman, 1996) Brownell, a son, Tanner Ryan on July 28, 2008. He joins two sisters, Rylee, 7 and Kendall, 4.

To Becky Huhn (1988) of St. Johns, a daughter, Lauryn Renee on July 31, 2008. She joins two sisters, Kelsey and Olivia.

To Kurt (1998) and Mara Pline, a son, Caleb John on August 12, 2008. He joins one brother, Grant.

To Jeff (1996) and Christie (Smith, 1996) Bower, a daughter, Carlie Marie on August 18, 2008.

To Jeremy (1996) and Sarah (Meyers, 1995) a son, Jerred Harold on August 22, 2008. He joins one sister, Erica, 18 months.

ENGAGEMENTS

Tina Peake (1999) and Jake Ingraham will be married on April 25, 2009 at St. Patrick Church.

Kyle Pline (1994) and Bonnie Arends of Ravenna will be married October 4, 2008, in Ravenna.

Jereme Ebaugh (1997) and Alyssa Massaway will be married on October 25, 2008.

WEDDINGS

Kellie Lay (2004) and Brad Leonard were married on June 28, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

Brent Goodwin (2002) and Ashley Klein (2002) were married on May 10, 2008 at Westphalia St. Mary Catholic Church.

Troy Smith (2002) And Courtney Roberts were married on August 2, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

Jamie Trimmer (1997) And Keith Ryder were married on August 23, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

April Honsowitz (2002) and Kyle Nichols were married on September 6, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

Scott Peake (2004) and Autumn Pohl were married on September 13, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

Jake Simon (2003) and Jessica Theis (2003) were married on September 27, 2008 at St. Patrick's Church.

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry and Rita Schrauben celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 19, 2008. They were married in 1958 at St. Patrick's Church. The couple has six children and nine grandchildren.

Doug (1979) and Raelynn Gross celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary

on June 16, 2008. The couple has 2 daughters, 6 sons and 1 grandson.

Robert and Linda Meyers of Lyons celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 1, 2008 with a special family dinner. They were married in 1968 at St. Patrick's Church. The couple has five children and nine grandchildren.

Bob and Cil Gross celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 14, 2008. They were married in Muskegon in 1958. The couple has five children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ken and Barb Sandborn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner in the Oak Room at the Wagon Wheel. They were married on April 26, 1958 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Ledge. The couple has six children, 19 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Tom (1973) and Kathy (Smith, 1971) Russman celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on April 7, 2008. While celebrating with a family dinner it was announced that their first grandchild is expected in early November, proud parents-to-be are Angie (Russman, 1997) and Bill Witt.

Ivan and Romaine Lay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family trip to St. Ignace and Mackinac Island. The couple were married on August 30, 1958. They have four children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sara Lehman, daughter of Steven Lehman (1974), was recently recruited by and accepted into West Point Academy for her academic excellence and rifle expertise. She formerly attended the University of Michigan, and reported to West Point in July.

Nathan Lehman, son of Steven Lehman (1974), recently returned from Australia where he participated in the World Solar Car race. Nathan was the head meteorologist on the U of M Solar Car Team which came in 7th overall. Nathan is a 2007 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is currently teaching at and attending Oklahoma University, where he's working on his masters degree.

Ken Schneider (1970) has been appointed as the principal at Ionia Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School.

IN MEMORY OF

Lillian E. Fox, 90, died on April 27, 2008. She is survived by her children, Karen (John) Kutchie of Harrison, Janice Fox of Olympia, WA, Patricia (Joe) Vela of Wacousta, Raymond (Mary) Fox and Mary Ann (Thomas) Lawrence of Portland; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters and one brother.

Carol Lee Graft, 64, died on June 16, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Howard; children, Tom (Karen) Graft, Jill (Brian) Foreback, Kaye Thelen, Jackie (Tom) VanDerske, and David Graft; eight grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren and 18 step great-grandchildren; foster mother, Jane Gross; one brother and four sisters.

Allan Lutig, 57, of Eagle died on March 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Pamela; daughter, Amber (Anthony) Buonodono, and his mother, Willa Luttig of Fowler.

Richard "Dick" Feldpausch, 70, of Eagle died on March 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Loretta; children Jeff (Karen) Feldpausch, Gwen (Keith) Vrooman, Tom Feldpausch, Rick (Kristie) Feldpausch, Eric (fiancee Tracy Wiegel) Feldpausch, and Ed (Julie) Feldpausch; 19 grandchildren; four sisters and four brothers.

Paul Hengesbach, 65, of Eagle died on July 3, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; children Paul Jr. (Connie), Patrick (Kris), Pam (Ted) Goodman, Phil (Lisa), and Pete (Janet); nine grandchildren; five brothers, and one sister.

Helen (Jo) Cathcart, 69, of Stanwood died on March 16, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Bob; children Greg Cathcart of Nashville, Jeff Cathcart and Deb Pung of Portland; and eight grandchildren.

Susan (Goodrich) Csepregi, 57, died on August 6, 2008. She is survived by her sons, Alex and Aaron; her parents, Al and V.A. Goodrich; brothers Ted, Jerry, David, Tim and Tony; sisters Roxie, Mary and Krista.

Adeline Moran, 89, of East Lansing, died on June 30, 2008. She is survived by her children, Tom (Alice) Geller, Teresa (Joel) Hott, Michael (Joan) Moran,

Nancy Ruane, and Marge Moran; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one sister and one brother.

Anthony J. Fox, 86, died on August 12, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Lella; children Kate Remington of Portland, Caroline (Robert) Jurstick of Portland, Gary (Michelle) Fox of Eagle, Ronnie and Tony Fox, both of Portland; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; one brother and two sisters.

Joseph Hengesbach, 84, died on August 26, 2008. He is survived by children Debra (Roy) Wallace of Lansing, Michael of Portland, Sheila (Randy) VanWormer of Palmetto, FL. Gail of Grand Ledge, Joseph (Sue), Steven (Jean), Edward (Tracy), and Laurie (Richard) Krausz all of Portland, Faye (Dale) Schmitz of Fowlerville and Amy (Kevin) Robbins of Holland; 26 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Bell Award Nominations Needed

The Father Flohe Foundation is looking for nominations for the Education Bell Award that is given annually at the high school graduation ceremony in the spring. Nominees should be past students from St. Patrick (either eighth grade or high school graduates, can be living or deceased), who by their life and achievements exemplify the high goals that our alumni can attain.

Write a brief description about your nominee, including the year they graduated and submit to the Father Flohe Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland MI. 48875 by November 1, 2008. A nomination form is also available on the school website. Go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on the Alumni page.



Four Cornerstones Provide Foundation

By School Principal, Randy Hodge

As I begin my tenure at St. Patrick Catholic School, I have given much thought to our school and what it means to this community. I have come to the conclusion that there are four cornerstones that are the foundations of the great school that we have here at St. Patrick's.

First and foremost is our Catholic Faith. That means more than just teaching our students the doctrines and tenets of the Church. It means that they will also be shown how to live out those teachings as active participants and, in doing so they will be expected to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

The second cornerstone is academic excellence. It is my goal that all our students will be working one grade above their current grade level, excelling on standardized tests, and going on to higher education where they can be involved in society as responsible citizens.

The third cornerstone is the staff. The teaching staff at St. Patrick's School are tireless workers who sacrifice continuously for our school. They have so many ideas of what can make our school great. In my first week here, they helped to reorganize our school by "wings." We now have four "wings" within our building: 1) High School, 2) Middle School, 3) Upper Elementary and 4) Lower Elementary. This will allow for ease of flow of students throughout the building with few disruptions for those rooms where class is in session.

Mrs. Trimmer and Mrs. Kinsman have been extremely helpful in the office and the maintenance and custodial staff, who always do a great job of keeping the building looking nice, put in hours upon hours to make sure the school was ready for the first day. I cannot begin to tell you the amount of energy our staff has brought to the building the past few weeks.

The fourth and final cornerstone is discipline. We often think of discipline in regards to doing something wrong and getting in trouble for it. Discipline is more than that. It is expecting our students to do what is right even when nobody is watching. It is expecting our students to have the self discipline to complete and turn in all assignments on time as well as being prepared for taking quizzes and tests. It is expecting our students to honor commitments made to the Church, extracurricular activities, to staff and to each other. It is expecting our students to be respectful of school property, their teachers and classmates. St. Patrick School has high expectations for our students and how they act when they are out in the community as they represent their faith, family, and school at all times.

There are many great traditions that have been the foundation of St. Patrick School. I would like to work with the staff at St. Pat's to continue those traditions, to bring back some that we have lost, and to create some new ones. Since our building houses DK – 12th grade, it is an extremely unique school in Michigan and even the United States and it provides for many unique opportunities. There are some things that were done in the past that I would like to see come back, including the Big Rock/Little Rock program where our older students serve as mentors for our younger students; Pay It Forward Community Service Day, where our students go out into the community to make a difference; Jean Days, where the money raised from wearing out-of-dress-code jeans is donated to a specified charity; as well as other past successful programs. And, it goes without saying that we will continue to monitor everything we do to assure that our students continue to get the best education possible.

Finally, I would like to say that the most exciting thing about being principal at St. Patrick School are the people. I have seen grandparents, parents, students, teachers, maintenance and custodial staff, school secretaries, and contractors working side by side for the good of our school. There are many who have dedicated their lives to St. Patrick School and making sure it continues to grow, strive, and survive as a DK-12th grade institution. Observing and experiencing this has given new meaning to me for the verse in 1 Corinthians 12:12 that says, "As a body is one though it has many

parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." The last verse of that text is verse 26. It says, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share the joy."

While St. Patrick Church is the soul of our community, it is the school that is its heart. I pray that the heart of our parish, our DK-12th grade school, will continue to grow and thrive for years to come in its mission to provide the children of our parish and those parishes beyond with a quality, Christ-based education.

Students Enjoy Trip of a Lifetime

By Katie Simon, St. Patrick's Junior

Hola! On June 23, 2008, twelve St. Patrick Spanish students, along with sixteen chaperones departed Portland to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain and Italy. The trip was coordinated by Spanish teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Leon.

The first stop on our ten day tour was Madrid, Spain. We saw many amazing things there, which included a tour of the royal palace, and a visit to the famous art museum, The Prado.

We then spent 3 days in Barcelona, Spain, where we visited the beautiful city garden, decorated all in mosaics, as well as the majestic "Church of the Holy Family." This church is a 200 year project which is only 100 years completed. We also were able to spend an afternoon on one of Barcelona's beautiful beaches on the Mediteranian Sea.

Next we took an overnight ferry on the Mediteranian to Italy. Our group spent three nights in Rome. We were given the opportunity to visit the mighty Colosseum and walk through the ruins of the Forum, where Julius Ceasar addressed the senate, was killed, and buried. We even got to toss a coin into the famous Trevi Fountain.

A highlight of our time in Rome was when we traveled to Vatican City. We were able to go to mass in St. Peter's Basilica which hosts the "Pieta," the only sculpture Michelangelo ever signed. We also got to walk through the amazing Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo, where every new pope is chosen. During our night tour of Rome we noticed the lights from

the Pope's room were on and saw Swiss Guards everywhere which meant that Pope Benedict was present in his quarters. This was really exciting to all of us.

A special thanks to Mrs. Leon for coordinating this adventure. This trip was not only educational, but gave members of St. Pat's Spanish Club memories that will last a lifetime.



The twelve traveling students pose on the steps of the Prado Art Museum in Madrid, Spain.

Use the School Website to Stay Up-To-Date!

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Portland St. Patrick Catholic School
122 West Street, Portland, Michigan 48875 Phone (517) 647-7551

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WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK SCHOOL
Located in Portland, Michigan, St. Patrick Catholic School has been educating the mind and spirit of students for over 100 years. For more information about our outstanding Pre-school through 12th grade programs, please contact the school office at 517-647-7551 or click on any of the links on the left.

REGISTRATION FOR 2008-09
Registrations are now being taken for all grade levels, Pre-K through 12. If you would like to register your student or would like information about the school, please call the school office at 517-647-7551.

REASONS TO ATTEND ST. PAT'S HIGH SCHOOL
Not one, not two...but 43 reasons to choose St. Patrick's High School for your child!

Testimonials
Fall Sports Schedule
School Newsletters
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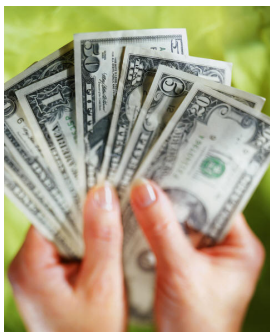
Located on the home page!

www.portlandstpats.com

13-Week Class Helps Parishioners Find Over \$142,000

by Mike and Carole Beard

Last winter, Father Larry gave us the opportunity to bring a program to St. Patrick's that has the potential for changing lives and creating financial stability. The program, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, teaches participants how to make the right decisions with their money, through the use of seven "Baby Steps." The program is simple—though not always easy—as it requires the participants to learn discipline and patience.



At the beginning of the first class we recorded the total class debt (minus home mortgages), which was \$412,705. We also asked the class participants to keep track of three important items: 1) Debt paid off, 2) Money saved, and 3) Debt avoided.

Then we set about the business of thirteen weeks of classes where we watched DVD's of Dave Ramsey's instruction, followed by workbook questions and small group discussion which provided feedback and accountability. At the end of the last class on May 13, we looked at our totals and discovered that as a class we had collectively: 1) Paid off \$105,717 in debt and 2) Saved \$36,866. We also 3) Avoided over \$1,731,000 in debt!

Not everyone who started the class was able to finish. And, I will tell you that several people came into the class kicking and screaming, not happy about what their spouse had gotten them into. But as it turned out, these people are now our strongest advocates with at least one person committed to hosting the program at

his workplace. It was amazing to watch the transformation that took place in people - as parents realized the benefits this class can give their children - as couples began to work together as a team with common goals for the future. Students had very positive comments:

"This was a fantastic class," said Scott and Robin Pline. "It has helped us tremendously."

Classmate Angie Thompson agreed. "It was a wonderful class. Even though I'm not debt free yet, I'm working on it. It brought my debt into the light, I looked at it, cried, and then made a plan. My kids feel better because they know our family has goals. I recommend that St. Pat's sponsor these classes again."

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Business Manager Brings Wealth of Experience

Though his job is new, the work is very familiar to the new Business Manager at St. Patrick Parish. Mike Johnson owned his own business for 16 years, worked as Business Manager at Parnell St. Patrick for seven years, and did that same job at Holy Redeemer Parish for two years.

Mike grew up in west Grand Rapids, moving to Lowell in the early 80's. He converted to Catholicism after he and his wife were married and began having children. All six of their children attended Parnell St. Patrick School.

"One of the reasons that I wanted to come to work at Portland St. Patrick is because of the school," he said. "I believe strongly in Catholic education and it's good to see a parish work so hard to support its school. It will grow if we all stay focused on the positive."

Welcome to St. Pat's, Mr. Johnson!



FALL 2008 SHAMROCK PUZZLE

OK---Time for everyone's favorite kind of puzzle, the Word Search! An added twist to this puzzle is that instead of giving you a list of words to find, we've given you a list of clues. The answers to those clues spells out the words that you'll be looking for. When you get all done, there will be 43 letters that are unused. Those letters spell out a quote---and that quote is the answer to the puzzle! Good luck! (Hint: You might want to use the school website, too.)

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

1. Standardized test taken by Juniors and Seniors: A C T
2. Three virtues: _____ & _____*
3. Number of leaves on a shamrock: _____
4. A group of players: _____
5. Last word in most prayers: _____
6. Nickname for our gym: _____**
7. St. Pat's new principal: _____**
8. High school students take these to earn college credit: _____**
9. League that St. Pat's belongs to: _____
10. Autumn fund raiser sponsored by Athletic Association: _____**
11. Group that governs high school sports in Michigan: _____
12. Where you'll find shelves of books: _____
13. End of semester tests: _____
14. Nickname for our green bus: _____**
15. New sletter feature always found on page 3: _____
16. Across the street from the school, where the kids play: _____**
17. The tallest part of the church: _____
18. St. Pat's School is located on the corner of these two streets: _____** & _____**
19. Students need a quiet place to _____
20. Where the kids eat lunch: _____
21. Gift certificates that can be purchased through the school: _____
22. Head honcho of the diocese: _____
23. The forty days before Easter: _____
24. To give 1/10 of one's income to charity is to _____
25. Annual diocesan financial appeal: _____
26. Where P. E. Classes take place: _____
27. Jesus Christ is the Prince of _____
28. Grade point average: _____
29. Baptism is a _____
30. Organization of parents and teachers: _____
31. High school counselor, Mrs. _____
32. This boys sport has now been moved to the spring: _____
33. What a graduate receives: _____
34. Our school mascot: _____
35. Where we all go on Sunday: _____
36. Last three words of our school song: _____**
37. What St. Pat's students wear to school: _____
38. Graduates: _____
39. Communion: _____
40. Our patron saint: _____
41. Annual high school publication: _____
42. Holy Day of _____
43. Lower grade levels: _____
44. Not today or tomorrow: _____
45. New sletter feature that always appears on page 2: _____
46. The month in which All Saints Day occurs: _____
47. Alumni gathering: _____
48. Sacrament that joins husband and wife: _____
49. Nun's headdress: _____
50. Fee to attend school: _____
51. Shamrock student cheering section: _____**
52. Way out! _____
53. Our new Athletic Director: _____
54. Pre-School Director: Carol _____

ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form, by any of the means described on the back page, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by November 1, 2008. 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: _____

* Three separate words in puzzle. **All one word in puzzle.

ANSWER TO SPRING PUZZLE The spring puzzle was called Letter Tiles. It was rather difficult..and only ten people got the answer right. The correct answer was: "A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to under estimate the ingenuity of complete fools." The winner, whose name was randomly drawn from all of the correct entries was Christine Rockey. She received the cash prize of \$50. Thanks to all who entered, good luck with this puzzle!

Upcoming Events

Homecoming **October 3, 2008**
Fall Festival **October 12, 2008**
Catholic Schools Week **Jan. 25-31, 2009**
Pancake Breakfast **February 1, 2009**
Shamrock Auction **April 18, 2009**
Confirmation **TBA**
First Communion **May 3, 2009**
Graduation **May 31, 2009**
Parish Festival **June 26-28, 2009**

Next issue of The Shamrock—Early April, 2009.
 Send in your news as soon as possible!

LOST SHEEP

Sometimes readers are surprised to find their own names or the names of their loved ones on the Lost Sheep list. Many times these people aren't lost at all, they have simply moved without letting us know. If we mail a newsletter and it comes back without forwarding information, we put that name onto the Lost Sheep list. To prevent this from happening, you can help us out by using the form on the back page to let us know when you move.



PORTLAND ST. PATRICK'S 48th ANNUAL

FALL FESTIVAL & SMORGASBORD

-BUFFET-STYLE DINNER 11:00 - 3:00

-ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 10:00 - 4:00

-RAFFLES 4:00 p.m.

-5K RACE 9:30 a.m.

-KIDFEST 11:00 - 3:00



Sunday, October 12, 2008

Corner of West Grand River and Church Street

For Complete information on any of these events,
 go to www.portlandstpats.com -- Click on Fall Festival!
 Or call Christine Wilcox at (517) 566-7788!

Sponsored by St. Patrick's Athletic Association to Support Shamrock Athletics 2008 Licence R98454

1960 Peter Goodman	1979 Christine Bozung
Tom Geller	1980 Angie Young
1961 John D. Pung	1981 Frank Winter
1964 Jim Pung	1984 Paul Grego
1965 Terry Speckin	Tim Sheaffer
Diane Hughes	1987 Michelle Van Horn
Jerry Miller	1990 John Huhtala
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1993 Darcy Hinds
1968 Carolyn Embree	1994 Laurie Sandborn
1971 Val Jenkins	1995 Ryan Kammers
1972 Ken Brown	1996 Paul Theuerkeuf
1974 Mark VanderHoff	1999 Danielle Thelen
1975 Susan Thelen	2002 Wm. Christian IV
1976 Chris Pung	2007 Jenna Schneider
1979 Michael Hendricks	

F.P.U. (continued from page 8)

The classes taught us everything about controlling our lives and our money as well as saving and investing for our futures. The most important class though, was the last class, in which we came to realize the many blessings God has given us and how to share them with the Lord and each other.

We would like to thank Father Larry for giving us the opportunity to bring this program to St. Patrick's. Hopefully we'll be able to offer the 13-weeks of classes again in the near future. If you have questions about Financial Peace University, call us at (517) 647-7640. Or go to www.daveramsey.com and click on FPU.



Pew Ministry

A Partial Job Description For Parish-

About ten years ago, the St. Patrick Parish Pastoral Council took on the task of setting a vision for the parish. This task should be done every five to ten years, to assess what the Lord is calling us to do today and in the immediate future, so the current Pastoral Council is in the process of "re-visioning" right now.

The following are some excerpts from the Parish Evaluation Project – written by the group that helped our Pastoral Council in 1998. It is written in general terms, but I hope that you can see how it can be applied to our specific situations.

"Staff members have job descriptions; leaders and ministers have definite tasks that spell out what is expected of them. The rank and file parishioners, however, usually have nothing by which to know their role and function in the parish. What follows is a partial list of what they are called to do.

•**SIGN UP** Become a member, be counted, belong, choose to stand up and be part of the parish. This may appear obvious but there are many who stay on the margins and never make a commitment. It usually takes a personal invitation, a gentle nudge to entice them to take this step. One example is a yearly registration card in the pews. This is a simple form in the pews...on which people can update their census information, including new e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers and whether children who are no longer living at home are to be included as members of the parish. Those who do not hand in a registration card are called and asked whether they wish to remain a member of the parish.

•**ATTEND** Being a member means showing up. Help people find the liturgy that suits them. Whatever their preference, people are encouraged to come worship as part of the parish community.

•**JOIN IN** When people do attend they need to be invited and encouraged to take an active part. If they are sitting at the end of the pew, help them become welcomers to those who come looking for a seat. It takes some reminding to invite people to this ministry of hospitality. One priest asked people to do an S.O.S. when there were people standing in the back and along the aisles. "Slide Over Sweetie," was his plea. Amazingly it worked; there was plenty of room for everyone. At another parish, a person not only got up and allowed someone to get into the pew beside him, but when there was no more room, he volunteered to leave his seat so a mother with a small child could sit down. Joining in also means picking up a songbook when the hymn is announced. Even if the person doesn't sing, at least there is a show of interest. It means connecting with people for the greeting of peace, making a genuine gesture of openness. Those attending Mass during the week are usually a good example of connecting during this greeting, whether waving to someone they know or making a special effort to reach out to others close by.

•**CONTRIBUTE** Giving of one's time and livelihood are the hallmarks of belonging. People need reminders of what they are expected to contribute, both time and money. Bottom line: *Everyone needs to work on at least one project, join one committee or serve in one ministry in a given year.* Also, each parishioner, whether working, retired or in school, needs to give back to God a portion of what they have received as income. All or part of this contribution goes to the parish as an indication that they belong to the faith community and want to see it succeed."





From the President's Desk *by Kevin Schrauben*

Father Flohe Foundation Announces Bell Award

The Father Flohe Foundation presented the 2008 Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award to Philip E. Koelzer Sr. at St. Patrick's graduation commencement ceremonies on June 1, 2008.

Phil graduated 8th grade from St. Patrick School in 1935 and from Portland High School in 1939. As a student, Phil was very active in sports, band and choir. During football season, Phil played both offense and defense in football games, played the clarinet with the band at half-time, and then finished the football game, again playing both ways (and this was before unlimited substitution).

After graduation, Phil decided to serve his country and joined the navy where he went through welding and ship fitting schools, including underwater welding and cutting. During this time he spent 1 ½ years in the South Pacific during WWII.

In addition to being active in his early years in school and serving his country, he continued his service to better the community and St. Patrick School through involvement on various boards and commissions. For betterment of the Portland community, Phil served on the Planning Commission and the Housing Commission where he worked with City leadership to develop the infrastructure of the City of Portland.

In recognition of his many contributions, Phil was honored by the City by being the Grand Marshall for the 4th of July parade in 2005, where he was awarded a plaque that read "In recognition of his lifetime contributions to our community". Phil also was involved in the community by leading a drive to develop a Senior Center for

the senior residents of the city of Portland and shared his knowledge with youth through teaching Applied Technology at Lansing Community College.

While he was involved in and had a big impact on the Portland Community, Phil really devoted his time, talent and passion around the betterment of St. Patrick School and Parish. Some examples of this include serving as a two term president on the Athletic Association, a two term president of the Parish Council and a two year member of the Finance Committee. He also helped to organize the Bingo program at St. Pats, was one in the first groups of lectors and one of the first lay people to serve Holy Communion. Congratulations Phil!

How To Support the Foundation

Cash Contributions • Life Income Gifts
Life Insurance • Memorial Gifts
Bequests

As of June 30, 2008, the Foundation has received nearly \$1,445,000 in contributions since its inception. Earnings on the contributions are used to support Catholic education by providing tuition assistance to St. Pat's students.

Your continued support and donations are important in providing an excellent education for the students of St. Patrick. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation.

Contributions can be made by mail or in the Sunday offerings. Please be sure that your envelope is clearly marked Father Flohe Foundation. If you have any questions or would like a supply of contribution envelopes, contact Kevin Schrauben (517) 647-1892.

Reunion News

REUNION ALERT

The *Class of 1998* will hold their 10-year reunion on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Wagon Wheel. If you have questions you can contact Melissa (Thelen) Carpenter at melissathelen@hotmail.com.



REUNION REPORTS

St. Patrick's first high school graduating class, the *Class of 1953*, celebrated their 55-year class reunion on June 11, 2008 at the Wagon Wheel. In attendance were Ernie & Irene(May) Hengesbach, Charlie Trierweiler, Delores (Gensterblum) Hauser, Duane & Jackie Wilcox, Dick Tichvon, Shirley (Irrer) Noren, Joyce (Manning) Wooden, Jane (Feldpausch) Gross, Laura (Platte) Stegenga and Pat (Chamberlain) Glossi.

The group had so much fun that they decided to meet again on August 20!

The *Class of 1968* held their 40-year reunion on Saturday, August 23 at the Wagon Wheel. Approximately 13 classmates along with spouses and family members were in attendance. Art Baker traveled the farthest, coming from Wyoming. Art's date was his brother, Tex (1973).

The *Class of 1993* celebrated their 15 year reunion on September 13, 2008 at the Portland Country Club. 21 of the 37 members of the class attended. Although rain caused the originally scheduled golf outing to be cancelled, the party went on as planned. Food was delivered from Portland Party Store, and good conversation and memories were shared



Members of the *Class of 1958* were guests of honor at a party held on September 13, 2008 to celebrate their 50-year class reunion. The reunion, hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation was held at the Parish Hall, starting with afternoon hors

d'oeuvres and lots of reminiscing, followed by Mass at 4:30 in their honor.

After Mass, there were group pictures, a catered dinner, tours of the school and a lot of "remember whens".

Classmates in attendance were Greg Bauer, Judy (Goodman) Baxter, Carolyn (Trierweiler) Bengel, Judy (Pline) Braley, Joyce (Goodman) Curns, Phil Decke, Gary Huhn, Michael Manning, Diane (Holly) Russell, John Russman, Janet (Thelen) Sanderson, Charles Schneider, Mary Ellen (Lehman) Schrauben, Donald Smith, Ron L. Smith, Alvin Spitzley, Ronald Tichvon, Barbara (Fedewa) Pung-Trierweiler, Dick Trierweiler, Roger Trierweiler, & Gene Wilcox. Spouses of deceased members of the class in attendance were Rudy Peplau (Mary Smith Peplau), Lori Schrauben (Tom Schrauben), Marilyn Smith (Fred Smith), & Dick Wells (Joyce Luce Wells).



Cook Brothers (continued from page 3)

vator, a couple of tandem axle dump trucks and began new areas of excavation. As the business grew and evolved, it was moved out to the farm where Bill and Marie's family were now living. The many Cook kids were called into service and Cook Brothers Excavating, Inc. provided high school and college jobs for most of them.



Playing cards at deer camp was a favorite activity for the Cook Brothers. Left to right: Don Jandernoa, Julius, Dale Cook, Bruce Cook, Keith Cook, and Bill.

"My memories start when I was very young," said Brian Cook. "I remember coming home from school, changing my clothes and having Keith pick us up to help work on a drain field. We were too young to operate a shovel, but we would sit on a dirt pile and tear tar paper off huge rolls which would later be placed over the clay pipe. I remember customers commenting that for a bunch of kids, we seemed to know what we were doing."

He continued, "Sometimes Uncle Bill would park the old Diamond Reo truck and lowboy trailer with the Insley excavator across the street from our house and come and get me to help him. Uncle Bill could operate the Insley like it was a part of his body. I think he could have opened up a pop can with that digger if he had wanted."

In the evenings, there was always more to do. After dinner the men often headed back out—there were estimates to be given or equipment that needed attention so that it would be ready the next day. They couldn't afford to have the equipment down.

Fr. Dan Cook reflected on the example that the Cook Brothers set for their children. "Dad and Uncle Bill were two men that the priests or sisters, or for that fact, the mayor of Portland could count on without hesita-

tion. They were never too busy to help out or give a hand with a project...usually not out front, but behind the scenes or so early in the morning that no one saw what they did. They were willing to have their souls stretched in whatever charitable way was asked of them, and we knew as kids what our parents' priorities were. Not by word, but by example, we saw their commitment to God, family, church, local community and nation."

The old adage that the good die young certainly seems to apply to the Cook Brothers. Julius retired at age 62 and died shortly thereafter. Bill developed stomach cancer at age 58, immediately retired, and died just three short months later. Both men had funerals that were among the largest ever seen in Portland—for they were well-known and well-respected in Portland and far beyond.

Though the six children of Julius and Marge Cook worked in the business through their school years, all of them eventually moved away. Of the ten children of Bill and Marie Cook, five remain actively involved in the Cook Brothers Co. yet today. All sixteen of the Cook children have inherited their parents work ethic and kind nature. The two dads would be proud indeed to see the legacy that they left behind.

Marie Cook still lives in the home that she shared with Bill for so many years. She remains active with family and parish activities. Marge Cook is currently being cared for by her children in Colorado as she lives out her last days, her memory clouded by severe dementia.

QUOTES ABOUT THE COOK BROTHERS

by their kids

On Humility: "Sometime after Dad died we went through his clothes. There were few indeed, and I remember that his work clothes were well worn, faded and patched. He had duct tape to hold his wallet together."

On Kindness: "I don't ever remember my parents speaking negatively about the priest, the Sisters, the Church...or for that matter, about anyone in general."

On Volunteerism: "Our parents were very hard workers who didn't know how to say no. The work wasn't always fun—but someone had to do it."

On Working with a Parent: "I really enjoyed working with my dad and I think we had a special relationship because of it."

On the Brevity of their Lives: "I miss my dad dearly, and wish that there had been more time. I am proud to be his son."

Alumni Appeal Donations Appreciated

Thank you to all of the alumni who responded to our Alumni Appeal in May. Alumni were asked to consider a donation equal to the year of their graduation (i.e., a 1964 graduate would donate \$19.64), or more if they could afford it. It's not too late to send in your donation. Use the form at the bottom of the page and the return envelope found inside this newsletter. To read the letter which was sent with the original appeal, visit the school website and click on the Alumni page.

Evie Sias	Keelie Honsowitz	Joe Supina	M/M Craig Lehnert	Donna Sines
Billie Jo McBrien	M/M Charlie Schrauben	Hilary Fedewa	Mary Ann Augst	Richard Tichvon
Cindy Selden	Charles Schneider	Ron Trierweiler	Andrew Rutherford	John Thelen
Chris Brown	Gary Fedewa	Shirley Burns	Dolores Houser	John VanHouten
Al Schrauben	Rosemary Beard	Leon Densmore	Patricia Pohl	Sharon Albaugh
Linda Goodwin	Sheila Cook	Mike Sines	Kathy Verska	Andy Fedewa
Debra Miros	Julie Brennan	Gerald Zerfas	Lou Jean Utter	Susan Beech
Carol Russell	MaryLue Brown	Phil May	Stephen Goodman	Rose Manning
Andy Beech	James Wilcox	Don Ham	Janice Trierweiler	M/M Richard Leik
Jill Wolfe	Carol Wilcox	Angela Kolp	Tom Clark	Tony Leik
Kurt Manning	Mark Snitgen	David Lehman	Carl Spitzley	Ronald Tichvon
Duane Rock	Amy LaJoy	Bruce Bennett	Karen Fedewa	Ellen Leik
Jill Manning	Sharon Wright	Tom Geller	Jim Smith	Pat Weller
Steve Schrauben	Judy Baxter	Kayla Pline	Liana Cunningham	Mary Kincaid
Joe Russman, Sr.	Mary Ann Fedewa	Lisa Fedewa	Patrick Tichvon	Gary McGraner
Dan Fedewa	Bill Schrauben, Jr.	Jeanine Cross	Mary Anne Ferran	Janice Livingston
Marie Cooper	Sharon Seidel	Daniel Cook	Jerry Miller	Joan Hradecky
Joe Spohn	Sue Fox	Renee Hanneghan	Patricia Fedewa	Stephen Strong
Kyle Schrauben	Ron Fedewa	Colleen Hatch	Janice Simon	Thomas P. Leik
Jennifer Sandborn	Mary Ann Goodman	Paul Schrauben	Dan Thelen	Janette Kramer
Cheryl Pline	Marvin Gensterblum	Allison Pline	Suzie Cherney	Phil Leik
Chad Gross	M/M Terry Schrauben	Marvin Fedewa	M/M Jerry Brown	Cynthia Fedewa
Barbara Hutchings	Thomas Willemin	Janet Fedewa	Larry Miller	Marc Huhn
Deb Reahm	Ed Leik	Ken Wirth	Judy Fryover	Shirley Burns
Richard Bozung	Bruce Cook	Sam Fedewa	M/M David Simon	Joe Johnson
Jaci Hamberg	Theresa Lancaster	Art Baker	Diana Burgoyne	Pat Schneider
Dennis Simon	M/M Mike Lehman	Bruce Smith	Kirk Beard	Jami Schneider
Diane Fish	Corey Schrauben	Phil Decke	Steve Schafer	Andrea Weller
Patty Koenigsknecht	Kathy Kramer	Tom Wieber	James Schaffer	Nancy Willemin
M/M Duane Wilcox	Bev Swink	M/M James Thompson	Brenda Smith	<i>(Donations received thru 8/31/08)</i>
Pat Russman	Joe Krieger	Mike Thelen	Nancy Bottomley	

St. Patrick School Alumni Fund

I would like to show my support for St. Patrick School by a gift to the Alumni Fund:

Graduation Year \$ _____
 \$500
 \$250
 \$100
 \$50
 Other \$ _____

My check is enclosed.
 Charge my
 MasterCard
 Visa
 Discover

Card # _____ Exp: _____ Signature: _____

I work for a matching gift company. Employer _____

My matching gift form is enclosed. My E-Mail: _____

Use my e-mail address for future correspondence.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return this form along with your donation in the enclosed envelope. Or mail to Alumni Appeal, 140 church Street, Portland, MI 48875

We Pray. We Learn. We Achieve.

OUTSTANDING
ACADEMICS • VALUES • COMMUNITY

St. Patrick
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12

Keep this stub for your records.

My donation to the St. Patrick School Alumni Fund:

\$ _____

Date _____

All donations are tax deductible.

www.portlandstpats.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SHAMROCK

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(Click on Alumni News)

The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, donors to the Father Flohe Foundation and upon request. The members of the editorial staff are:

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Nancy (Bauer) Ingram	

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

...Please make the following change to the address file:

...Please add the following name to The Shamrock mailing list:

...Information on a Lost Sheep:

Name _____ Grad. Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ATTENTION PARENTS: If your adult children have established permanent addresses, but their issues of The Shamrock are still coming to your house, please contact us with their new information. See contact information in the box on the left, or fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket in an envelope, clearly marked SHAMROCK NEWS-LETTER.

If you are planning a wedding or reunion, or have another reason for needing a list of your classmates, contact Jan at the Parish Office Building (517-647-6505) or stpats@cablespeed.com.