



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

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More Than Just a Coach

Unlike football and basketball, high school baseball games start in the middle of the afternoon, a time that is not conducive to drawing large crowds of spectators. But, large crowds are routine at Shamrock baseball games, possibly because of the quality of the school's baseball program. Or possibly a tribute to an above-average man who has overseen and built the program over the past six seasons. According to many, the job that Coach Bryan Scheurer does with his varsity Shamrock baseball team is second to none.



Bryan received the 2010 Coach of the Year award at a ceremony in Mount Pleasant.

Bryan works with his players through the winter and early spring months, and frequently receives calls from them asking him if they can practice even more. The reason? Simply put, it's fun to play ball for Coach Scheurer.

All of that practice pays off. The Shamrock baseball team is a perennial force to be reckoned with, a team that works to excel, not only for themselves, but for their coach. They have fun with him, they learn from him, they win for him and they love and respect him—a lot.

"I knew that win or lose Coach would have fun with us or would have something fun and positive to say about our performance each day," said former player Kyle Lay. "I never had a time when I didn't want to go to a practice or a game."

"The boys thoroughly enjoy being around Bryan because of his sincere and deep love of baseball," said Jan Simon, whose son David is a Shamrock player. Her husband, Jim continued, "David has told us that if he's having a bad day, all he needs to do is go to practice and Coach will make his day better."

Bryan is a coach who truly cares about his athletes, on and off the field. "Bryan treats every player like they're the most important player on the field," said another parent,

Amy Smith. "And he expects them to respect and encourage each other that same way." She continued, "Even when my boys have made mistakes and gotten chewed out, they would get a call from Bryan after the game to make sure that they knew that he still loved them."

Tyler Smith (2010) said, "Bryan is a very respectable person and coach, who makes baseball enjoyable for everyone. Even the people who weren't sure that they wanted to be on the team would love the game after a year of playing for him."

In January, Bryan received the honor of Division IV Regional Coach of the Year from the from the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA). It was the second consecutive year

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ALL ABOUT BRYAN

- Graduated from St. Patrick in 1996
- As a Shamrock player he earned 1st team CMAC, LSJ All-Area Dream Team, 1st team All State
- Was a member of the GRCC baseball team that won the Junior College National championship in 1997
- Played baseball at CMU. Member of Academic All-American Team University division in 2001 GPA 3.91
- Has coached the varsity baseball team at St. Pat's since 2005
- Married to Karen. Children: Rylee 4 1/2, Jerryd 2.

Mail Call

Dear Class of 1970,

Thank you for the invitation to your reunion, I am sorry that I was not able to attend. Many thanks to all of you for the DVD of photos that you sent to me. It certainly brought back memories of many happy occasions at St. Pat's. Super job!

Sister Phillipa (Mary Louise Germaine) and Sr. Adele (Donovan) joined me in viewing it—not once but twice over again. Again, many thanks!

*Love and prayers,
Sister M. dePorres*

Dear Fellow Alums of St. Pats,

Enclosed is a check for the Father Flohe Foundation. Please add it to the memorials for Ruth Keusch and Judy Fedewa.

I am grateful to you volunteers for your work in keeping St. Pat's

thriving and for keeping Father Flohe's memory alive.

Next year, around the time I anticipate the 50th anniversary of my '61 graduating class reunion to be, I also have the opportunity to travel to Rome with our church choir. Does anyone have a fixed date for the '61 reunion? I hope to be able to attend, but also need to make a deposit for the trip to Rome. The choir members are dangling an audience with the Pope as an enticement—I am hoping I can have both!

*Gratefully,
Sharon (Manning) Wright*

(Editor's note: We contacted Sharon with the date for the 50-year reunion, and it sounds like she will be able to do both!)

My Journey to the Seminary

by Ryan Riley

Growing up, I often thought about becoming a priest. However, because I was unsure of what others might think, I mostly kept this idea to myself. When I graduated from high school, I considered entering college seminary, but instead enrolled at Alma College, where I earned my BA in accounting in 2005.

During my years at Alma, I joined a fraternity and became

wrapped up in partying. I made little to no time for my faith or spirituality, and it really declined in those years. I still managed good grades, but when I wasn't in the classroom, chances are I was at the fraternity house or the bar.

When I graduated from college, I took a job with the Auditor General's office for the State of Michigan, a job I thoroughly enjoyed. I purchased a condo, and things really started quieting down. I would often come home from work to a silent house. When life quieted down, God began drawing me in, and speaking to me in the silence. I started going back to Mass, started

praying more, especially the rosary, and I started to frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It amazes me how God waits for us, how He waits for the right moment to speak to us. Looking back, I think I purposely made my life loud and busy because I was scared of what the Lord might be asking of me. And, I think this is true for a lot of people. I really learned the importance of silence and how much we need it. We need it to make time for God, to engage God, and to form a relationship with God. In other words, we need silence for meaningful prayer.

Through discernment and talking with priests like Fr. Larry King, I decided that I should quit my job, sell my condo, and enter the seminary. I thought that if I didn't at least give it a try, I would regret it the rest of my life. I applied with the Diocese of Lansing because the majority of my family lives that way. Bishop Boyea and the Formation Board accepted my application and have sent me to study philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, which is where I currently live. After two years of studying philosophy, God willing, I will enter the first of four years studying theology and will be ordained a priest in 2016.



Ryan graduated from Portland St. Patrick High School in 2001. He is the son of Charley and Dixie Riley of Saranac.

In The Spotlight

Kurt Decke

Kurt Decke (1967) knew from the time he was eighteen that he wanted to be a teacher. He received an Elementary Education degree from WMU followed by a master's degree in Educational Leadership. He taught at Albion Junior High for a few years, but, left teaching to make "real money" in the construction field. However, all the while that his hands were building material objects, his heart was yearning to build young minds. Kurt listened to his heart.



In 1989 Kurt started his second teaching career at Arizona's Apache Junction Unified School District, teaching junior high science. He immediately became aware and was concerned by the fact that students who got into trouble were thrown out of school. This approach seemed to be harsh and shortsighted. "So many kids mess up at this time of their lives. Junior high experiences become an excuse for dropping out of the human race. I wanted to give them a chance to become productive adults," he said.

For three years he lobbied for a school program for those troubled kids but the best he could get was an after-school program which he ran, with rampant determination. "Until 2:00 I was a mild-mannered science teacher," he said. "At 2:00 I became Mr. Mean & Nasty while I

ran the after-school program for four hours each day."

But, what became

immediately apparent were two things: 1) Working parents had no way to transport their children to school at 2:00 in the afternoon; 2) Parents were very concerned about what their children were doing in the hours before they came to school. Grim determination caused Kurt to continue his quest for a better program.

His hard work paid off in 2002, when the Mountain Shadows Education Center opened its doors. At that time Kurt was the teacher and his assistant, Tom Hill performed registrar, secretary, nurse and counselor duties. Today, they have 20 people who work with them and they oversee six programs. A year ago, an on-line program was started for high school students for credit recovery and "fifth-year" seniors. Last year the school graduated 20 students. Twenty students who were in danger of becoming hopelessly lost were given another chance to lead productive lives.

One of the programs that Kurt is most proud of is the Young Parents Program that includes a state-licensed day care facility for the babies of the high school girls. Other districts also have day care

programs, but this one is unique. Instead of dropping their babies off at the day care center and reverting to teenage behavior during the school day, these young mothers are required to work three hours a day in the day care center. They are also required to take classes which include pre and post natal PE, child development and life skills. In addition, if their child has an issue while in day care, the mother is called out of class to deal with it. Kurt is proud of a picture that hangs in his office showing himself and Governor Janet Napolitano, who visited the school to see for herself what his program was achieving.

Other programs that Kurt has helped implement are:

- The Mountain Heights program for K-8 emotionally disabled special education kids.
- The Mountain Health and Wellness program which provides group and individual counseling and behavior modification services along with family counseling.
- The Focused Behavior Intervention program which provides early intervention for at-risk kids.

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What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Patrick (2000) and Rebbecca Finkbeiner, a son, Noah Scott on April 5, 2010.

To Derek Finkbeiner (2001) and Jessica Buffenbarger, a daughter, Ava Jane on August 21, 2010.

To Corey (1994) and Shantelle Schrauben of Commerce City, Colorado, a son, Crosby Charles on November 11, 2010. He joins half-siblings Izhah and D'Erica.

To Jeff (1997) and Dawn Fedewa of Sunfield, a son, Simon Jeffrey on January 21, 2011. He joins siblings Alex, Kenzie and Sean.

To Chad (2000) and Tana Fedewa, a daughter, Evelyn Larissa on January 29, 2011.

To Emily (Landsdell, 2001) and Ryan Defour of Cedar Springs, a daughter, Jaylyn Sophia on June 21, 2010. She joins brothers Logan, 4 and Beckett, 2.

To Jim (1994) and Debbie Landsdell, triplet daughters Amelia Therese, Jordyn Rose and Olivia Sue on October 28, 2010.

To Brent (2002) and Ashley (Klein, 2002) Goodwin of Grand Rapids, a daughter, Emersyn Marie on February 14, 2011.

To Brad and Kellie (Lay, 2004) Leonard, a daughter, Macie Marie on January 14, 2011. She joins brothers Payton, 6 and Brady 3.

To Joe (1992) and Christine Krieger of Howell, a son, Owen Thomas on January 21, 2011. He joins sister, Avery 2 ½.

To Troy (2002) and Courtney Smith, a son, Benjamin Morris on November 18, 2010.

To Richard and Heather (Cook, 1996) Bryant of Timmonsville, South Carolina, a son, Richard Hartwell, IV on September 22, 2010.

To Jeff (1996) and Christie (Smith, 1996) Bower, a son, Tyler James on October 18, 2010.

To Jeff (1992) and Ellie Thelen of Pewamo, a son, Loren Edward on August 6, 2010. He joins siblings Landon, 6, Nathan 3 and Claire, 2.

To Kurt (1998) and Mara Pline, a daughter, Grace Kelly on October 16, 2010. She joins brothers Grant, 4 and Caleb, 2.

ENGAGEMENTS

Julie Schafer (2005) and Zach Wight (2005) will be married on April 30, 2011.

Kayla Hengesbach (2005) and Ryan Snellenberger will be married on October 8, 2011.

Kurt Goodman (2000) and Gretchen Gariepy will be married on June 11, 2011 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. Father John Vallier will perform the wedding.

Steve Russman (1996) and Stacey Ballard will be married at St. Patrick Church on July 16, 2011.

Christin Russman (1998) and Robert McKamey will be married on October 27, 2011 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii.

WEDDINGS

Andy Brown (2002) and Emily Zoller were married on March 5, 2011. The couple resides in Clarkston.

ANNIVERSARIES

Al and Roxie (Schrauben) Pline celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on November 8, 2010.

Bob and Mary Ellen (Stump) Morgridge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 31, 2010. Family members and friends gathered at the Weathervane Restaurant in Charlevoix to celebrate this special occasion.

Leo and Judy Waterman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family weekend getaway as well as a Mass on September 26 at SS Peter and Paul in Ionia. The couple were married on September 24, 1960 at St. Patrick Church.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Rhonda (Simon, 1988) and Mark Rooks and family have moved back to Portland. Rhonda and Mark both work for American Airlines and finally had the opportunity to be based in Chicago--close enough to live in Portland and commute to work. The couple has two children, Nicholas, 6 and Lilly, 3.

2010 was a busy and exciting year for Melinda Simon, 1997 grad of St. Patrick School. In July she completed her residency and internship and graduated in dermatology from Rush Medical Center in Chicago. She also passed her National Boards in July, and became Board Certified in Dermatology. She is currently employed in Chicago at Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group.

On September 17, 2010 Melinda and Dan Graham were married at St. Patrick Church, followed by a reception at the Portland Country Club. The couple reside in Chicago. *Melinda, your family wants you to know how proud they are of you!*

IN MEMORY OF

Jeanette Mary Atwell, 81, passed away on October 12, 2010 at Clare Bridge of Delta Township. Jeanette worked at Oldsmobile for 37 years before retiring in 1989. She is survived by one daughter, Charlene (Don) Lumsden of Charlotte; two grandchildren, Jackie (Gordon) Griffin and Nicholas (Katie) Lumsden; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Bud (Diane) Fox; and one sister, Helen Osborn.

Catherine Chartrand, 85, passed away on October 22, 2010 after a life filled with love and family. Mrs. Chartrand was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. Catherine loved playing cards with her family and especially liked spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enriched the lives of all the people she knew. On June 12, 1946 she married Raymond Chartrand and they shared 64 years together. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cyril and Antoinette (Bohr) Smith; brothers, Jim, Joe, Bernard, and David Smith; granddaughter,

LeeAnn Platte; great granddaughter, Alyssa Cassel; great grandson, Ryker Larson. She will be dearly missed by her husband, Raymond; children, Gary (Marlene) Chartrand, Sandy (Hilary) Platte, Tim Chartrand, Kathy (Dan) Shattuck, Becky (Nick) Henry, Mary (Dave) Dothsuk, Shelly Chartrand, Lisa (Terry) Morris; daughter-in-law, Marty Chartrand; 20 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; sisters, Mary Lou Fox, Marge Smith and Marilyn Eliser; special friend John West.

Gene Wilcox, 71, passed away on November 9, 2010. Gene was born on October 7, 1939 the son of Ivan and Bernita (Trierweiler) Wilcox. He was a member of St. Patrick Church and a graduate of the class of 1958. He also was member of the K of C Council #2168. Gene was veteran of the U. S. Army and worked as an electrician first with the Local #665 and then at G. M. for 20 years retiring in 2003. He was an avid golfer, bowler, Spartan and Tiger fan. Gene was preceded in death by his mother, Bernita; in-laws, Arthur and Mildred Kloeckner. Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Patty; children Dean Wilcox of Greenville, Darcy (Michael) Dowd of Brighton, Darren Wilcox of Grand Haven and Doug Wilcox of Portland; granddaughters Erin and Lauren Dowd; father, Ivan Wilcox; siblings Duane (Jackie) Wilcox, Jim (Carol) Wilcox, Jack (Janet) Wilcox and Steve (Barb) Wilcox; brother-in-law, Dale (Joyce) Kloeckner; many nieces and nephews and good friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation in memory of Gene

Janet Sanderson Portland age 70, passed away November 12, 2010. Janet was born April 22, 1940 the daughter of Florentine & Aurelia (Miller) Thelen. Janet retired form General Motors after 37 years of service. Janet enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, traveling and wood-working. She was an energetic outgoing person who would do anything for anyone. Janet was proceeded in death by her son Randy Scott Sanderson, her father Florentine, her mother Aurelia and her brother James Thelen. Surviving are her children John (Mandy) Sanderson and Cheri (Ken) Huhn; four grandchildren; brothers Gene (Elaine), Joseph (Jeanette), Stan (Carole), Larry (Jan), Wayne (Rita), Bill (Sherry) and Patrick Thelen and many nieces and nephews and good friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the City of Portland Parks and Recreation

Dept. or to the charity of one's choice in memory of Janet.

Jim Goodman, Sr. age 70, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. Jim was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and owned and operated Jim's Auto Body for 38 years. He enjoyed doing yard work and riding around in his golf cart. Jim loved spending time with his grandchildren and especially attending their sporting events. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Lucy (Miller) Goodman, Sr.; son Kevin; brother Michael Goodman; brothers-in-law Gordon Seal and David Bills. Surviving are his wife of 48 years Mary Ann; sons Michael (Luanne) Goodman, Jim (Joanne) Goodman and Scot (Debby) Goodman; five grandchildren; siblings Al (Carol), Pete (Ruth), Pat (Luane), Neil (Kerri), Denny (Theresa), Liz Seal, Louise (James) Gensterblum, Alice Bills, Denise (Gary) Cleaves and Nancy Yager; many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletic Association or to St. Patrick School Wish List in memory of Jim.

Marvin Gensterblum age 86, passed away on November 23, 2010. He was born on April 10, 1924 the son of Peter and Helen (Fernholz) Gensterblum. Marvin was a member of St. Patrick Church, and a graduate of the school. He was a member of the K of C Council #2168 and a 4th Degree member of the Fr. Godez Assembly. Marvin was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during WW II and a member of the American Legion. He is retired from G.M. after 31 years of service. He enjoyed gardening and loved St. Patrick athletics and attending sporting events of his grandchildren. Marvin is preceded in death by his brothers Richard, Leon, Alvin, Paul and Larry; sisters Lucille Redmond, Bernita and Virginia Shimp; several sisters and brothers-in-law. Surviving are his wife of 61 years Lois; children Annette (Richard) Weiser, Diane (John) Menold, Sharon (Don) Schneider, Judy (Richard) Benner, Dan (Carla) Gensterblum, Jane (Tim) Willoughby and Joyce (John) Werner; 22 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; siblings Elizabeth Huhn, Geraldine Hodge, Sr. Bernita Marie SSJ, Mary Louise (William) Hanes, Eleanor (Bud) Peake, Robert (Mary) Gensterblum, Dolores (Al) Houser, Barb (Leon) Densmore, and Jim (Louise) Gensterblum. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association or Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Marvin.

Norma Hill age 74, passed away on December 22, 2010. She was born on August 5, 1936 in Lansing the daughter of George and Norma (Atwell) Sandborn. Norma enjoyed Portland Red Raiders athletics, shopping, making various crafts and decorating cakes. She worked at MDOT for many years. Norma was preceded in death by her parents; husband Carroll Hill; 3 brothers George, Loren and Charles Sandborn; 2 sisters Janean West and Jackie Whitfield. Surviving are her children Sue (Gordy) Petrie, Carolyn (Bob) French, Robert (Tami) Munchbach and Steve (Kathy) Munchbach; 11 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; siblings Mary Sandborn, Beverly Fedewa, Steven (Geri) Sandborn and James (Brenda) Sandborn. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimers Association MI Great Lakes Chapter Lansing Area or to In-House Hospice, 30400 Telegraph Rd. Suite 334; Bingham Farms, MI 48025 in memory of Norma.

Bob Trimmer age 64, loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. He was born on April 1, 1946 in Lansing the son of Theodore and Clarabelle (Miller) Trimmer. Bob graduated from Lansing Eastern High School. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church for 37 years and was a retiree of Fisher Body and Portland St. Patrick School. He bled green and white for Michigan State University and St. Patrick School and loved to watch cars turn left. He was preceded in death by his mom and dad, Frank B. and Katherine Potts; sister, Linda Ford. Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Janice; children, Stephen (Mitos) Trimmer of Jackson, Deana (Mike) Broughman of Jackson, Robert (Jamie) Trimmer of Westphalia, Andrew Trimmer of Roy, Utah, and Jamie (Keith) Ryder of Portland; 17 grandchildren; one great grandson; faithful companion, Boo Boo; brothers, Frank E. Potts of Lansing and Thomas Trimmer of Alma; several brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Right to Life or to St. Patrick's Catholic School in memory of Robert S. Trimmer.

Kathryn E. Quinlan-Schneider, age 33, died on December 9, 2010. She is survived by her parents, Thomas and Suzanne Quinlan; husband, Timothy Schneider; children Quinn and Cora; brothers, Ryan and Patrick Quinlan;

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St. Patrick School Wins National Award

The March 2011 issue of *Today's Catholic Teacher* arrived in the mail on February 28, bringing along the exciting news that St. Patrick School has won a national award and is featured in the magazine along with eleven other Catholic schools that are leading the way with innovative programs.

The program which garnered national attention is our *Try Us, You'll Like Us* program that is in its second year. The program allows new families to send their children to St. Patrick School for one quarter without tuition.

The idea for this program came from School Commission member Mark Davis, who suggested that we give parents the opportunity to try our school without taking a financial risk. His thought was, that if families are able to see firsthand that we are doing a great job of providing a quality, Catholic education, they will want to stay.

With that one idea the new program was born. We implemented it in the second semester of the 2008

– 2009 school year. Since that time our enrollment has grown by seven percent.

Several other Catholic Schools have contacted me with questions about *Try Us, You'll Like Us*. Last fall, Bay Area Catholic Schools implemented the program with some special touches of their own, resulting in a modest increase in enrollment this year after two years of declining enrollment. Other schools, including one in the Diocese of Lansing are looking at using the program in the near future as well.

I am very excited that St. Pat's has received such prestigious recognition. The award will be presented at a special celebration banquet in New Orleans on April 27 which will coincide with the National Catholic Education Association's annual convention. We are thankful for and appreciative of this great honor and hope it will inspire Catholic educators everywhere to open their classrooms, schools, and imaginations to new ideas.

A MAP for Education

Elementary students are now being evaluated academically with a computer tool called a MAP (Measure of Academic Progress). The test measures a student's progress three times a year and alerts teachers and parents to areas that might need extra work, as well as areas of academic strength.

Tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. Because the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions as the test progresses, each student takes a unique test. MAP testing will allow us to develop a plan for each student and then provide the tools for making sure that the student stays on course.

We've been quite impressed with what we've learned already, in the initial round of testing, and look forward to where this MAP will lead us in the future.



Fall Festival Celebrates 50 Years

by Christine Wilcox, Fall Festival Chair

The annual Fall Festival is the largest fundraiser sponsored by the Athletic Association. The money raised helps support the Shamrock athletic program, and allows the students to play sports without paying additional fees. We are fortunate that the St. Patrick community supports our athletes in such a positive way.

2010 marked the 50th year of the Fall Festival. Over the years the event has been finessed into a fun-filled day for the entire community. The meal is prepared and served by the athletes and their parents. If you attended the dinner you saw students and adults working side-by-side proudly wearing their St. Patrick spirit wear.

Other events of the day were the 5K race that saw record participants. The Euchre tournament, in its second year, also saw record numbers. The craft booths were full of hand made items perfect for early Christmas shoppers. Kids Fest took place on the second floor of the school and offered games and raffle prizes for the younger children.

Because the 50th anniversary fell on a special date: 10-10-10, we had some special activities, including a special raffle that paid out \$1010.10. In addition, every person who ate dinner in the cafeteria drew a free ticket out of a Pot-'O Gold for the chance to win a door prize. Over 50 door prizes were given away.

Mark your calendars for next year's Fall Festival on October 9, 2011.

The dinner, special raffle, 5K race, euchre tournament, crafts and kids fest will be back again. We are also planning some new events for teens! Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the day. See you next year!



Ivan Wilcox, who helped cook at the very first Fall Festival drew the winning ticket in the raffle. Ivan is shown with granddaughter, Debbie Miros and Fall Festival Chair, Christine Wilcox.

Al Schrauben Wins #500

Girls basketball coach, Al Schrauben became a member of a very small club on December 16, 2010 when the Shamrock team beat Carson City-Crystal. Al became one of just seven girls coaches in the state to win 500 games.

Family, friends, fans and former players honored Al a few days later with a surprise reception at the Wagon Wheel. Following is the thank you that Al sent to the Athletic Association:

"I want to say thanks for all you do for the Shamrock programs and for me. A special thanks for the reception after the game. (I might have been the only person who didn't know it was going to happen. Mom always said I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed.) I don't know if I could ever give as much as I have received from the people of St. Pat's, but I have a great time and you people have been a big part of it. Thanks again. Al"

Update on Softball Field

Much of the work on the new softball field located in the southwest corner of Father Flohe Field was completed before winter weather arrived. Several trees were removed from the grove area, the field was graded, a sprinkler system was installed, grass planted, dugouts installed (for both the baseball and softball fields) and backstops erected (baseball and softball).

Donations of materials and labor, as well as monetary donations including several memorial funds have covered all of the costs incurred so far.

Work that remains to be done includes roofs on the dugouts, fencing for the softball field and additional fencing for the out-of-play areas of both fields. Future plans include a concession area and other upgrades to the area.

Everyone involved in the project, as well as players and coaches are hopeful that the field will be ready to use for the 2011 season.

Come Join Us!

The Athletic Association is an energetic group who accomplish a lot---while still having fun. If you would like to see what they do, please drop in at a monthly meeting. Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Room 216. Athletic Association members who attend eight meetings a year (between September and June) receive a complimentary Family Season Pass.

P · A · R · I · S · H NEWS

Welcome!

A warm welcome is extended to two new members of the parish staff.

David McHugh, the new Coordinator of Youth Ministry, arrived in August 2010. David and his wife Noelle (Garcia) are parents of son, Damien, 7 months old and are expecting a new baby in September.



Lori Thelen took over the duties of Faith Formation Secretary in September 2010. She and her husband Tom have three children, Matt, 15, Hannah, 12 and Grace, 6.

Mexican Fiesta

The 2011 Winter Gala on January 29 provided guests with a lively evening of partying---south-of-the-border style. From the frozen margaritas to the delicious authentic Mexican dinner to the live salsa band, it was a fun-filled Mexican Fiesta. St. Patrick grad, Cecelia (Moses, 1995) Powell and her husband, Lamar demonstrated genuine salsa dancing and gave lessons to thirty guests.

Photos of the evening can be viewed in the Photo Gallery on the parish website, www.stpatrickportland.com.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word began last year at St. Patrick Church and has been a huge success. The program takes place during the 9:30 Mass each Sunday, and is overseen by eight teams of adults who rotate the responsibilities. Each team consists of 2-4 people.

Each week, following the opening prayers and Gloria, team leaders take children from Kindergarten to 4th grade to the Music Room on the lower level of the church. There, the children hear the same Sunday readings that the rest of the congregation hear, but at a level that they more easily understand. A simple craft or coloring project helps them remember the lessons from the readings. At the completion of the homily, the children return to the pews.

Bill and Nikki Badgero lead one of the teams. Bill said, "Children's Liturgy is a very rewarding way to help the children understand the Word. And we're always open to more people joining the current teams or forming new ones."

If you are interested in becoming part of this exciting new ministry, contact Deacon Don at the Parish Office.

Festival of Tables

The 4th annual Festival of Tables was held on Saturday, February 5. A record crowd of 260 women of all ages enjoyed seeing thirty creative tables beautifully decorated with wonderful themes. Guests enjoyed a wonderful meal, music by Andrea Gleason and a motivational talk by long-time WLNS news anchor, Sheri Jones. The event raised \$2700 for the Portland Ministerial Association.



The young ladies who attended the Festival of Tables enjoyed talking to Channel 6 news anchor, Sheri Jones (4th from left).



KING'S COLUMN

Our Faith, Our Future

by Father Larry King

As most folks who live in the Diocese of Grand Rapids know, the Diocese is currently conducting a study which will help plan the future of our diocese. Although there are several reasons for this, the primary reason is the simple fact that we do not have enough priests in our diocese to pastor all the parishes we have now. In addition, in less than ten years the majority of the priests in our diocese will be 70 years old or more. The question then becomes, who's going to run the parishes, and who's going to be available for the sacraments?

Most priests do not totally retire – they only retire from the administration of parishes. If their health allows, most priests still help out in parishes for Masses on the weekends and at other times.

So, our Diocese is planning for the future, something that several other dioceses around us have already done. As I write this column, the Ionia Deanery, which includes St. Patrick Parish, and the Muskegon Deanery are entering into this study. It will be completed by fall and a lot of work, collaboration, listening, making recommendations, not to mention a lot of prayer will go into this planning effort.

Over the next several months, there will be several meetings between the Diocesan planners and parish representatives. I asked the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Ministries Council in our parish to recommend people to be our parish representatives. A fairly significant list of names was given to me, and from that list I chose five men and five women, all of whom are active leaders in our parish community. All ten, who represent a good cross-section of parishioners, accepted this challenge. This group is called the Lay Leadership Committee. Each parish will have such a committee.

In addition, a Coordinating Committee which will consist of one person from each parish, one represen-

tative from each parish in the Deanery, one priest representative, the Dean (who happens to be me), and a representative of the Hispanic community, along with the Diocesan Planners will help interpret the input and implement the resulting plan.

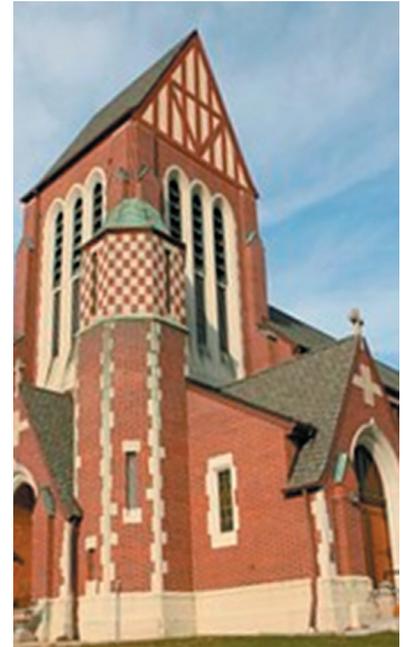
The first meeting of the Coordinating Committee was held in Februruy here at St. Patrick's. The input gathered there will be analyzed, the two committees will bounce the ideas back and forth, refining and adding to them, and the final recommendations will be made to the Bishop.

The Bishop, with the help of the Presbyteral council will make decisions based on the recommendations and input. Hopefully, all of this will be finished by fall.

The plan is to keep parishes as aware as possible about what is happening during the planning process., so that when the decisions are made and the recommendations are implemented, there won't

be any surprises. The priests of the Ionia deanery have met with the Diocesan Planners and we all agree that communications with parishioners is vitally important. We are committed to doing the best we can to make sure that communication happens.

Please keep St. Patrick Parish, the Ionia Deanery, and the Diocese of Grand Rapids in your prayers as we go through this planning process, so as to better serve the Catholics in our Diocese.



Bryan Scheurer (continued)

that he received this title, and in 2009 he also was voted overall Coach of the Year.

Mark Scheurer coached his younger brother in high school. He said, "I've played baseball at a lot of levels and I can truthfully say that Bryan is as good a technician as there is in the game today and a great role model for his players.. He truly deserves this honor."



From the President's Desk *by Kevin Schrauben*

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thank you to those who contributed to the Foundation over the past year, to those who remembered the Foundation as part of their memorial services, and to those who remembered the Foundation in their estate planning. Because of your generosity, the Foundation was able to provide approximately \$245 toward the tuition of every student attending St. Patrick's School for the 2010/2011 school year. Looking forward to 2011 and beyond, we ask that you please continue to consider the Father Flohe Foundation in your planned giving. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to ensure the continuation of Catholic education at St. Patrick's.

Father Flohe Foundation

Mission Statement

Father Flohe Foundation's Mission Statement: to ensure the stability of St. Patrick's as a DK-12 school for future generations.

The Foundation will provide funds to assist in meeting the operating costs of the School, assist in the furnishing and/or improvements of the School and assist in the support of any present/new programs at the School.

At a Glance

- ✦ **Contributed** approximately **\$783,000 to the School** since 1989.
- ✦ Received **gifts from donors** of approximately **\$1,567,000** since 1988.
- ✦ Awards the **Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award**, which is awarded annually to an alumnus of St. Patrick School who in their life has exemplified the high goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick's can achieve.
- ✦ Awards the **Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship**, which is presented each year to a student who demonstrates good study habits, steady improvement and hard work to achieve.
- ✦ Provides funding for the **Shamrock Newsletter**.
- ✦ Coordinates and provides a celebration for each of the graduating high school classes in honor of their **50th Reunion**.

Planned Giving - Tax Advantages

Do your part in ensuring Catholic education for future generations at St. Patrick's!! Please consider us in your annual contribution planning and in your estate planning.

Planned giving not only benefits the School, it also provides substantial tax benefits to the giver. There are many ways to contribute to St. Patrick School through the Father Flohe Foundation including:

- ✦ **Gifts of cash**
- ✦ **Securities and Real Estate**
- ✦ **Life Insurance**
- ✦ **Other Appreciated Assets**

The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization (contributions to Foundation are tax deductible). For more information on any of these options or additional gift plans, contact your tax advisor, CPA, insurance agent or legal consultant.

October 2010

50-Year Reunion

Get ready St. Patrick graduating Class of 1961! The members of the Father Flohe Foundation are in the midst of planning a celebration in honor of your 50-year reunion. The celebration will be held on Saturday September 10.

Ask any graduates that attended previous celebrations and they can tell you what a great time it is. Hope to see all of the 1961 classmates there. Members of the Foundation will continue to be in touch to update you and your classmates as to the specific plans.

Contributions

Contributions can be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Father Flohe Foundation. Or, please mail contributions to Father Flohe Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875. If you have any questions regarding the foundation please contact Kevin Schrauben at 517-647-1892.

'61 Grad is Champion of the Needy

In Powell, Wyoming, you'll find more than tasty food at Anna's Café. You'll find John D. Pung from Portland St. Pat's, Class of 1961 - owner/cook/philanthropist. John is a man of few words when it comes to his past, but finds plenty to say when he sees mismanagement in local government or when his fellow man can use a helping hand. In his café in downtown Powell, John is known for comfort food and his passion for responsibility within the community.

Previously a 20-year resident of Oregon, John observed the ravages of meth production and use. He began fighting illegal drugs 25 years ago, using his personal finances and resources. John says, "We learned many things from the years at St. Pat's and life doesn't always turn out the way we planned. We make many mistakes in life and can only hope we learn from them. We regret the mistakes that hurt others and then we should try to make up for them." He believes in being a man of action when it comes to the community in which he lives. "The Bible tells us to stand up in your community and make it a better place to live. There will always be others who can find fault and go to extremes to hurt you, but words will not break bones." John says it takes "people working together to make a community".

John's strength is in his personal faith in God. He sums up his philosophy in one phrase: "You do what you can - give from the heart." This is why he has numerous benefits at his café for local charities and non-profit organizations, holding spaghetti dinners and donating the proceeds. He is open every Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter with a free dinner for the poor and those alone for the holiday. Veterans of the military can drink coffee free at Anna's Cafe, and on Veteran's Day, everyone wearing a military hat is served a free breakfast. John seeks no recognition for what he does, but instead rests in his faith that God has protected him and been a Rock for him. John wonders "Without St. Pat's, would I have known what God was about?"



He loves to talk politics with his loyal customers. Wearing either a grimace or a grin, he keeps them up-to-date on local politics and encourages their involvement. A whiteboard sign in the café window often states his opinion on a local topic. John is a man who embodies honor, morals, respect and generosity. St. Pat's can be proud of this 1961 alumnus.

Anna's Cafe is located 117 S Bent St, Powell, WY 82435 . If you're in the area, stop in!

Spotlight (Continued from page 3)

Elementary schools can refer students to this program for short periods of time. "I have always maintained that if I could get to some of these at-risk kids early, I might not see them when they get to junior high," Kurt said.

- Preparing All Students for Success, their newest program, provides special education for junior high school students who are not labeled as emotionally disabled, but have severe social difficulties in their relationships with other students and staff.

There are approximately 100 kids attending these programs on a daily basis.

Last spring budget concerns in the school district resulted in the closing of several elementary and middle schools, and the laying off of many faculty, including two principals and two assistant principals. The school district could no longer justify Kurt's position as principal when so many other administrators had been laid off. He was demoted from principal to Director. His title changed, but not his responsibilities.

While the "real money" is still made outside of teaching, Kurt feels that there is no greater reward than making a difference in others' lives. Every day he goes to the front line to fight for these kids, to give them the opportunity for a quality life and hope for a future. He is changing the world, one student at a time.

While Kurt claims to have many helping hands, his Shamrock-style determination has definitely made him the bull behind the horns in procuring the programs and facilities needed to support these special and challenged children.

Kurt is married with four children and one stepchild. In his leisure time, he enjoys reading and hiking the Superstition Mountains which are within walking distance of his home.

For more information about the programs that Kurt oversees, visit the school website: <http://www.ajusd.org/msec.cfm>

Reunion News

Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1955* celebrated their 55-year reunion on Saturday, October 16, 2010 with dinner at Jerry's Restaurant in Portland. Dinner was followed by a bonfire on the Grand River at the home of Jim and Carol Wilcox. Fourteen classmates along with eight spouses attended the reunion. Everyone had a chance to catch up on the news with their classmates and a great time was had by all.



The *Class of 1975* celebrated their 35-year reunion on Saturday, September 11, 2010 with 4:30 Mass followed by a wonderful meal served by Mrs. Sue Kreiner at the Portland Country Club.

The classmates were very honored to have their Class Advison, biology and science teacher but mostly remember as their "Favorite Teacher," Mr. Bruce Buysse attend the reunion. Mr. Buysse surprised most of the classmates by presenting them with a manila envelope labeled with their name, and containing a project or report that had been written as Sophomores—almost 38 years ago and finally graded and returned! Notes on the projects included "Great Job," "Excellent Work," etc.

Many classmates didn't remember doing the projects and were amazed by what they had done. What made them even more interesting was that they were all handwritten or drawn. Thank you Mr. Buysse for the wonderful memories, stories and your dedication. We will never forget you and you will always hold that special place in our hearts.



The *Class of 1970* celebrated their 40-year reunion on Saturday, September 18, 2010 with a tour of the school, Mass, and a buffet-style dinner at the home of Dale and Carol Kramer. Classmates were surprised by the appearance of former coach and teacher, Jerry McDevitt and his wife, Geri at the reunion. Mr. And Mrs. McDevitt shared many memories of their time at St. Pat's, including the information that they were newlyweds and just 21-years old when they arrived in Portland.

Twenty seven members of the class, along with many spouses enjoyed smoked pork loin, expertly prepared by Ken Schneider along with a meal prepared by some of the other classmates. Everyone enjoyed watching a DVD which took them back to their school days and past reunions.



(Continued on page 14)

Upcoming Events....

DK/Kindergarten Screening.....April 14, 2011
 Shamrock Auction.....April 16, 2011
 First Communion May 1, 2011
 Graduation..... May 22, 2011
 German Trip..... June 21-30, 2011
 Parish Festival June 24-26, 2011
 Class of 1961 50-Year Reunion....Sept 10, 2011
 Fall Festival October 9, 2011

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

Thank You to Contributors

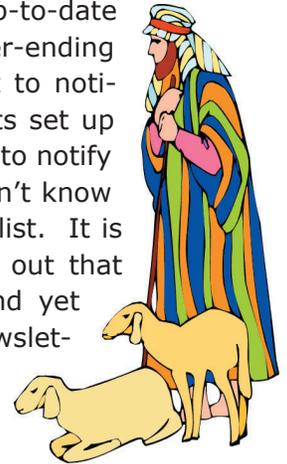
Thank you to Tony Bennett, Lou LaScala and Mark Scheurer who sent in information and ideas for some of the articles that appeared in this issue.

After writing this newsletter for 20+ years, we sometimes run short of new ideas, and are very appreciative of readers who contribute theirs. If you know of a grad or St. Pat's supporter who should be featured, especially those who live away from the area, outside of our scope, please contact any of us.

The Editorial Staff of the Shamrock

LOST SHEEP

Keeping our address list up-to-date sometimes seems like a never-ending chore! People move and forget to notify the Parish Office, young adults set up their own households and forget to notify us....and sometimes, we just don't know why your name ends up on the list. It is frustrating for us when we find out that you haven't gone anywhere, and yet the post office sent back your newsletter as undeliverable. If you have current address info on any of the grads listed below, please contact us, using the form on page



16. *(The names of alumni who have been on the list for ten years or more have been removed. If you would like to see the entire list of Lost Sheep, please visit the Alumni Page at www.portlandstpats.com.)*

1963 John Bengel	1983 Monica Price Hane
1964 Colleen Fedewa Wirth	1983 Kirk Noren
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1990 Charlene Kahle
1968 Carolyn Rowe Embree	1996 Paul Theuerkauf



You're invited to the 2011 Disney-Themed

SHAMROCK AUCTION

Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

K.C. Hall, Portland

Hey there! Hi there! Ho there!
 You're as welcome as can be!

Auctions! Raffles! Food! Drinks! Fun!

Complete information at www.spsauction.webs.com/



REUNION ALERTS (continued from page 12)

The *Class of 1956* has no current plans for their reunion. The classmates meet monthly for coffee.

The *Class of 1961*—see page 10 for information.

Fritz Russman says that the *Class of 1966* hasn't yet set a date for their reunion. Call him (517) 647-4904 if you'd like to help.

The *Class of 1971* is working on a reunion but nothing definite has been planned. Call Jean (Kissane) Snitgen (517) 647-7951 for information.

Sue (Kramer) Bosworth stepped forward to help plan the *Class of 1976* reunion. Contact her (517) 647-1882 with ideas or questions.

The *Class of 1981* will be holding their 30-year reunion, but they had such a good time at their last one that no one remembers who is in charge this year! If anyone remembers, please contact the rest of your classmates.

Mike Lehman is in charge of the reunion for the *Class of 1986*. If you have questions or ideas, please contact him at (517) 647-7444.

Nothing definite has been decided yet for the *Class of 1991*. Nikki (Bogard) Marsh and Heather (Meitler) Wilcox are doing the planning, so contact them if you have questions.

Class of 1996 No definite plans have been made. Jill (Fox) Wolfe (517-420-0343 or jillwolfe92@gmail.com) and Jeni (Bryner) Jaques (517-256-9328 or brynerjeni@yahoo.com) are looking for suggestions. Please call or e-mail soon.

Three classmates from the *Class of 2001* are working on their 10-year reunion: Kristen (Schrauben) Smith (517) 449-4524, Jocelyn (Bos) Rockey (517) 712-5394, and Adam Schrauben (517) 281-4057.

The *Class of 2006* is thinking about July but plans are pending. Any questions contact Jennifer Sandborn 517-526-2020. As plans are made, they will be will be put on Facebook.

Reminder to classes, especially the reunion committees: Be sure to send in a report along with a photo after your reunion, so that they can be published in the next issue of The Shamrock. Deadline for the fall issue is September 1, 2011. It will be mailed in early October.

In Memory Of (continued from page 5)

grandmother, Elizabeth Lenhardt; parents-in-law, Don and Sharon Schneider.

Monsignor Herman Zerfas, age 89 passed away in December 2010. The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on December 10 at St. Ann's Home Chapel.

Richard Wells Age 73, passed away on Sunday, December 26, 2010. Richard was born on September 18, 1937 the son of Paul and Rhea (Dutcher) Wells. He belonged to St. Patrick Catholic Church. Richard loved his family, dog Molly, and restoring antique cars. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Joyce (Luce) Wells. Surviving are his children, Laura (Doug) Willemin and Kris (Jim) Eggleston; 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 3 brothers, 2 sisters, and his beloved lab Molly. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to Portland St. Patrick general fund.

Betty Smith Age 81, passed away December 30, 2010 after complications due to diabetes. Betty was born on Valentines Day, 1929 the daughter of Dee and Ada (Barber) Knapp. She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the Altar Society. Betty enjoyed gardening, quilting, crocheting, baking and spoiling her nine grandchildren. She also enjoyed many of Dad's hobbies including fishing, but drew the "line" at cleaning them! She was preceded in death by her brother Richard Knapp. Surviving is her husband of 62 years, Richard J. Smith; children, Joan (Patric) Milley of Kalamazoo, Linda (Steve) Huhn of Portland, Kathy (Doug) Whitman of Normal, IL, and Karen Little of Haslett; nine grandchildren; three great grandchildren; sister, Shirley Ward.

Scott Schafer Age 40, passed away on Thursday, January 13, 2011. He was born on September 22, 1970 in Ionia the son of Frederick and Patricia (Cunningham) Schafer. Scott enjoyed fixing what other people couldn't, being a jack of all trades. His son, Corey was the joy of his life and was very important

to him. Scott was a journeyman electrician in the I.B.E.W. Local #275. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Esther Cunningham and Edward and Rita Schafer; uncles, Donald and Kenneth Schafer. Surviving are his son, Corey; parents Frederick Schafer and Patricia Schafer; brother, Tony (Juliane) Schafer; sister, Sally (Joseph) Meeker; one nephew one and niece; grandpa, Leonard (Noddie) Cunningham; many aunts and uncles.

Adela Mary Seibel, Howell, Michigan formerly of Portland Age 94, passed away on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. She was born on March 26, 1916 in Fowler, Michigan the daughter of John and Mary (Pung) Koenigsknecht. Adela was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Mary A. Cantu; grandson, Matthew Cantu; 4 brothers and 4 sisters. Surviving are her daughters Carol A. (Jack) Shepard of Howell and Janice R. (Dario Zaffarano) Seibel of Nevada, IA; 11 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; son-in-law, Fernando Cantu of Houston, TX; sister, Marcella Klein of Lansing.

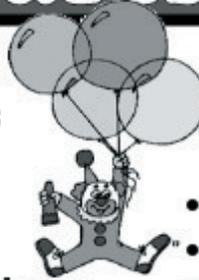
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St. Patrick Parish Festival



- 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 24-26

Always the Weekend After Father's Day!

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

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

The Shamrock

140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
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E-mail: shamrockeditors@gmail.com
Website: www.portlandstpats.com
(Click on Alumni Information)

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



So, please tell us when you move!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Send to: The Shamrock, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.
Fax to (517) 647-7807. E-mail: janbozung@portlandstpats.com

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 janbozung@portlandstpats.com.