



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

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The Amazing PTO

When the staff at St. Patrick School are asked to comment on the PTO, one word keeps coming up again and again: AMAZING! And when you look at the list of things that they do on a regular and ongoing basis, it's crystal clear that they really are an amazing group.

Audra Pline joined the group over a decade ago, and she bubbles with enthusiasm when she talks about the growth

that she's seen in that time. "I originally joined because I didn't know a lot of people at the school and I thought it would be a good way to get acquainted," she said. "Now it's become such a big part of my life that I imagine I'll still be involved even when my kids graduate!"

Audra, who served as President for three years, remembers when the group had only 8-10 people attending the meetings regularly. "Now there are 30 or more," she says. "We used to be happy if we could contribute \$500 over the course of a school

year....now we have an operating budget of \$7,000."

"I can't tell you the number of times we have needed something and the PTO is the first to help out," said teacher Stacy Russman. Emily Burns agreed. "They provide things for our classrooms plus spoil us with luncheons and gratitude."



Part of the current membership of St. Patrick PTO

Randy Hodge said, "The events and activities that are hosted by the PTO provide us with financial support and so much more.

These events are community builders, serving as a link between our school and the school families."

"We like to invite new families to attend a meeting or two," said Audra. Even if they don't have the time to get involved on a regular basis, at least there will be familiar names and faces when they come to the school."

Current President Angie Beckhold—whose middle names should be energetic and enthusiastic—epitomizes the group as a whole. Angie eagerly described some of the activi-

Benefactor to Help FFF Reach Goal of \$2,000,000

An alumni who wishes to remain anonymous recently contacted the Father Flohe Foundation with an offer to help them reach their current goal of \$2 million. The donor has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, all donations to the FFF, up to a total of \$100,000.

"We're just blown away by this generous offer," said FFF President Kevin Schrauben. "It definitely makes us think that we could reach our goal yet this year.

"This one-time opportunity means that your donation will be doubled immediately. In addition, if you work for a matching funds employer, every dollar that you donate will generate \$3 for the FFF."

The Father Flohe Foundation is over two decades old. It was established to help insure the future of Catholic education at St. Patrick's. In the past 23 years, generous donors have given over \$1.6 million to the FFF. The earnings have been used to help stabilize tuition and to help with programs at the school.

See additional information, including a way to make your donation easily online, on pages 10 and 11.

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Al Schrauben Inducted Into BCAM Hall of Fame

by Scott Yoshonis for the Lansing State Journal

Al Schrauben has begun his 28th season at the helm of the Portland St. Patrick girls basketball program, but his first as a member of the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame.

Schrauben, who was inducted into the Hall's Class of 2011 in September, has guided the Shamrocks to six Class D state championships, and four more appearances in the state finals since taking over the program back in 1985.

"I was certainly surprised but very gratified," Schrauben said of his induction. "It means a lot that the program is solid. Any time that you win an award like this, a lot of people are involved: parents, coaches and certainly most of all, the players that we've had over the years."

To qualify for the BCAM Hall of Fame a coach must have been a head coach of high school varsity or college basketball of 20 years or more and/or accumulated 300 or more victories. Schrauben entered the 2011-12 campaign with 513 wins, and as just the seventh coach to reach the 500-win plateau since the MHSAA began sponsoring basketball in 1973, the first in the mid-Michigan area.

Schrauben said that the key to his success through the years was making the game fun for his players, something that he didn't fully embrace at first.

"It took me a while to figure out that the game is for the players," he said. I thought I was a lot more ready as a young coach than I probably was. Over the years, I've had more fun, and I think that allowed the kids to have more fun."

Schrauben said that the family atmosphere at St. Pat's has also been

a key component to the team's success, and that doesn't appear to be changing any time soon.

"I'm starting to get daughters of players that I had before, so I'm starting to feel a little elderly," Schrauben said. "Our roster names don't change a great deal over time, and I think that's one of the things that has made it successful. Older sisters and cousins have passed down our philosophy to the girls. We have a lot of traditional things that we do, and I think that's important."

Although Schrauben is retired as a full-time teacher at St. Pat's, he said that he has no plans to leave the girls basketball program any time soon.

ties that the group has undertaken this year, including the brand new "Meet and Mingle" which was held during Catholic Schools Week.

"We showed a movie in the gym, and provided babysitters there, so that the parents could go to the Parish Hall and get to know each other. We also welcomed grandparents, teachers and anyone else who is involved with the school. The weather was bad that day, but we still had a great turnout, and we heard lots of positive comments."

More than one observer has noticed the similarities between the PTO and the St. Patrick Athletic Association. Vice President Tricia Beachnau says that is by design. "I belong to both organizations," she says. "Both groups work to make St. Pat's a better place. I can see that the PTO will grow even stronger by adopting some of the strategies of the Athletic Association. Plus, it will be



Al Schrauben was inducted into the BCAM Hall of Fame at the 27th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet at the Causeway Bay Hotel Conference Center in Lansing.

NOTE: As the Shamrock newsletter was going to press, the Lady Shamrocks had just won the Class D Regional and were headed for the Quarterfinal game against Leland.

AMAZING PTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an easy transition for parents to go from one group to the other, as their kids move into the upper grades."

If you would like to support the PTO, watch the St. Pat's website for news about their upcoming events. Copies of their cookbook St. Patrick Secret Recipes Revealed are still available. E-mail your order to pto@portlandstpats.com.



Father Larry and Mr. Hodge took part in a contest at last year's PTO-Sponsored School Carnival. Students paid money for wet sponges, which were then tossed at the two men. The game was a hit and will be repeated this year.

In The **Spotlight**

Joyce Kransz

When Joyce Kransz walks in the graduation ceremony at the Louisiana Superdome on May 12, she will have completed another leg on a journey to “Live God’s Love Out in the World.” Joyce will graduate from Loyola University with a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Studies and will accomplish a feat which she once thought was not only undoable but unnecessary. What she learned in the course of her studies is that, just as learning should be a life-long endeavor, learning about our faith also should not stop with Confirmation.



Joyce Kransz remembers clearly a moment in her life that seemed trivial at the time, but which turned out to be monumental and pivotal.

“Tom Jandernoa asked if I would be interested in joining the RCIA team,” she said. “Of course, my inclination was to say ‘no’ but instead I said ‘maybe.’ Six months later I was working as a catechist, along with Jim Moses and Russ Thelen, teaching classes to the candidates.”

Joyce was surprised that this seemingly random request led her into an arena that felt so natural and so fulfilling. The truth is Tom spotted something in Joyce that she herself had not yet discovered.

But, others had noticed it, too. A short time later, Deacon Don called Joyce and asked if she could lead a prayer vigil at the funeral home. Both Father Larry and Deacon Don were busy and couldn’t go, and they felt it was important for someone from St. Patrick Parish to be there to support and assist the grieving family.

Joyce felt very unworthy and unprepared to take on such a daunting task, but having lost both of her own parents, she certainly remembered what it felt like to be part of the bereaved family—so she said yes. She was nervous, but she set those feelings aside and tried to concentrate on doing the best job she could for the family. With God at her side, she did just that.

Soon, other opportunities were opening up within the parish, and Joyce was asked to help in other ministries. Again, her instincts told her to step back, but her faith propelled her along.

“I give a lot of credit to Deacon Don for nourishing a seed,” she said. “I told him my fears—that people who have known me forever would reject me in such roles. He said something to me that changed my life forever.”

What Deacon Don told Joyce on that memorable occasion was this: “It is because you are from here and you

are one of them that they will relate to you. You have lived life with all of these people. You think like them; you are one of them. You’re only using the gifts that God has given you.”

And he was right.

It wasn’t long before Joyce found herself back in school pursuing a degree which was much different from the degree she had received decades ago when she became an x-ray technician. “I thought that my education was complete when I graduated years earlier. I had no idea that God would lead me on a completely different path,” she said.

She received a bachelor’s degree in Theology from Siena Heights University in 2007 and began working on her masters.

People who know her aren’t surprised at the direction that Joyce’s life has taken. She grew up in a large Catholic family, the fourth of six children. Though she never attended St. Patrick School, she observed and learned the importance of faith from her parents.

When she was an elementary student, her mother cooked meals for the Sisters at St. Pat’s School. Joyce tagged along and developed a friendship with Sister Kit Kaiser. It is a strong and lasting friendship that exists, yet today. Through Sister Kit, Joyce has also become close to many other Sisters and enjoys spending time with them at Nazareth. In 2008 she proudly and joyfully became an Associate of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

“I have been blessed to be supported by the Sisters and here at St. Pat’s by Father Larry and Deacon Don,” she said. “They encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and reminded me that lifelong learning applies to faith as well as life. There’s always more to learn...and I am hooked!”

What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Michael and Angela (Fox, 1998) Kolp a daughter, Caelyn Ann, on May 22, 2011

To Victoria Cook (2004) and Paul Lightner a son, Lane David, on August 3, 2011. He joins sister Kailey.

To Jerry (1993) and Amy Simon of West Olive a son, Marco Francis, on October 3, 2011. He joins brother Max 6 .

To Elizabeth (Lansdell, 1998) and Todd Weller (1996) of Cedar Springs a boy, Tyson Patrick, on June 29, 2011. He joins brother Aiden 4.

To Keelie (Wilcox, 2000) and Scott Honsowitz (2000) a son, Rhett Michael on August 31, 2011. He joins sisters Emma 6 and Mattie 3.

To Bryan (1996) and Karen Scheurer a son, Easton Jeffrey, on January 3, 2012. He joins siblings Riley 5 and Jerryd 3.

To Jessica (Sandborn, 2003) and Kyle Ferris a son, Evan Scott, on December 10, 2011.

To Katie (Spedoske, 1998) and William Atkin of Grand Ledge a son, Emmett Gregory, on May 11, 2011.

To Janet (Russman, 2000) and Pete Hengesbach a daughter, Kiley Kathleen, on December 27, 2011. She joins one brother Darren.

To first-grade teacher, Tiffany Sherwood and her husband, Ken, twin girls, Kensley Brelyn and Brylee Fayth, on February 24, 2012. They join sister Laney 3.

To Jason (1991) and Jennifer (Thelen, 1993) Chamberlain a daughter, Bree Kathryn, on December 2, 2011. She joins siblings TJ 4 and Reese, 21 months.

To Erin (Schrauben, 1996) and Tutt Gorman a son, Jonah Patrick, on September 30, 2011. He joins sister Grace 3.

To Carissa (Schneider, 1998) and Nathan Horan of East Lansing, a son, Drake Jacob, on January 4, 2012 . He joins brother Xander 2.

To Dave (1990) and Melody Brown a son, Billy David, on November 22, 2011. He joins one brother Joel.

WEDDINGS

Victoria Cook (2004) and Paul Lightner will be married September 1, 2012.

Kurt Goodman (2000) and Gretchen Gariepy were married on June 11, 2011, by Father John Vallier at Holy Spirit Church in Grand Rapids. The couple reside at Bella Vista Lake in Rockford.

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Joan Allen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 8, 1950. They have three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

Tony and Rhonda Goodrich celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 26, 2011. They celebrated with a family dinner at Morrison Lake. The couple has two daughters.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to JoAnn Sheehan who, along with her leader dog Kira, was featured in the March issue of Faith Magazine published by the Lansing Diocese. JoAnn, who graduated from St. Pat's in 1960, was declared legally blind in 1986 from retinitis pigmentosa but has never let the disability keep her down. She continues to volunteer and to travel. JoAnn was featured in the Shamrock Spotlight a few years ago.

Etta Mayhew celebrated her 105th birthday on November 9, 2011. Cards can be sent to her in care of Heartland Healthcare, 814 E. Lincoln Ave., Ionia, MI 48846.

IN MEMORY OF

James J. Hilligan, age 68, passed away suddenly on Nov 12, 2011. Jim met Weezie when they were 13 years old and for 55 years they were an amazing couple! Jim graduated from Ohio State University with a Doctorate in Optometry in 1969. He practiced for 42 years in Vassar and Saginaw. He loved to play golf, ski and most of all landscape his yard! He is survived by his wife Louise, son Jeffrey (Janice), daughter Christine Frink (Mark), daughter Jennifer Vollmer (Bryan), brother Denny (Diana), sister

Pat Immonen (David), brother Barry (Loralee), brother Mike (Kathy). seven grandkids that he loved to have making a ton of noise at his home. His smile and calming gentle spirit will be missed by all! Since he had a love for landscaping, in lieu of flowers please plant a tree or a bush with your family in his honor or make a donation to the Charlevoix Junior Golf Program, c/o Dean Davenport, 712 Cypress, Big Rapids, MI 49307.

Dale E. Kloeckner, 70 of Grand Ledge, formerly of Portland, passed away at his home Dec. 12, 2011. Dale was born May 9, 1941 in Lansing, MI to the late Art and Mildred (Nurenborg) Kloeckner. He graduated from St. Patrick H.S. in Portland. He was a talented carpenter and worked at Granger Construction Co. retiring as superintendent after 38 years. Dale enjoyed fishing, camping, music, and spending time with his family including woodcrafts with his grandchildren in his workshop. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joyce (Blundy), 4 children, Randy (Pam), Rhonda, Bret (Stephanie) and Brian (Missy), 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, sister Patricia Wilcox, brother-in-law Gary Blundy, and many dear and loving friends. He is preceded in death by brother Larry Kloeckner. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael Church or Sparrow Home Hospice

With great sorrow, the family of Deacon Dale F. Hollern, age 77, announced his passing on Thursday, November 3, 2011, after a long courageous battle with cancer. Yet, it is with great joy that we celebrate his new birth into Eternal Life with our Heavenly Father. Deacon Dale continued his ministry of service to others up until the end with humility and compassion. Deacon Dale is survived by his loving and caring wife of 53 years, and biggest fan, Isabel M. Hollern (Ott). His children, Linda Hollern, Michael and Fran Hollern, Pat and Shelly Hollern, Ted and Maribeth Hollern, Amy Hollern and Tim and Alicia Hollern; 24 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Deacon Dale Hollern Scholarship Fund, c/o Foundation for Catholic Secondary Schools, 319 Sheldon Blvd., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Anne L. Rademacher, age 56, loving mother, grandmother and sister passed away on September 20, 2011 after a 6 month battle with leukemia. She was

born on July 1, 1955 the daughter of John and Josephine (Myers) Reust. She graduated from DeWitt High School in 1973. Anne was member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland and was on the welcoming committee. She enjoyed researching genealogy, family history and was the past President of the Portland Historical Society. Anne enjoyed golfing and bowling. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Paul "Pinky" Rademacher; brother, Richard Reust; family friend, Arlene Hart. Surviving are her children Tracy Rademacher of Portland and Aaron (Elizabeth) Rademacher of Laingsburg; twin granddaughters Laura and Kaitlyn; siblings Thomas (Michelle) Reust of DeWitt, Douglas (Patricia) Reust of Australia, Catherine Reust of Lansing and Robert (Karen) Reust of St. Johns; brother-in-law, Robert (Mary) Rademacher; sister-in-law, Marie (fiance, Ed Ferguson) Cooper; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, Fr. Flohe Association or Christian Foundation of Children and Aging in memory of Anne.

Christopher Patrik Fandel passed away on October 8, 2011 at the age of 21. Christopher was an aspiring singer driven for the future. He enjoyed helping others, building things, fishing, and working on cars. He leaves behind his parents Noreen and Larry Fandel; grandparents Seiko (Ken) Stanley and Bernie Witten (Fandel); girlfriend Andreanna Ferris; brothers Michael, Timothy (Lyndsey Bayshore), Scott, Nicholas and Justin; sisters Theresa Spitzley (Eric), Carrie (Randy Rogers), Christy, Amy Hansen (Chris) and Jennifer Lowe (Nicholas); many nieces and nephews and friends.

Thomas Dean Webert, age 65 passed away on Monday, October 17, 2011. He was born on March 28, 1946 the son of Dean and Derua (Pline) Webert. Tom was an avid Nascar fan and car enthusiast. He enjoyed working on cars and building motors for them. He worked for B&W Auto Supply for over 40 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Robert Trimmer. Surviving are his children Scott (Beth) Webert of Portland and a daughter, Angie (Luan) Le of Grand Rapids; grandsons Trent and Hunter Webert, Ian and Joshua Le; siblings Carol (Jim) Wilcox, Sharon (Burt) Robson, David (Melanie) Webert and Janice Trimmer; many nieces, nephews and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice services in memory of Tom.

Alice Rose Hengesbach, age 81, passed away on Saturday October 22, 2011.

She was born on January 31, 1930 in Westphalia, MI the daughter of Lawrence and Theresa (Pohl) Hengesbach. Alice had a great love for children, taking any opportunity to babysit, and was always very involved with her family throughout her life. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Helen Clark; brothers, William, Stanley and Reynold Hengesbach; sister-in-law, Joanne Hengesbach. Surviving are her brothers, Linus (Pat) Hengesbach and Albert (Wilma) Hengesbach; sister-in-law, Rosie Hengesbach; brother-in-law, Bill Clark; many nieces and nephews.

Verena Paulina Miller, age 90, passed away on October 27, 2011. She was born April 22, 1921 on the family farm on Hinman Road in Eagle Township. She was the daughter of Eberhard and Anna Mary (Lehman) Miller. During her long and remarkable life she was dedicated to her faith, her family, music and performing. She was a long time member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and served her parish in many ways. Because she loved acting, Verena was a founding member of the Portland Civic Players. She acted in many roles as well as directing plays. Her lead in the production of Mame was her proudest acting and singing achievement. Verena was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Herbert, in 1984, and all of her siblings. She is survived by her son, Theodore (Mary) Miller of Sequim, Washington, her daughters, Carol (Steven) Kahn and Susan Miller of Portland and Joyce (Glenn) Pline, of St. Johns, seven grand children and five great grand children. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing – Stoneleigh Residence or Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Verena.

Mark "Banger" A. Strang, age 51, passed away on Friday, November 4, 2011. He was born on September 27, 1960 in Lansing, MI the son of Richard and Joyce (Patrick) Strang. Mark was a Peer Support Specialist with Ionia County Community Mental Health. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and loved the outdoors. Mark also had a great love for his family. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard; grandparents, William Patrick and Charles and Florence Strang; several uncles and an aunt. He is survived by his mother, Joyce; sister, Kimberly (Michael) Fedewa; brothers, Jeffrey Strang, Richard Strang, and Barry (Leslie) Strang; grandmother, Eloise Patrick; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins; special friend, Jeff Donaldson. Memorial contributions may be made to Ionia County Community Mental Health, in memory of Mark.

Viola Mary Thelen, age 94, passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. She was born on April 22, 1917 in Portland, MI the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Luckenbach) Blundy. Viola loved life, her family, she loved playing dominoes and cards, and she loved camping, especially the Halloween campouts. She was preceded in death by her parents; all her siblings; husband, Robert Thelen in 1976; son, David Thelen in 1975; grandson, Brian Thelen in 1968; son-in-law, David Martin in 1999; daughter-in-law, Patricia Thelen in 2009. Surviving are her children, Janice Getzen of East Lansing, Robert James (Arlene) Thelen of Portland, Marlene (Wayne) Dick of Lyons, Judy Martin of Portland, Donald Thelen of Portland, Mary Baker of Marshall, Wayne (Deborah) Thelen of Portland and Gail (Richard) Hill of Lenox; 30 grandchildren; numerous great and great-great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; special friend at Hospice, Layne. Memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services or St. Patrick Boiler Fund, in memory of Viola.

Yolanda J. Kavanagh, age 80, passed away on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. She was born on January 5, 1931 in Lansing, MI the daughter of Will and Rose (Alicki) Benjamin. Mrs. Kavanagh was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland for 58 years, and belonged to the Resurrection Choir. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Rose Benjamin. Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Donald; 6 children, Dennis (Ruth) Kavanagh of Grandville, Denise (Cheryl Visscher) Kavanagh of Kentwood, Peggy (Hank) Moczul of Bellaire, Barbara Kavanagh of Duarte, CA; William (Pamela) Kavanagh of Portland and Michael (Lisa) Kavanagh of Grand Rapids; 5 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild on the way; sisters-in-law, Alice (Bill) Piggott and Carol (Jack) Caroen; brother-in-law, Joe (Marie) Kavanagh. The family is requesting contributions for a memorial to be determined at St. Patrick Church.

Glenn "Bud" S. McCrumb, age 89, of Winter Haven, FL (formerly of Portland) passed away on December 7, 2011. He was born on March 17, 1922 in Wacousta the son of Roy and Carolyne (Parks) McCrumb. Bud was a veteran of the U.S. Army, and avid alligator hunter and an excellent bowler and golfer. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Wilma; daughter-in-law, Jean McCrumb. Surviving are his wife, Arlene (Schrauben); children Linda (Mike) Simon of Portland

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The State of the School

by Principal Randy Hodge

The 2011/2012 school year has been going very well at St. Patrick School. Our students have been working hard and growing and maturing academically, spiritually, physically, and socially.

We also have been blessed to have our school enrollment continuing to grow. We currently have 104 high school students which is the most since the Class of 2006 graduated. Our total enrollment has increased to 364 students which is a 10% increase from last school year. We are expecting this trend to continue and are anticipating an increase in enrollment for next school year.

We are continuing to upgrade and improve technology throughout the school. Currently, seven classrooms have ceiling mounted projectors and Smartboards mounted for teacher and student use. We would like to have elementary classrooms completely modernized with ceiling-mounted projectors and Smartboards by the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

We are still evaluating the use of laptop computers, iPads, and other technology. There is much debate about iPads versus laptop computers. We value any input from alumni who have expertise in this area.

Our School Commission is in the process of transforming from an advisory role to a School Board with limited jurisdiction. They will have input in strategic planning and on formulating some school policies next year.

We are evaluating how we schedule high school students to see if it is possible for them to gain more college credit before graduation from high school.

We are excited that the softball field's final phases will be completed and St. Patrick School will host the softball and baseball districts this spring at Father Flohe Field.

Thank you for the support of St. Patrick School. We are blessed to have the opportunity to run a Preschool through 12th grade facility with the limited resources we have available. The success we have comes from so many individuals willing to share their time, talent, treasure, and prayers.



School Board Role Evolves

by School Board Chair Jen Meredith

As you may recall from the fall issue of the Shamrock Newsletter, I discussed the recommendation of the Grand Rapids Diocese for School Commissions to transition to a Board of Directors with Limited Jurisdiction. This change will allow for the Board to more formally assist the Pastor and Principal in the governance of St. Patrick School. The main goal of the Commission for this academic year has been to thoughtfully review the guidance and recommendations of the Diocese and prepare for the implementation of the School Board this September. To this point, I would like to update you on the progress the Commission has made toward this goal.

The Commission has determined that the School Board of Directors will consist of 11 members and will be comprised of current Commission members, as well as parents, alumni/parents of alumni, leaders within the civic, business, and professional communities, and finally, other parishioners. Parents of currently enrolled children will make up not more than 40% of the board to maximize broader, long range planning. While current Commission members will be responsible for iden-

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Big Rocks Little Rocks

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

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

How does it work? When a student enters St. Patrick School as a DK or Kindergarten student, (s)he becomes a Little Rock and is assigned a Big Rock 6th or 7th grade student to be his/her special friend and mentor. This pairing of students continues through the elementary grades, with 1st graders pairing with 8th graders, 2nd graders pairing with high school freshmen, and so on, up through the 5th graders being paired with seniors. With few exceptions, the Big Rocks and Little Rocks remain a team until the younger student reaches 6th grade.



The older students take on the responsibilities of assisting their younger elementary peers throughout the school year with the positive benefit of being reminded regularly they are role models with little eyes watching them. "I love this program," said 8th grader Nick Coyne. "I can see a younger me in my buddy Isaiah Pelc. I like to see him growing in knowledge. He is very fun to talk to and mess around with."

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by Athletic Association President Dan Lawless

Despite facing our largest budget ever, the hard work and generosity of our school parents and community has put us on target to meet all of our expenses for the school year without requiring our athletes to pay-to-play.

Some of our accomplishments for this school year:

- We acquired a new scoreboard for our football field. One of our parents spotted a discarded scoreboard at Saranac High School. Saranac HS graciously gave it to us, and with the help of many volunteers, it was transported back to St. Pat's and refurbished. Our cost—\$0! Thank you to Mike Goodman who, in memory of his father, the late Jim Goodman, Sr., painted it. What other school has the volunteers with the knowledge, skills and resources to do this?

- We're very proud of our new softball field, and improved baseball field which also are the result of thousands of hours of volunteer work. Thank you to Tony Dixon and Bill Vallier for heading up this effort and to everyone who helped out. The field is nearly 100% complete, with only some fencing and netting left to do. The new fields will allow us to host the District Tournament in June.

- We added a women's cross country team to our roster of sports.

- We are holding an ongoing scrap metal drive to raise additional funds. If you have scrap metal that you would like to have picked up, please call Tony Dixon (517) 204-7381 or Randy Pung (517) 719-4257.

Next year we will begin another chapter in our athletic history when we become the first team in the area to participate in 8-man football. We will remain a member of the CMAC in all other sports, but for football we will belong to the Southern Michigan 8-Man conference and play against Battle Creek St. Phillip, Burr Oak, Tekonsha, Waldron, and Litchfield. The MHSAA sponsored the first-ever 8-man football state championship tournament this year.

There will be a few changes to get used to, but AD Pat Russman feels that it's a great opportunity for our students and will make the Shamrocks a competitive team once again.



Children's Faith Formation

by Lori Thelen

Every Monday night during the school year, 183 students (including 28 homeschooled students) meet in church at 6:30 p.m. for a short prayer service with energetic music before heading over to school where they break into groups for the remainder of the evening.

This year we have 50 second-grade students preparing for First Communion and 56 eighth-grade students preparing for Confirmation. The other grades are learning about various aspects of their Catholic faith.

St. Pat's Scrip Program

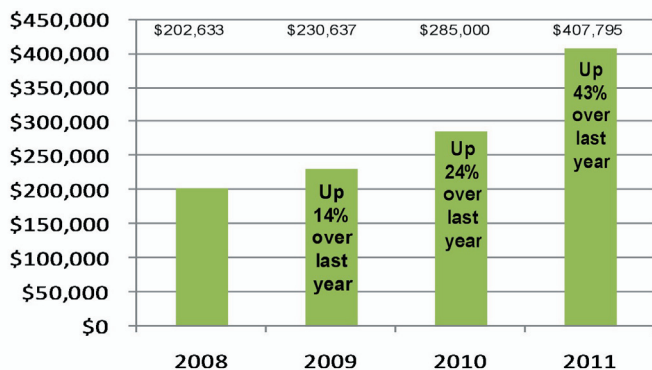
by Ralph Willemin

Participation in the Scrip Program at St. Pat's increased tremendously in 2011 with our overall volume up by \$123,000 over 2010. Our goal has always been to exceed \$1,000,000 in sales volume. In watching the past trends and projecting continued growth, I anticipate that we will reach that goal in two years.

Although our primary participants continue to be school families, we have several alumni and friends who are now purchasing scrip and directing the proceeds into a special tuition assistance fund. Imagine what we could do with that account if all Shamrock grandparents or local alumni would buy scrip cards for just their groceries and gas! What a gift that would be!

Now is time to start thinking really big!

Scrip Purchases 2008-2011



Knights of Columbus

by Steve Goodman

Gentlemen of St. Patrick Parish, if you are not already a member of the Knights of Columbus, please consider joining our ranks. We are a group of Catholic men who support the Catholic Church, the call to Religious life, and the Right to Life in every possible way.

If you are interested, contact John Vallier at (517) 647-6409 or Steve Goodman at (517) 647-7741. Come join us on our journey as Knights. You won't be disappointed!



March for Life

On Saturday, January 22, 2012, fifteen high school students from our parish along with chaperones joined teens from other area Catholic parishes for a whirlwind bus trip to Washington D.C. where they participated in the March for Life.

The bus pulled out at 7:00 p.m., and after an overnight trip arrived in the capital at 7:30 a.m. First thing on the agenda was breakfast, then the group attended Mass at the National Shrine before heading to Constitution Avenue for the march.

There, the group from mid-Michigan joined forces with nearly a half million other people who were there on a cold and damp Monday afternoon to enthusiastically bear witness to the sanctity of life from the moment of conception.

St. Patrick senior, Devin Ryan said, "It felt good to be there, standing up for the rights of the unborn babies." Classmate, Joe Jandernoa added, "We saw pictures of aborted babies, which were very eye-opening. It filled me with a passion for life."

By 5:30 p.m. the group was back on the bus, headed for home, arriving at 6:00 a.m. Their 35-hour whirlwind trip was over, but all agreed that it was worth every second.



husband's battle with cystic fibrosis and his subsequent lung transplant. The Festival of Tables netted over \$2200 for the Portland Area Ministerial Association.

- On March 17, 2012, we hosted the 3rd Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner in the Parish Hall. All parishioners who are 75 or older were invited for a delicious meal, entertainment, and door prizes.

- We are currently helping with the Lenten Soup Suppers, which are held every Friday night during Lent.

- Save the Date! We'll be hosting the Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, July 22, in Alton Park.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome two new members to the Shamrock Editorial Staff. Anne Bennett (1985) and Ashley (Ingram, 2000) Kliever have joined the crew and will be helping us put the newsletter together.

Don't forget: We're ALWAYS grateful when readers contact us with ideas for future articles or to tell us about noteworthy alumni—and those alumni articles are the ones that people love to read.

Send your ideas and suggestions! You can write an article yourself or give us contact information and we'll do the writing for you.

And, as always, remember to send in information for the *What's Happening* pages. We used to rely on the local paper for much of this information, but few people use the newspaper to announce births, engagements, or weddings any more, so we really need help!

Thank you from all of us on the staff!

Welcoming and Social Committee

by Sue Kreiner

The Welcoming and Social Committee continues to be busy with various parish activities:

- On November 5, 2011, we hosted the 2nd Ethnic Dinner. Participants served dishes from Poland, China, Mexico, the Phillipines, Italy, Germany, Israel, and Venezuela. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed an amazing meal. Thank you to the members of St. Pat's Junior class who helped with set-up, serving, and clean-up.

- On February 4, 2012, we joined forces with other churches in Portland for the Annual Festival of Tables. Twenty-seven tables were beautifully decorated and hosted by women from the churches. Over 250 guests (women only at this event!) enjoyed a wonderful meal and an inspiring talk by St. Patrick alumna Sharon (Lenneman) Page, who told the story of her



Sharon Page's talk, *Second Chances*, told the story of her husband's lung transplant and stressed the importance of organ donation.

Class of 1962 Save the date!

On Saturday, September 8, you will be the Guests of Honor at a celebration held in your honor at St. Patrick Parish Hall.

Invitations and complete information will be mailed. Hope to see all of you there!

The Father Flohe Foundation



FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

140 CHURCH STREET
PORTLAND, MICHIGAN 48875-1111
(517) 647-6505
FAX (517) 647-7807

Kevin Schrauben, President
Tony Thelen, Vice President
Scott Brown, Treasurer
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Father Larry King
Gary Fedewa
Tony Goodrich
Mike Kissane

Dave Kramer
Mary Kramer
Carolyn Manning
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Jennifer Meredith
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Kristin Smith
John Thelen

March 13, 2012

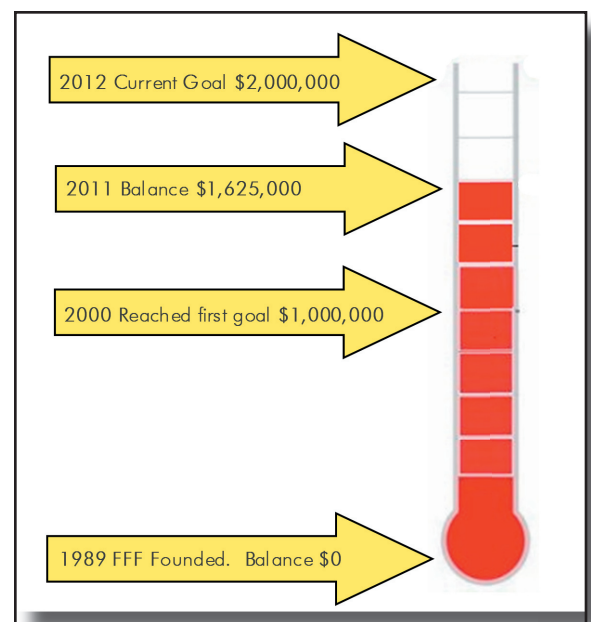
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Did you know that since 1989 generous donors such as yourselves have contributed over \$1.6 million to the Father Flohe Foundation? Did you know that since 1989, your contributions have enabled the Father Flohe Foundation to contribute over \$859,000 to the school? Imagine the possibilities! What if the foundation had \$10 million in assets and could contribute \$500,000 a year to the school! What an incredible difference that could make! While this sounds like a lofty goal, it is one that we definitely hope to achieve. But like most lofty goals, it is too large a task to undertake all at once. Do you recall the goal of the founding members of the foundation? \$1 million seemed like quite a stretch when they were starting from \$0. But the goal was reached in the year 2000---it took just over ten years.

So what's next? How about a goal of \$2 million? As of June 30, 2011, the balance stands at \$1,625,000. That means we need about \$375,000 in contributions to meet this next milestone. And right now, thanks to a very generous offer from an anonymous benefactor, who is also a graduate of St. Patrick School, we have a unique opportunity to hit that goal. This donor is willing to match your contributions to the Father Flohe Foundation, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$100,000. That means for every dollar you donate, the Foundation will receive two. That absolutely puts this goal within reach this year.

Please take a moment to look through the Shamrock and notice all the great things going on in St. Patrick School and all the great things that have happened in the past. Give this some thought and consider making a tax deductible contribution to the Father Flohe Foundation. Through your financial donations and prayers, you can help us ensure that Catholic Education will be available for future generations, and with your help, the Foundation and the School will continue to prosper and grow.

Kevin Schrauben, Father Flohe Foundation President



Father Flohe Foundation Appeal

I would like to show my support for the Father Flohe Foundation with a gift of:

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.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ _____. Please charge it to my credit card.

OR Deduct it from my checking account. (Please enclose a voided check.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Please return this form by June 1, 2012 if possible. Thank you for your support!

Detach this entire page and mail it in your own envelope or follow the instructions on the back for creating a self-mailer.

We Pray. We Learn. We Achieve.



It's even easier now to make a donation to St. Patrick School or Parish!

Online Giving allows you to make a one-time donation or schedule a regular-recurring donation by using your existing credit card or bank account. By setting up an account at Online Giving, you can make donations or payments easily and conveniently!

Donate to:

- The Father Flohe Foundation
- The Alumni Fund
- Other school/parish programs

Benefits for you:

- Use your checking, savings or credit card
- Earn rewards through your credit card
- Schedule recurring or one-time donations
- Make changes anytime you like
- Safe, secure and confidential
- No check-writing or ATM stops

Benefits for St. Patrick

- Reduces check processing fees
- Allows staff more time to focus on ministries
- Accommodates special funds and tuition
- Provides financial history for tax statements
- Reaches a wider demographic of donors

For complete information about setting up an account or making a one-time donation, please go to <http://portlandstpats.com/makeadonaton.htm> and click on the Online Giving link.

All transactions are secure and highly confidential. If you have questions, please contact Mike Johnson at the St. Patrick Business Office: (517) 647-6505 extension 413.

We're 80% of the way to our goal!

- Your FFF donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar*, by our anonymous benefactor!
- This is a one-time opportunity to double the size of your gift!

Please help us reach our goal of \$2,000,000. By working together, we can do it!

*Up to a total of \$100,000

Detach this page and use it as a self-mailer!

To use this page as a self-mailer, detach the page at the right margin.

Fill in all information on the backside of this page.

Fold top of page backward at #1.

Fold bottom of page backward at #2.

Seal with tape at #5.

If enclosing check or money order, be sure to seal both sides as well—#3 & #4.

#1 Fold here.



Portland St. Patrick Catholic School
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Portland, MI 48875

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Stamp
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FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

140 CHURCH STREET

PORTLAND, MICHIGAN 48875-1111

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#3 After folding, seal with tape.

#5 After folding, seal with tape.

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KING'S KOLUMN

Catholic Schools Week Homily

by Father Larry King, February 5, 2012

We gather here this morning as a parish to celebrate the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week – an annual event where we THANK GOD for his blessings on this parish ministry of St. Patrick. The theme this year has been “Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, Service.”

St. Patrick Catholic School is a ministry of St. Patrick Parish – whether you send your children to St. Patrick School or not. Why is that? It is because the majority of Catholic Church leadership across the country - whether ordained leadership or lay leadership - comes out of Catholic Schools.

Now I can't say that I know all the reasons for this reality, but I can point to one factor that really stands out, the fact that in a Catholic School children are immersed on a daily basis in a Christ-centered education. Now, in saying that I don't mean to imply that Christ is not present in public schools, for Christ truly is present there too. He is present in the good people that work there – some of them are Catholic and from our own parish. They do their best to model the love of Christ to their students by how they treat them. Unfortunately and regrettably, however, they are handcuffed by our laws that forbid them to speak about God or Jesus Christ or Church or religion, or their own faith in any way, shape or form.

That is not the case at Catholic Schools. The children at St. Patrick School and other Catholic Schools – and I want to emphasize this point once again because this is the primary reason for sending a child to a Catholic School – is that they are immersed in a Christ-centered education. Jesus Christ can be proclaimed without fear of retribution. The faculty can speak about God, and they can speak about their own faith, and they can bring God into every aspect of the academics that they teach so that students understand in practical ways how God works in the world and that God is part of everything that we do and is not just for an hour on Sunday. The faculty is allowed and encouraged to pray openly with their students, and for their students, and for the families of their students, as well as any needs in our world.

When all is said and done, in the grand scale of things, more than anything else, isn't it faith in Jesus Christ and helping children to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ that we want for our children? Our society today more and more wants us to ignore or eliminate any talk of God from our lives, as if God doesn't exist or is uninvolved in our daily lives. We are flooded with anti-Christian and anti-God messages all the time in the media. What is there to counteract these anti-God messages?

For public school students, here at St. Patrick Parish we have our Faith Formation classes for children, but that is only 90-minutes a week and possibly add another hour for Sunday Mass – that's not much. In Catholic Schools children get

God-messages all day long in a variety of ways – most of them very overt and intentional.

Now, having said all that, let me emphasize that the primary teachers of faith and relationship with Jesus are you, the parents. The Church, and St. Patrick School as well, are here only to assist you parents in passing on the faith to your children. So much depends on whether or not you parents are living out your faith at home on a day-to-day basis. Children learn what you parents live!

(continued on page 17)



Reunion News

Reunion Reports

St. Pat's Class of 1966 held their 45-year reunion at the Wagon Wheel on September 17, 2011. The evening began with Mass in memory of deceased classmates, followed by a social hour and supper. After dinner music was provided by Mike Feldpausch and his band. A good time was had by all 27 classmates who attended. We hope to see everyone at the big 5-0 in 2016.



Twenty seven classmates along with their spouses gathered on September 24, 2011, at Jerry and Cindy Selden's for the *Class of 1971* 40-year class reunion. With a casual setting and a campfire for ambiance, it turned out to be a nice evening of talking and catching up with everyone.



Fifteen members of *St. Pat's Class of 1976* attended their 35th reunion on Saturday, November 5, 2011. Their reunion began at the 4:30 mass in memory of classmates

Leanne Putnam and Bill Peake. They went to celebrate, catch up and reminisce at the Wagonwheel, American Grill. They are "Still Crazy After All These Years"! Until they meet again, God bless!



The Class of 1991 celebrated their 20-year class reunion at the Oakwood Lounge in Pewamo on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Everyone enjoyed dinner, a comedian and live band. Seventeen classmates that attended.



Reminder to Reunion Organizers

When you begin organizing your reunion, don't forget to send your information to *The Shamrock*. And, after the reunion, be sure to send a *Reunion Report* along with a photo. The information will be posted on the Alumni page of the school website and also included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Reunion Alerts

The Class of 2002 will hold their 10-year class reunion on September 8, 2012, at the Portland Country Club. Details will be available at a later date. Contact Ashley (Ingram) Kliewer (517) 526-1818 for more information.

The Class of 1972 will hold their 40-year class reunion on Saturday September 15, 2012. A website has been set up with all of the details. There is also a 'Personal Profile' for classmates to complete. Go to www.shamrocks72.webs.com. Or contact: Kathy Pitch (517) 647-7739, Mary Ann Augst (517) 566-7167, Roxi Burnham (517) 647-6494, or Sharon Hoffman (517) 647-7397 We hope you will be able to join us !!!

The Class of 1957 has tentatively set Saturday June 23, 2012 for their 55-year reunion. Invitations will be mailed. For information or to offer suggestions, please call Beverly at 517-526-0355.

The Class of 1967 has no plans yet. If you would like to help organize the reunion, please call Jeanine Cross at 517-202-9731.

The Class of 1997 will hold their 15-year reunion on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at Craig's Cruisers in Grand Rapids with dinner following. A block of rooms will be reserved at the Grand Rapids Marriott Inn. For more information contact Kim Weller at (517) 647-4236 or nweller@yahoo.com. Information will also be available on Facebook.

The Class of 1987 will hold their 25-year reunion on Saturday, August 4. Contact Connie Vallier at VallierBC@sbcglobal.net to join the committee!

SCHOOL BOARD EVOLVES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

tifying and recruiting new members to the Board, Father Larry will have final approval of all Board members. During the initial appointment, members will be assigned to staggered terms of 1 to 3 years with the option of renewal for 3 additional years. The Board will have direct responsibility to Father Larry, and through him, the Diocese.

The work of the Board will be largely carried out through standing committees. These committees will have as their primary concern the ministry of Catholic education through strategic planning, execution of initiatives and the formulation of policies related to academic, student, athletic and faith community affairs. While standing committees must be chaired by a School Board member, the remaining members will come from outside of Board membership. Therefore, one can serve on a standing committee that highlights their talents and interests without having to serve on the "official" School Board. For example, if you have a particular interest in marketing, you can serve on the public relations committee without having to attend School Board meetings.

As you can see, there are a lot of exciting changes taking place with the School Commission. So, how do you get involved? The Commission is actively looking for energized and committed people who have a strong desire to devote their time and talent back to a school that gives so much to its students. If you would like to be considered for this ministry, please feel free to call Randy Hodge (517) 647-7551 or contact me at jen.meredith18@gmail.com.

Thank you to all of the current commission members who have worked hard during this transition.

Come to the 2012 Shamrock Auction

An opulent event commemorating the 100th anniversary of

Live Auction
Silent Auction
Raffles
Food & Drink

the **TITANIC**

www.freewebs.com/spsauction

Saturday, April 28 Doors open at 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

and Roy McCrumb of Lansing; step children Patricia (Richard) Peterson of Naperville, IL, and Cindy (Mike) Jaques of Tawas, Chuck Nicholson of Lakeland, FL, Ron Nicholson of Lakeland, FL, Fred Nicholson of Lakeland, FL, and Steve Nicholson of Portland; 14 grandchildren; many great grandchildren; brother Denny (Lucy) McCrumb of Polson, MT; sisters Esther Summers of Portland, Joanne (Ron) Rock of Portland, Katie Matsonia of Colorado, and Maxine (Jack) Beebe of Portland. Memorial contributions may be made to Portland Right to Life, St. Patrick Alumni Scholarship Fund or to the family in memory of Bud.

Michael Kevin Lay, age 49, passed away suddenly on Saturday, January 21, 2012. He was born on February 28, 1962 in Lansing the son of Ivan and Romayne (Fedewa) Lay. Mike was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the K of C Council #2168 in Portland. He enjoyed watching sports, tending to his yard, fishing, golfing and being with his family and friends. Mike was the Agriculture Service Manager at Bader and Sons in Portland where he has worked for 34 years. He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Caroline Kimmel; grandparents Al and Catherine Fedewa, Norman and Mary Lay and Grandma Fanny; beloved dog, Frito. Surviving are his wife of 27 years, Marcy; children Nicholas, Stephanie and Nathan; parents Ivan and Romayne Lay; siblings Denny (Terri) Lay, Pat (Sharon) Lay and Kevin (Kim) Lay; father-in-law Joe (Deb) Rich; brother-in-law Loren (Denise) Rich; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Fire Dept., Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Mike.

Joseph William Barker, age 35, passed away on February 9, 2012. He was born on December 19, 1976 in Grand Rapids, MI the son of Donald and Betty (Wilson) Barker. Joseph enjoyed music, playing in his bands, and liked listening to older music, listening at an early age to Kenny Rogers and Johnny Cash. He was a truck driver, traveling through 46 of the 48 lower states. He also loved old Oldsmobiles, trap shooting, bowling, and planting wild flowers. Preceding him in death were his grandparents, Ralph and Dorothy Barker, and Charles and Ruby Wilson; uncle, Gerald Wilson;

aunt, Rosemary Shinaver. Surviving are his parents, Donald and Betty Barker; sister, Jennifer (Ryan) Van Solkema; nephews, Ryder, Cody and Garrett Van Solkema; uncle, Charles Barker; Joe's birth mother, Ellen Gitchel, and half siblings, Brent, Douglas, Molly and Steven; band members and friends of the bands, Lou S Change and Killshot. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Social Services, in memory of Joseph.

Kenneth Vincent Noren, age 54 of Troy, Idaho, died peacefully at his home on the morning of Saturday, February 25, 2012, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Ken was born January 10, 1958, in Lansing, Michigan, to Carl Henry and Shirley Ann (Irrer) Noren. He was raised in Portland, Michigan, and graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Ken went on to earn his Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering at Michigan State University. Ken's strong love of teaching led him to become a professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Idaho where he has influenced hundreds of students in his 20 years there. In 2011, Ken was presented with the Outstanding Teaching Award. Ken is survived by his wife, Debbie, his father, Carl Noren of Portland, Michigan, his brothers, Kevin (Laura) of Lansing, Michigan and Kirk (Gail) of Tipton, Michigan, his sister Kim Noren of Williamston, Michigan, and nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by his mother and brother, Karl. The family suggests that memorials be made to the Troy Ambulance Fund 517 S. Main St.; Troy, ID 83871 or the Ken Noren Endowment Scholarship Fund c/o University of Idaho P.O. Box 443147; Moscow, ID 83844-3147.

Carol Jean Schrauben, age 53, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and daugh-

ter, went to be with the Lord on Monday, February 27, 2012. Carol was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland, and enjoyed being a grandmother and working on various crafts. She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Bill Schrauben; sister-in-law, Denise Schrauben; grandparents, Wayne and Roselyn Coon, and Riley and Anis Sandborn. Surviving are her husband of 33 years, Dave; children, Kristin (Jesse) Weller, Bradley Schrauben, and Kimberly Schrauben; three grandchildren; parents, Kendall and Barbara (Coon) Sandborn; siblings, Chris (Kaye) Sandborn, Denise (Mike) Ouendag, Joel (Robyn) Sandborn, Scott (Dixie) Sandborn, and Heidi (Phil) May; mother-in-law, Marie Schrauben; several brother and sister-in-laws; many nieces and nephews.

Lillian Rose Fox died March 3, 2012 at the age of 85. She was born July 4, 1926 to Fred and Emma (Bennett) Hoppes. Lillian grew up in Portland area and married William Anthony Fox on June 18, 1949 and he preceded her death on December 6, 2002. They were the parents of ten children: Richard (Eraina Young) Fox, William E. (Lori) Fox Jr., Diane (Tom) Allen, Connie Jo Fox (died at 5 months), Steven (Laurie) Fox, Sue (Pete) Huhn, Louan (Pat) Malloy, Doug (Evelyn) Fox, David Fox (died at 2 years) and Beth (Chris) Ralston. She was also preceded in death by her sister Dorothy Hoppes and her parents. Surviving are her 8 children; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; three siblings: Robert Hoppes Sr., Arlene Luscher and Lucille Hoppes; in-laws: Helen Fox Osborne, Merlin "Bud" (Diane) Fox and special sister-in-law, cousin, and friend Lella Hoppes Fox; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association in memory of Lillian.



CORRECTION

From the Editor: I'm doing a big Mea Culpa on an egregious error that made it into print in the last issue of *The Shamrock*—and even worse, the wording made it appear that FFF President Kevin Schrauben had made the mistake! I added an introductory sentence to Kevin's FFF article, and in that sentence stated that the Class of 1954 was the first graduating class at St. Pat's. When I wrote

that sentence, I fully intended to go back and check the facts, since it didn't seem right.

Well, with a deadline looming, I forgot to do the double-check! And when my own issue of *The Shamrock* arrived in the mail, I saw the sentence and immediately knew that I had messed up.

My apologies to Kevin and the Class of 1953, the REAL first graduates!

BIG ROCKS LITTLE ROCKS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Nick's classmate, Riley Pline agreed. "My Little Rock reminds me so much of myself at that age," she said. The reason I do what I do with her is because I remember my Big Rock and what she did for me. My Big Rock was always an inspiration to me. I hope that's how my Little Rock feels about me."

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



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

At least once each month the teams go back to the classrooms after Mass to work on a service project. Some of the projects they've completed this year include making cards for veterans on Veterans Day and writing letters to Santa for the annual Macy's charity. Later this spring they will walk together in our annual charity Walk-a-Thon.

They also participate together in fun events. During Spirit week they made signs to hold at the Powder Puff and Homecoming games. This year they completed a

school/church scavenger hunt during Catholic School's Week, and another year they did Reading Month activities.

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

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SERMON

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Children are more apt to "catch" faith from you parents if you are living out your faith and have a relationship with Jesus Christ! That quite specifically means that you are an active part of this faith community and regularly and actively participate in worship. If you're not attending church on a weekly basis, then you are teaching your children that Church and growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ is not very important.

So, you parents have a huge responsibility – your children have been entrusted to you by God to lead them back to God! It is critical that your example at home leads your children to Christ! Again, St. Patrick Parish only has limited access to your children – and that access is so much less if your children are not in a Catholic School setting – and that puts much more responsibility on parents.

St. Patrick School is not perfect, although we strive toward that goal. We excel in academics – as is evidenced by test scores – and we engage the students in Christian Service projects to help them understand that Christ calls them to be good stewards of their time and talents. But again, when all is said and done, St. Patrick School exists primarily to immerse children in the Catholic faith – and we do not apologize to anyone for fulfilling this mission given to us by Jesus Christ as he himself went about doing in the Gospel today – to preach the Good News of salvation to everyone and lead people to God.

May we rise to the challenge of bringing our children to Christ so that He may call us "good and faithful servants!"



PUZZLE time

Another Word Search, but look at that word list! All of these words are Catholic in nature but we're betting that you've never heard of some of them. There are 25 words in the list, and the directions are the same—find all of the words, then take the letters that are left over to spell out a quote. Lots of luck, and if you have extra time on your hands, grab a dictionary and look up those unusual words!

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

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 May 1, 2012. 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: _____

ABSTINENCE
 ACOLYTES
 ADVENT
 AGNUS DEI
 ANGELUS
 ASPERGILLUM
 BASILICA

BEATIFICATION
 CANON
 CATECHETICS
 CIBORIUM
 CONCUPISCENCE
 CONSUBSTANTIAL
 DALMATI

DEACON
 DOXOLOGY
 LENT
 MEMORARE
 NOVENA
 PAPACY
 PENANCE

POPE
 ULTREYA
 VERITAS
 ZUCCHETTO



Dozens of readers did the Word Search puzzle in the spring issue of *The Shamrock* and almost everyone had the correct answer: ***There is no elevator to success; you have to take the stairs.*** The winner, chosen by random drawing from all correct entries, is Cindy Brown, who received a cash prize of \$50. Congratulations, Cindy—and thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

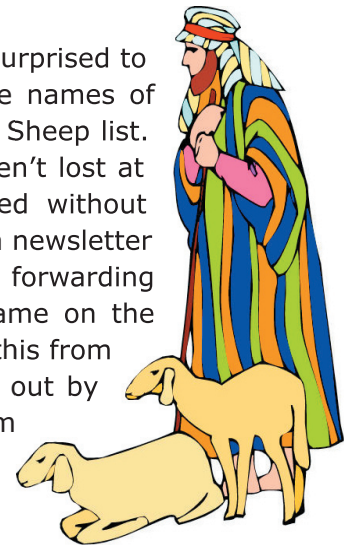
Upcoming Events....

DK/Kindergarten Screening.....April 19, 2012
 Shamrock AuctionApril 28, 2012
 First Communion May 6, 2012
 Graduation..... May 20, 2012
 Spanish TripJune 18-28, 2012
 Parish Festival.....June 22-24, 2012
 Parish Picnic.....July 22, 2012
 Class of 1962 50-Year ReunionSept 8, 2012
 Fall Festival October 14, 2012

**Next issue of The Shamrock—Mid October.
 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 on the Lost Sheep list. To prevent this from happening, you can help us out by using the form at the bottom of this page to let us know when you move.



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1956 Duane Irrer | 1980 Angie Young |
| 1959 Ed Bengel | 1981 Mike Binder |
| 1963 John Bengel | 1984 Joe Spohn |
| 1965 Terry Speckin | 1988 Steve Gunderman |
| 1967 Ron Cook | 1991 Frank Wright |
| 1968 Carolyn Rowe | 1993 Josh Meyers |
| 1974 Mark VanderHoff | 1999 John Solgat |
| 1975 Susan Thelen | 2001 Julie Chamberlain |
| 1979 Christine Bozung | 2007 Jenna Schneider |
| 1979 Michael Hendricks | 2007 Marki Stimpson |

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



The Shamrock

140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
 Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807

Please make note of this new e-mail address.
 Mail addressed to the former address will not be received.

E-mail: shamrockeditors@gmail.com

Website: www.portlandstpats.com

(Click on Alumni Information)

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There's no crystal ball to help us keep track of you.



So, please tell us when you move!

Name: _____

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If you are a graduate of St. Pat's, please list your maiden name and year of graduation: _____

Send to: The Shamrock, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.
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St. Patrick Parish Festival



- Kings Karnival
- Kid's Activities
- Food Court
- Over-21 Tent
- Raffles
- Music on the Stage
- Euchre Tournament
- Texas Hold 'Em
- Friday Stage Play
- Outdoor Mass



June 22-24

Always the Weekend After Father's Day!

- 3-on-3 Basketball
- Volleyball Tournament
- Adult Softball Tournament
- 5-K Race
- Portland Cruisers
- Sunday Chicken Dinner
- Fun for Everyone!

Complete information including entry forms and times: www.portlandstpats.com > Parish Festival

We would like to thank Diocesan Publications and their staff for printing this newsletter for us!