



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

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## Fifth Time is the Charm! Shamrock Baseball Team Wins State Championship

The fifth time proved to be the charm for the Shamrock baseball team who brought home a state championship trophy on June 10, 2017.

Last year when the Shamrock baseball team played in the state finals, it was a long-awaited trip that had another heartbreaking end. For the fourth time in school history, the boys came home with a runner-up trophy and heads full of unfulfilled dreams.

Because there were so many seniors on that team, graduation created a huge loss of talent and leadership. So, the Shamrock baseball team that began practicing in March of 2017 was a young team, returning only four players with varsity experience. In addition, sophomore Nathan Lehnert had suffered a shoulder injury that required surgery during the 2016 football season. Nathan had been a pitcher on the state runner-up baseball team and had finished his freshman year with a 9-0 season. His stellar performance in the 2016 semifinals helped vault the Shamrocks into the championship game. This year he couldn't pitch or bat.

For all of these reasons, the 2017 season was heralded as a season to begin building up another team for a future run at the championship. The 2017 season would be one of growth.

The growth began early on, and the team gelled quickly. The experienced players showed the leadership qualities that Coach Scheurer expected; the younger players learned fast and were soon playing like veterans. By the end of the regular season, the Shamrocks were undefeated except for an unfortunate four-day period in May when they lost three games, including

a Diamond Classic loss to Division 1 Okemos.

When the MHSAA tournaments began, all eyes were on the Shamrocks as they began working their way toward what they hoped would be another appearance at the state finals.

The team breezed through the districts and the first game of the regionals, racking up 44 runs and allowing their opponents to score just four times. The regional final game against Bay City All Saints was a nail-biter, with the score tied at 6-6 for eight grueling innings. In the top of the ninth with two outs and a runner on first base, senior Noah Goodman hit a long fly ball to center field that put him on second base and allowed Brandon Scheurer to score. The Shamrocks won the game 7-6.

The quarterfinal game should have been another tough game as #2 ranked St. Pat's faced Muskegon Catholic Central, who was ranked #3. The Shamrocks won that game 6-0, earning a return trip to the semifinals at MSU McLane Stadium.



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# Student Spotlight

## Jeff Davlin

*Sophomore Jeff Davlin is the focus of the Junior Spotlight in this issue. We asked Jeff and his parents to tell us about the faith journey that led their family to St. Patrick School. Jeff's mother, Jen Davlin, wrote the introduction; Jeff wrote the essay that follows.*

### *From Jen Davlin:*

Growing up, Todd, and I didn't go to Catholic schools, so we naturally enrolled our kids in the public school and were happy with the teachers, education, and care our kids were getting.

When Jeff was in 2nd grade and Sarah was in Kindergarten Todd and I stumbled onto the term CE (common era) and learned that it was replacing AD (anno Domini: in the year of our Lord) in some textbooks. We both felt jolted by this example of God being subtly set aside. As we talked and explored our feelings, it became clear to us that we wanted our kids to spend their days in an environment that welcomes God and is Christ centered.

We talked to Jeff and Sarah about the possibility of switching schools and we decided to pray about it through Lent. During the Easter season, when we talked again, we felt sure that we were on the right path. That fall, we enrolled Jeff and Sarah at St. Pat's, and what followed was wonderful blessings as we discovered the family of St. Patrick School. Our kids pray many times a day, pray before sporting events, attend adoration, reconciliation, and Stations of the Cross. They have a special May Crowning ceremony and help with school Masses. Yes, our hope that our children spend their days in a Christ-centered environment was and is totally fulfilled!

### *From Jeff Davlin:*

Praise be Jesus, and thanks be to God for each of you! Thanks be to God also for my school, St. Patrick's in Portland. I've been going there for seven years now, and there are so many wonderful things I can say about it: small classes, friendly and knowledgeable teachers, phenomenal test scores, fun and competitive sports teams, supportive families, and a familial atmosphere, to name a few. But the real reason I go to St. Pat's, and the way it can be a home for so many others, is the Catholic identity of this school.

I began at St. Pat's in my third-grade year, a decision made by my parents after they had participated in a bible study. During that class, it became clear to them how important a Christian education was. I have some pretty great parents, and I think this is one of the best decisions that they've ever made!

Although I reluctantly agreed to leave my old school and friends, I was given it all back a hundredfold by

*(continued on page 17)*



Jeff with his sisters, Sarah and Marian.

## Nicknames and Their Sources

*by Gary Huhn, Class of 1958*

Many of us are given nicknames as we proceed on the highway of life. Lots of them are derivations of our given names and others seem to come from incidents that happen in our lives.

As many of you older Shamrocks recall, during our high school years, I was given the nickname "Bobo" – a moniker that still is heard in Portland and environs on occasion. What I'm not sure about is how general the knowledge is concerning how I acquired that nickname.

In those formative years, our relatively new library for St. Patrick's High School contained an assortment of books, magazines, etc. One book that gained popularity quite fast was entitled *Tournament Forward*, and its focus was on a Flint, Michigan high school and their basketball team. As I recall, the story in the book was fiction based on real events.

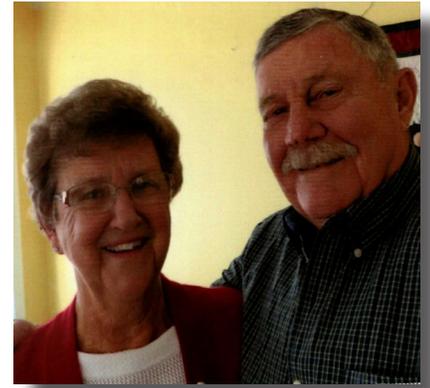
At the time, I was the student manager for the Shamrock basketball teams; however, the *Tournament Forward* book and its team also had a student manager whose nickname was – yea, you guessed it – Bobo. I was given that nickname during my sophomore year at St. Pat's, shortly after this book became popular reading.

I'd always heard and believed that the suggestion of my new nickname was made by our team's captain and lone senior player, Alfred Bauer. From that time and all through my remaining years at St. Pat's, I was called Bobo, especially by the players and guys in my class. It seems that the nuns didn't get the message because they continued to call me Gary,

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# In the Spotlight

## Pete & Mary Lou Pline



*Pete and Mary Lou Pline are well-known at St. Patrick Parish; they are a good example of the “homegrown” variety that are counted among the members of the parish. Faith and family are at the center of their lives and are a part of everything they do. One of their grandsons, Garrett Pline (2016) provided the information for this Spotlight article, as a way of honoring them and thanking them for serving as such good role models for him and the rest of his family.*

Our story begins with two young people who began dating in 1955 or 56. Peter Pline and Mary Lou Martin were students at St. Patrick School. They weren't in the same class, but because they were both born and raised in Portland, they had known each other for a long time when they became a couple. Pete was a senior; Mary Lou was a junior.

Even at that time, much of what they did revolved around St. Pat's. Pete played on the basketball and baseball teams; Mary Lou was a cheerleader. School and parish activities were at the center of their lives.

The couple was married at St. Patrick Church on September 26, 1959. Monsignor Louis Flohe officiated at their wedding Mass; it was the first marriage that he presided over as a Monsignor. Over the next nine years, they had four children, Doug, Beth, Dave, and Scott. Pete worked at Consumers Energy and Mary Lou, who had worked for a short time for Michigan Bell, was a stay-at-home mom.

All four of the Pline children were enrolled at St. Patrick School, and it was during those hectic school years that Pete and Mary Lou really became involved in volunteer work at the church and school. They worked bingo, served hot lunch (remember those wonderful sloppy joes on Thursdays?), made donuts on Sunday mornings, and worked at Fall Festival. They cleaned the church, worked at sporting events, counted money on Sunday mornings, made desserts for funeral lunches, and worked at Summerfest. In addition, they found time to work at Red Cross blood drives and Mary Lou worked at elections

in Portland Township. And all of this volunteer work was done while they were still raising their family!

Pete retired in 1996, and one would think that life would slow down. Not a chance! The Plines can still be found working at many events at St. Pat's, or helping their kids and grandkids with projects. But now, they also make time for playing cards, gardening, reading, quilting, hunting, fishing, camping, and watching St. Pat's sports.

They have watched a lot of Shamrock sports through the years, because in addition to their own four children graduating from St. Pat's, so did all 11 of their grandchildren. The youngest, Jerriid, graduated last June.

The Plines are fortunate that most of their family still live in or near Portland. This means lots of gatherings and meals at Grandpa and Grandma's house. They have also enjoyed traveling with

their family through the years. Those trips include a trip to Cedar Point in 1998 (after Grandpa Pete won a jackpot in Las Vegas), a trip to Florida in 2001, a trip to a Detroit Tiger game in 2009 to celebrate their 50th anniversary, and many camping trips to Tawas and other places.

Grandson Garret Pline told *The Shamrock* that he is so proud of his grandparents and the good example that they set for him and his family. No matter what event is happening at St. Pat's, if you look around, you'll probably see someone from the Pline family there---and more than likely they will be working!

Thank you Pete and Mary Lou, for the countless hours that you have given to St. Patrick Parish and your community! You are a great example to all!



The Pline family gathered for wedding of son, Doug.

# What's Happening

*If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of The Shamrock, please send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.*

## BIRTHS

To **Andrew** (2002) and **Emily Brown** of Frankenmuth, a son, Oscar Wilfred, on August 24, 2017.

To **Patrick** (2000) and **Alison Finkbeiner** of Lansing, a son Benjamin Calvin, on December 1, 2016. He joins brother, Noah (7).

To **Brian** (2004) and **Brenda (Schafer, 2005) Lenneman** of Ada, a son, Eli Anthony, on May 1, 2017. He joins brother, Grayson (2).

To **Alan** and **Jenny (Moses, 1997) Blevins** of St. Paris, OH, a daughter, Lyla Anne, on May 9, 2017. She joins brother, Tyler.

To **Justin** (2003) and **Cara Long** of Huron, OH, a son, Price Holden, born on August 29, 2016.

To **Kyle** (2003) and **Ashley (Theis, 2005) Klein** of Commerce Township, a daughter, Ruby Ann, on August 5, 2016. She joins a brother, Connor (3).

To **Brett** (2005) and **Tara (Thelen 2006) Klein** of Alto, a daughter, Riley Ann, on April 14, 2016. She joins sisters, Ava (3) and Cora (2).

To **Elizabeth (Manning, 2000) and Ben Hager** of Portland, a son, Alden Manning, on January 22, 2017. He joins siblings, Evelyn (5) and Elwood (19 months).

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Kyle Schrauben** (2013) and **Samantha Kramer** (2012) are engaged and will be married June 9, 2018.

**Tyler Smith** (2010) and **Aubrey Schafer** will be married on June 23, 2018, in Westphalia, MI

**Benjamin Brown** (2008) and **Megan Hoppes** will be married on October 21, 2017, at St Patrick Church. Ben's classmate Deacon Michael Steffes will perform the ceremony. Ben coaches JV baseball for St. Pat's; Megan teaches middle school and coaches girls varsity bowling.

**Emilee Fox** (2011) and **Jerrod Harrison** of Grand Rapids will be married on June 30, 2018, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Grand Rapids. They are both graduates of Grand Valley State University.

## WEDDINGS

**Hannah Wight** (2007) and **Andrew Montpetit** were married on May 13, 2017, at St. Patrick Church. The couple lives in Grand Rapids.

**Jeff Brown** (2005) and **Jordan Rodgers** were married on June 17, 2017, at Nashville Baptist Church in Nashville, MI. The couple lives at Electric Park in Lyons, MI.

**Alex Schrauben** (2008) and **Rachel Schafer** of Westphalia were married at St. Patrick Church on July 17, 2017.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Mike and Joan (Toots) Weller** celebrated their 45-year anniversary on April 22, 2017.

**Joe and Jeanette Pung** celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 26. They attended Mass at St. Pat's, followed by a family party with their children, grandchildren, and siblings.

**Frank and Lillian Spratto** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on July 8, 2017.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**Cory Russman**, son of **Ken** (1981) and **Tricia Russman** of Berryville, VA, graduated from St. John Paul Seminary at the Catholic University of America and will be attending St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia in the fall.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Katherine "Kutta/Kay" Mae (Serbin) May**, age 91, passed away at Thornapple Manor in Hastings on February 27, 2017. Katherine was born on April 14, 1925, in Bessemer, Michigan. She was the daughter of Julia Mojeck and John Serbin and had fourteen brothers and sisters. Katherine graduated from Bessemer High School and soon after graduating she moved to Detroit. There, she met Herman (Bill) William May and married him on June 8, 1946. They lived in Detroit for awhile, then moved to Warren, MI, where they raised their three children. After her husband retired, they decided to move back to the U.P. and settled in Escanaba, MI, where they enjoyed the peace and quiet of living on Lake Michigan amid nature's beauty. Katherine is survived by her husband of 70 years, Bill May; three children, Kathy (Gordon) Duffey, William (Virginia) May, and Marcia (Denny) Sekino; two grandchildren; three sisters, Margaret Kuula, Annabelle Sellstrom, and Laverne Eady; and many nieces and nephews.

**Lois AiLeen Gensterblum**, 87, passed away on March 28, 2017. Born in Danby Township on July 14, 1929, to Carl W. and Alice (Avery) Smith, Lois had a lifelong love of reading and learning which she passed on to her children. She loved to sew and knit, especially knitting. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Marvin; two brothers, Howard Smith and Robert E. Smith; and many brothers and sisters-in-law. She is survived by daughters, Annette (Richard) Weiser, Diane (John) Menold, Sharon (Don) Schneider, and Joyce (John) Werner, all of Portland; Judy (Rich) Benner of San Martin, California, and Jane (Tim) Willoughby of Massillon, Ohio; and one son Dan (Carla) Gensterblum of Portland; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one sister, Joann Pline, and many brothers and sisters-in-law. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation, St. Patrick Athletic Association, or the Portland Public Library in honor of Lois.

**Priscilla M. (Cil) Gross**, age 75, of Portland, passed away April 12, 2017. She was born December 17, 1941, to Bernard and Adelaide (Beachamp) Duff. Priscilla was

a faithfully devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a fantastic cook. She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Bunny Higgins and Sharon Duff; and cherished husband of 50 years, Robert. Priscilla is survived by her loving children, Lynn (Michael) Winter of Portland, Dr. Robert (Holly) Gross, Jr. of California, Dawn (Adam) Holcomb of Portland, Deanna (Jim) Gromelski of Colorado, Steve (Kelly) Gross of Colorado; 16 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; siblings, Marlon Kraus, Bernard, Jr. (Baoanh) Duff, John (Bobbie) Duff, Patrick (Lois) Duff, Mary (Andy) Facchini, Amy (Bernie) Robart, and Paul (Karen) Duff.

**Elizabeth L. (Eib) Wieber**, age 91, passed away April 20, 2017. She was born October 18, 1925, to Russell and Emma (Haueter) Moyer. Elizabeth was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She retired from Chrysler after many years of service. She enjoyed playing poker with her family and attending her grandchildren's sporting events. Elizabeth is preceded in death by her parents; cherished husband of 55 years, Robert; siblings, James, Jack, Elon, Norma, Kay, Robert, Gene, Charles, Jean, and Margaret. She is survived by her loving children, James Wieber, Jeanne Adams, Pamela (William) Brown, and Michael (Lori) Wieber; 12 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; siblings, John (Margie) Moyer, Barry Moyer, Eleanor Ackerson, Bee Nowak, and Ronald Skinner; in-laws, Joseph (Bonnie) Wieber, Thomas (Dorothy) Wieber, and Lenore Wieber; and several nieces and nephews.

**Vearl Schrauben**, age 94, passed away on Sunday, April 23, 2017. Vearl was born on November 18, 1922, in Palo, the daughter of Ted and Olga (Little) Sherwood. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Ladies Auxiliary at both the V.F.W. Post #4090 in Portland and at the American Legion in Carson City. Vearl enjoyed winters in Florida, playing cards, and being with her family. She loved her dog, Heidi. She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Matthew Schrauben, Sr.; granddaughter, Jennifer Schrauben; grandson, Gregory Gale; and great-granddaughter, Katlyn Guilford. Surviving are her children, Judy (Eldred "Skip") Spurgeon, Matthew "Michael" (Diane) Schrauben, Jr., Patrick (Rhonda) Schrauben, and Jean (Michael) Gale; 12 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Velma Tabor; sisters-in-law, Mary Ellen Schrauben, Marie Schrauben, Lori Schrauben, and Gertrude Dilly; and many nieces and nephews.

**Freda G. (Schmitz) Bauer**, age 94, of Portland, MI, passed away April 25, 2017. She was born on February 28, 1923, in St. Johns, to Peter and Catherine (Feldpausch) Schmitz. Freda married John E. Bauer in 1949. She is survived by her children, Neil (Lori), Carl (Andra), David Bauer all of Lyons, Nancy (Chris) Nyenhuis of Grand Rapids, Cathy Bauer (Keith Gilliver) of Dimondale, Jane Bell of Portland, Patricia (Mark) Martens of St. Johns; 11 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; siblings, Eunice (Clare) Pung, Donald (Mary Lou) Schmitz of Fowler, Hilary (Marcia) Schmitz, Justin (Sharon) Schmitz of St. Johns, Peter (Marcia) Schmitz of Lansing; sisters-in-law, Patricia Schmitz of Lansing, Fay Schmitz of Fowler. She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 55 years; siblings, Eletha Schmitz, Stella (Tom) Kinney, Agnes (Tom) Favior, Richard Schmitz, and Stanley Schmitz. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Patrick Church.

If you have announcements for What's Happening (births, weddings, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) send them to The Shamrock. See page 19 for email and address information.

**Esmeralda S. Zoll**, age 88, passed away on Monday, May 8, 2017. She was born on March 22, 1929, in Riga, Latvia, the daughter of Maximil and Kristina Grietens. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church for over 50 years. Esmeralda met and married Harold Zoll in Pierre, South Dakota, and although Harold's career kept him out of town during the week, she did a wonderful job raising their family. Surviving is her husband of 62 years, Harold; children: Steven (Colleen) Zoll, Susan (Sue) Zoll, Elaine (Jim) Fedewa, Thomas (Melissa) Zoll, and Gregory (Laurie) Zoll; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Esmeralda.

**Richard J. Smith**, age 91, passed away May 10, 2017. He was born July 21, 1925, to Nicholas and Rose (Pohl) Smith. Dick retired from General Motors as a tool and die maker. He was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, active member of the Fourth Degree, Fr. Godez Assembly of

the Knights of Columbus and was a past Grand Knight of the Portland Council #2168. He volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Portland Food Bank, was an avid fisherman, enjoyed golf, bowling, and woodworking. He is survived by his four, loving daughters, Joanie (Patric) Milley of Kalamazoo, Linda (Steve) Huhn of Portland, Kathy (Doug) Whitman of Normal, Illinois, and Karen Little of Haslett; 9 grandchildren; and his beloved great-grandchildren. Dick is also survived by his sister, Lucille (Paul) Fedewa; brother-in-law, Bernard Pohl; and sister-in-law, Cecelia Smith. Dick now joins his greatest catch, his cherished wife of 62 years, Betty (Knapp) Smith; brother, Carl; and sisters, Evelyn Kramer and Harriet Pohl.

**Thomas Robert Goodman**, age 76, passed away May 19, 2017. He was born May 18, 1941, to Robert and Dorothy (Smith) Goodman. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus #2168. Tom was a life-long farmer and loved his grandchildren. He is survived by his children, Bob Goodman, Amy (Mark) Smith, Ted (Pam) Goodman, and Sue (Don) Lubitz; 11 grandchildren; and special friends, Gene and Letha Goodman, Delbert and Sue Spitzley, Roman, and Pete. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletic Association or Portland Athletic Association in honor of Tom's grandchildren.

**Diane "DeDe" Dorsky**, age 61, went to be with her angels on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. She was born on April 6, 1956, the daughter of John and Shirley (Jestila) Dorsky. DeDe was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a life member of the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed dancing, listening to country music, being with her dialysis friends, collecting angels, and helping around the house with flowers. She had the special gift of remembering all the family birthdays. DeDe was preceded in death by her grandparents and her brother, John. Surviving are her parents John and Shirley Dorsky; siblings, Larry Dorsky, Mark Dorsky, Connie (Joe) Butler, Mary (Ron) Simmons, Colleen (Michael) Seigo, Daryl (Timi) Dorsky, Lynda (Scott) Clark and Stacy (Patrick) Russman; many nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews; aunt, Janice Merique; uncle, Ron Jestila.

**Donald L. May**, age 93, passed away on June 14, 2017. He was born on January 12, 1924, in Portland, the son of Leo and Esther (Crist) May. Don was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, an original member of the Fr. Flohe Foundation, and a member of the Knights of Columbus #2168.

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## Chromebook Program

After a successful pilot program last year, which provided Chromebooks to all of the freshmen, this year's freshman and junior classes were given Chromebooks on the first day of school. The sophomores kept the ones they got last year and Chromebooks were provided to seniors upon request.

The program is designed so that students use the same device through their high school years; beginning with the Class of 2020, they will take it with them when they graduate and can use it for college. The Chromebook project was funded by donations from the Shamrock Auction, the Class of 1966, the PTO, and from the school budget.



Zach Spitzley, Bret Weller, Leah Kissane and Marisa Huggler use their Chromebooks to complete class assignments.

Teachers are finding the Chromebooks to be useful, in a variety of ways. Math teacher Terry Austen currently uses them to post daily warm-ups for his students. Computer teacher Erica Gorzen said that the 10th grade students are using the Chromebooks full-time in their computer class. They use various programs, including Google Classroom, which allows them to get their assignments, complete them,

turn in them in online. Students are also instructed in the importance of digital citizenship, which includes appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use.

Principal Randy Hodge said, "I am amazed at how quickly we are transforming education at St. Patrick School. I see students using their Chromebooks continually to take notes, complete assignments, do research, turn in assignments, watch videos, complete both high school and college classwork on-line, and the list goes on."

## Elementary Counselor Says God Led Her to St. Pat's

Jackie Bass retired from the Grand Ledge school system six years ago. She had worked as a counselor for many years, but was ready to spend more time with her new granddaughter in Kalamazoo. She enjoyed babysitting for the little girl a few days per week.



Jackie's granddaughter started kindergarten this fall and Jackie found herself staring at a suddenly empty schedule.

"One Saturday I was praying while driving," she said. "I wanted to do something part-time, but not retail or fast food. And, I wanted it to be meaningful. And, as I asked for God's guidance, I also mentioned that I really only wanted to work on Mondays and Thursdays."

Two days later, Jackie received a text from St. Patrick School Counselor, Valerie Hynes-McCaul, asking her if she would be interested in working two days per week at St. Pat's. Those two days would be Mondays and Thursdays!

The two women knew each other from their Grand Ledge days, but had not stayed in contact except through occasional Facebook posts.

Jackie was interested; she applied for the job and is now the Elementary School Counselor---on Mondays and Thursdays.

"Technically, Val covers the upper grades and I cover the lower grades. The reality is, that we work together to take care of all of the students," she said. "I have a lot of experience with AP and ACT testing, so I will be in charge of those things, too."

"This is a great school," she said. "I am very happy to be here!"

## 54-Year Track Record Broken

On June 9, 2017, the attendees at the Spring Sport Banquet had a surprise visit from a special guest. Mr. Paul Pung (Class of 1963) stopped by to congratulate freshman runner Ashton Walker who broke Paul's record in the mile run, a record which had stood since 1963. Paul graciously took a few moments to share some of his favorite memories about his time at St. Patrick school and the day in 1963 that he set the record for the mile run.

"Ken Johnson was the coach. He didn't know a lot about training, but we did practice by doing wind sprints and running the two-mile cross country course," said Paul. "The state track meet was at Central Michigan University on a Saturday in May. I won the Class D mile run with a time of 4:37:5. I



Ashton Walker poses with 1963 graduate Paul Pung. Ashton broke the record that Paul had set in 1963.

guess I peaked at the right time as that was my best time for the year. The record stood longer than I ever imagined it would."

Ashton said that he was surprised and honored to have Paul stop by the banquet. "I felt honored to meet a local legend," he said. He also reflected on the 2017 track season, particularly on the race where he broke Paul's record.

"I thought this year went well for most of us. There were many personal records and we worked well as a team. If it weren't for my teammates, I wouldn't have been able to run a lot of the times that I did. They helped me push through each race. This season made me very happy, and I am ready for many more years of running.

"I broke Mr. Pung's record at the Bath Meet on May 5, 2017. His school record was 4:35.9 (adjusted for the metric system, now in place) set in 1963. As I ran, I felt good the whole time and thought that this could be the day I would break the record. As I was on the last 100 meters, I could see the time on the board and knew I was on record time. I couldn't have been happier. My time was 4:34."

At the same meet, Ashton also broke the two-mile record set by Matt Bozung in 1996. Matt ran it in 10:22.6, and Ashton's time was 10:05.

## Track Team - Strength in Numbers

The Shamrock track team has grown tremendously over the past three years, and that growth in size gave them a new competitive spirit last spring. Second year coach, Dawn Fedewa, said, "We had 30 athletes on the team this year; in 2014, there were only 18. Each meet consists of 17 different events and each athlete is limited to competing in four events, so a larger team allows for a much greater chance of success. The growth in the size of this year's team also allowed for higher quality practices, since the athletes had more opportunities for others to push them to improve in their events. The team really shined at invitational and post-season meets, including regionals, conference, and states, where we consistently saw improved performances."

The quote on this year's team shirt from the Book of Chronicles read *'Be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.'* This quote embodied the 2017 track team as nearly every athlete set a personal best in at least one event, with several adding their names to the history books as ten school records were broken or tied.

The team was a nice blend of returners and newcomers to the sport. However, it was still a relatively young team, graduating only five seniors. They look forward to continued success in the coming year.

## Volleyball Team Hopes for Another Historic Season



Despite finishing fourth in the CMAC last year, the Shamrocks rattled off a historic season in 2016. St. Pat's grabbed its first district title in 25 seasons, earned its first-ever regional title, and made it all the way to the Class D state quarterfinals before the season was ended by Auburn Hills Oakland Christian. Coach Heidi Wenzel said her 2017 team will try to build off last year's success.

# P · A · R · I · S · H NEWS

## Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization

Over the past year, our Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization program has grown tremendously.

Pastoral Associate Carolyn Kwiecinski is a wonderful addition to our parish staff, and in her first months at the helm, our RCIA program enrolled nine new candidates and catechumens, who entered and came into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.



The nine new candidates and catechumens, along with their sponsors, Father Larry, and Carolyn Kwiecinski attended the Rite of Election at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids during Lent.

In addition, Carolyn created the *Ignite* program on Monday evenings, which covered a large range of Catholic topics, including several special events. She also launched our new parish library which contains over 150 titles. The library will provide another opportunity for parishioners to learn about and enrich their Catholic faith and family.

In August St. Patrick hosted a 5-day parish mission that included veneration of relics of St. Padre Pio, a healing prayer service, and special guest speakers, including a talk by our own Sister M. Evangeline (Wendy Rutherford). Over 1100 people attended the mission.



Jay Boyd  
Rich Ginther  
Kristin Krieger  
Tony Weber  
Courtney Russman  
Andy Van Deusen  
Tori Thelen  
Tina Ginther  
Rachel Reisbig



Summerfest 2017 was a resounding success! Attendees from around Michigan enjoyed the community-filled events and attendance nearly doubled that of last year.

The Friday night Journey Tribute Band performance was enjoyed by over 600 attendees; Saturday night's performance by Skank packed in more than 800. The youth baseball tournament, which was in its third year, brought in 32 teams along with hundreds of the players' family and friends. On Sunday, over 800 people enjoyed the chicken/swiss steak dinner, and the Classic Cars Cruise-In set a Summerfest record for entries.

Troy and Cortney Smith, chairs of the event, were very pleased with the way the weekend went.

"Everywhere you looked, all weekend long, people were enjoying themselves and having fun," said Cortney." Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Summerfest, which promises to be even better!"

## Summerfest 2018 will be June 22-24



The Summerfest midway was packed with games and inflatables. Wrist bands which allowed all-day play made it affordable for everyone.

## BASEBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Friday, June 16, Bryan Scheurer's boys took the field against sixth-ranked Unionville-Sebewaing and opened up a 3-1 lead after two innings. By the end of four, they were down 4-8, but a rally in the fifth inning tied the game at 8-8. A sacrifice fly by Dan Mackowiak in the top of the seventh inning ignited a four-run

rally that saw the Shamrocks open up a 12-8 lead that the Patriots couldn't overcome. The Shamrocks were victorious again in a semifinal baseball game and for the fifth time in school history were headed for the state finals where they would face the Hudson Tigers.

Although the skies were dark and threatening on June 17, the mood in the stands was bright and the Shamrock fans were loud as they watched their team prepare for the

championship game. Freshman Devin Fedewa was on the mound, and St. Pat's took an early 4-0 lead with three runs in the first inning and one more in the second. Each team scored in the fourth, making the score 5-1; Hudson scored in the fifth and the Shamrocks in the sixth.

The final score was 6-2, and for the first time in the history of St. Patrick School, the baseball team would be taking home a championship trophy!



# How do they do it?

On the way to the championship, the Shamrock team earned a final overall record of 34-3-1. Brendan Schrauben, Noah Goodman, Brandon Scheurer, Dan Mackowiak, and Devin Fedewa earned Central Michigan Athletic Conference All-League first team honors; Graham Smith and Sam Mauren earned second team. Three of the players were named to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-State team: senior catcher Brendan Schrauben and sophomore Brandon Scheurer were named to first team; senior first baseman/pitcher Noah Goodman was named to second team. The Shamrock head coach Bryan Scheurer was named Division 4 Coach of the Year for the second straight year.



So, how does a school with around 100 students in the high school continue to field a successful baseball program year after year? In an interview with the Ionia Sentinel Standard, Coach Bryan Scheurer insists it isn't about him; it's about the whole package—the coaching staff, the school administration, the Shamrock fans, the St. Patrick culture, the athletes, and the time it took to get there.

"It started way back, when we took it over from Al Schrauben, who was head coach and athletic director. He gave me my first varsity opportunity. I walked into a program that was already rich in history; we've just attempted to grow it. It's about the coaches coming together and having the same vision, working from the same page. It's about the seniors passing the torch to the next set of seniors and all of them believing in what we are doing and becoming extensions of the coaching staff. We have very respectful, coachable athletes who want to learn the game and learn how to be a good teammate. Our players come from those little kids who are at the field looking through the fence and wanting to be a part of it, and when they grow, they finally are, and they love being here. There are high expectations, and our players have them, too. That's when you've established a true program."

## ALL IN THE FAMILY!

The Shamrock baseball coaches work closely together at the varsity and junior varsity levels.

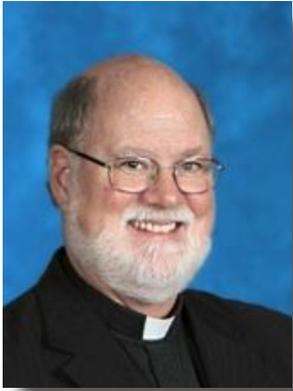
Coach Scheurer's assistants are his brother Mark Scheurer, a 1989 St. Patrick graduate and former CMU catcher; Dan Thelen, a 1995 St. Patrick graduate and ballplayer; and Griff Woodman, who played at Alma and competed against Scheurer "back in the day."

Ben Brown a former Shamrock catcher, is head coach of the JV team. He is joined by Tom Russman, who is Scheurer's uncle, a two-time state baseball finalist in 1971 and 1973, and Scheurer's coach in 1995. Tom's son, Mike, who played for Scheurer in his inaugural year as Shamrock head coach in 2005, is also part of the coaching staff.



# KING'S FINAL KOLUMN

by Father Larry King



As I sit down to write my reflections on my nearly 14 years as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, so many, many memories come flooding back into my mind. St. Patrick Parish was my second assignment. I had served three years at St. Mary Magdalen and arrived here three years later under the guidance of Fr. Julian Reginato. It was a whirlwind time of getting involved in

nearly every aspect of the parish and school life, as well as getting accustomed to Fr. Julian's Italian accent! It was all a wonderful learning experience!

After three years, I was assigned as Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Wyoming, MI, the largest parish in the Diocese at that time with a K-8 School. I spent nine years there, and then the Good Lord saw fit to return me to Portland as the Pastor here at St. Patrick.

So much has happened since I returned. Over the last 13+ years, I've done just about everything a priest can do: I've married, anointed, buried, baptized, confirmed, and first-communicated thousands of faith-filled people. Like any faith community, we've had our share of challenges during those years. After four previous principals in our school, we have been blessed with a more long-term principal, Randy Hodge, who is a graduate of our school. There have been several other staff changes in our school and in the parish office over the past 13 years. Staffing patterns have pretty much settled in now for the immediate future.

We have made several new improvements to the St. Patrick complex during my tenure here. Some of the major improvements include replacing the old boiler that heated the church and school with three smaller boilers that are much more efficient. That hefty financial challenge (\$1.8 million) included replacing all the steam pipes in the church and school and installing more efficient hot water heat. A few years later we were able to install a chiller system in

the church (feels like air conditioning but less expensive to operate) and a unisex restroom in the church. We also made a number of upgrades to our school building with lighting, dropped ceilings, carpeting, new cafeteria tables, new bleachers, and a new gym floor. Now, our well-used and much-loved gymnasium is no longer referred to as "the pit." We've also greatly improved the technology in our classrooms and throughout our complex.

In addition, we've purchased several properties around our parish for long-range planning purposes. We tore down the house that Mayor Joe Tichvon lived in and made it into a much-needed parking lot. We've purchased twelve lots just north of the school; this land will be used eventually for a new gym/multi-purpose center. When that happens, Center Street will be closed between Church and West Streets and the new facility will be connected to the current school. We are also in the process of establishing an Adoration Chapel in the little gray barn-shaped building on Church Street across from the church. It's currently being renovated by some wonderful volunteers, and we hope to have it operational some time this fall.



Father Larry and his friend Elmo joined the elementary students for lunch the first week of school.

As most of you know, we had a very destructive tornado come through Portland two years ago. Thank God, our school and church were spared, but it decimated our athletic field. We lost buildings, a score board, fences, trees, etc. Looking toward the future, the hope was that we could build a larger facility to better meet the needs of our sports teams, as well as our parish Summerfest. A group of parishioners donated money to purchase the small piece of land owned by the Ionia County Road Commission adjacent to the land we own.

Getting the new building in place has been fraught with challenges and frustrations for all of us. We've been met with a variety of obstacles, including city ordinances, the insurance settlement, and funding issues for the project.

Each of these obstacles has delayed getting our building built. We are currently on our third set of architectural drawings with each set downsizing what we could afford to build.

Two years ago we moved our preschool program into our main school building and it now occupies what was the Multi-Purpose Room, adjacent to the cafeteria. We also lowered the noise level in the cafeteria by installing sound panels on the ceiling.

Our Youth Ministry program moved into the former preschool space in the annex building on the corner of West and Center Streets. That move has proven to be very beneficial for our youth program.

As far as the church goes, in addition to the heating/cooling system and restroom, we also installed a "hearing loop" system in the church for those who have hearing difficulties. Recently, two wonderful parishioners stepped forward and purchased a new sound system and a new LED lighting system for our church. These two additions make a world of difference. The next plan, as finances allow, is to install a couple of TV monitors down the side aisles with a camera system in the balcony. This will allow for better participation by parishioners and visitors if they are unfortunate to be sitting where a pillar blocks their view of the sanctuary.

We have put a lot of effort into improving our liturgies, as well. We have enhanced our music with several different groups, and we have a cadre of 90+ well-trained altar servers. This past summer we hosted several relics of St. Padre Pio in the church over a 3-day period. What an honor!

Much has been accomplished during my 13+ years here at St. Patrick, but let me tell you that it is mostly due to the wonderful staff in the parish and in our school, as well as a multitude of dedicated volunteers that I have had the privilege of working alongside. They are the ones who deserve all the praise!

There will be a great sadness in my heart when I leave St. Patrick at the end of January 2018 due to my "retirement" (it's called "Senior Priest Status") as I turn 70 years old. I have greatly enjoyed my time here at St. Patrick and will forever treasure the many memories and friends I've made. Now, I'll be available to help out in any of the parishes in our Diocese that need sacramental assistance. As several of my priest friends who are in "Senior Priest Status" have remarked: "Now I get to be a priest full time and not primarily an administrator of a parish."

As I prepare to leave St. Patrick Parish and School, I offer a blessing prayer for all who belong to this parish, those of you who have been here your whole lives, and those who will be joining in future years. May you all be blessed as I have been blessed!!! THANK YOU!!!

## Shamrock Alum Inducted Into Lansing Area Hall of Fame

Janet (Russman) Hengesbach, a graduate of Portland St. Patrick High School, was inducted into the Greater Lansing Area Sports Hall of Fame, with her 2002 Lansing Community College Softball Team, on July 27, 2017. Janet graduated from St. Pat's in 2000 and went on to play for Lansing Community College Softball in 2001 and 2002.

In 2001, the LCC team rode into the national title game undefeated before being knocked off by Phoenix College in Phoenix, Arizona. Falling short only increased the team's desire to win it all. The 2002 team, mostly composed of local and returning talent, finished with a season record of 49-7. The



Janet (Russman) Hengesbach with her parents, Peggy and Joe Russman

team was led by five All-Americans, Janet being among the five. The Stars had a .368 batting average, scored 474 runs, and allowed just 94. They combined to hit 85 home runs and were known for their power-packed lineup. They won three games on the final day of the World Series to become the first team from east of the Mississippi River to capture the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Championship, which just happened to be in Phoenix, Arizona. The temperature for those three games was 110 degrees. Janet and her team fought through the blaring heat and finally reached their ultimate goal, a National Championship. "Teamwork is the key to having a successful team," says Janet. "It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Janet was an assistant coach for Portland St. Patrick Softball 2002-2011. Since then she has been an assistant coach for Lansing Community College Softball. She is trying to help guide and teach others to reach the ultimate goal as well. The dream of being a National Champion!

Did you know that the 1999 St. Pat's vs Fowler Girls Basketball State Championship game set an attendance record with 10,958 fans in attendance. St. Pat's won with a 47-36 victory and the record still holds today!

# alumni news

The **Class of 1992** held their 25-year reunion on August 26, 2017, at the Wagon Wheel. Twenty out of 43 classmates attended.



The **Class of 1997** had a great time at Nic and Shelly Schneider's house on August 26, 2017, as they celebrated their 20-year reunion. Pete Thelen made the dinner with the help of his brother Tom. It was all delicious! Everyone had a great time catching up. Twenty out of the 29 classmates attended, plus many significant others. Great turnout! Thanks to Nic and Shelly for hosting!



The **Class of 2002** held an impromptu 15-year reunion at Beerfest on the Bridge in Portland on August 12, 2017. The group then gathered around a bonfire at the home of Valerie Pung.



The **Class of 2012** five-year reunion was Saturday, August 12, 2017. Some of the boys met in the morning for a golf scramble. Early afternoon, classmates headed down to the Portland dam for a kayak trip on the Grand River. No sooner than they were all on the river, it started downpouring. After they were all drenched, it was beautiful; the skies were blue and warm for the rest of the day. The kayak trip ended at Jalyn Moyer's family property where everyone met for a cookout and games. Twenty out of 25 classmates were able to make it for some portion of the day. Stephanie Miros traveled all the way from Colorado and Benjamin Lawless drove all day from a bachelor party in Canada right to the reunion.



The **Class of 1962** will gather at Dan and Kathy Spitzley's party barn for their 55-year reunion on October 7, 2017. Social hour begins at 5:00; dinner is at 5:30.

The **Class of 1977** will hold its 40-year class reunion on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel. Food and drinks can be ordered from the menu. R.S.V.P. by emailing [denisecookweeks1959@gmail.com](mailto:denisecookweeks1959@gmail.com) by October 7, 2017, so tables can be reserved.

## 50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1968

Members of the **Class of 1968** should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion that will be held in your honor next year.

The date will be Saturday, September 8, 2018. Someone from the Father Flohe Foundation will contact you in the spring, asking you to send information for a class reunion book.

You will also receive an invitation and complete information about the reunion in the spring. There is no cost to you! We want you to be the guests of honor, have a good time, and not have to do any of the work. Mark your calendars now!



ORGAN DONATION  
A GIFT FOR LIFE

# 1997 Graduate Gives the Gift of Life to a Stranger

*On July 27, 2017, Tanya (Stiffler, 1997) Schneider underwent surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital to donate a kidney to someone she had never met. Her decision to become a living donor was a process that developed over a 20-year timespan.*

It all began back in 1997, shortly after I graduated from high school. One day we received a knock on the door, and when I answered it, I met our neighbor, Alvena Evans, for the first time. I always heard she was ill and that she needed a liver transplant. There she was that summer day, encouraging us to sign up on our licenses to be organ donors. She also left a brochure for us to read. Because of her, I have been an organ donor on my license for 20 years now. That was the first of many nudges that I received that led me to donating my kidney.

The next nudge came in 2005, when my Grandmother (Grace Simon) passed away. She died due to complications from diabetes, which was very difficult on her organs. I recall how hard the family worked to try to get her on the transplant list prior to her death. But she just wasn't well enough. It was difficult to see her suffering. I don't believe she ever made it onto the transplant list before passing. I held her hand as she took her last breath.

The third nudge began in June of 2009, when my desk was put next to Judy Huhn at work. Her husband Duane (Class of 1969) was going through dialysis and in need of a kidney transplant. Judy was so dedicated to caring for her spouse. She would drop him off at dialysis before work and pick him up on her lunch break several times a week. She also used all of her sick and vacation days caring for him and his needs. She never once complained and continued to come in to work each day with a smile on her face. But I knew that inside she must be hurting to see her loving husband suffering. Thankfully, he did receive a kidney from a deceased donor that gave their family a couple more precious years together.

In October 2014, one of my coworkers, Angel McCliggott became a non-direct organ donor. I watched her as she went through the entire donation process, which involved lots of testing at the University of Michigan Hospital to prep for the donation and recovery period. Today she is about three years post donation and doing very well.

Angel would later become a huge role in my own kidney donation journey. Not only was she my mentor, but she became a really good friend as well. I remember Angel telling me that she was given the opportunity to meet her recipient right before the surgery. It was a young lady in her twenties. The girl's mother hugged Angel and said, "We've been waiting a long time for you."

These words would stand out and remain in my heart until my own journey began. There are so many others "waiting a long time," and right then I knew that that I would no longer just think about being a kidney donor, I would become a donor. But first I had much research to do.

For over two years, it was always on my heart but just never felt like the right timing. So I just continued to pray on it. Then, one Sunday morning, February 26, 2017, I woke up and knew it was time. This part is so hard for me to explain, but I just felt so calm, so ready, and so willing. I knew this was part of God's plan for me, and I trusted that he would never leave my side through the journey. The same feeling of comfort and God's love would carry me throughout the entire process. I never once felt scared or questioned if I should move forward with the donation. I just knew it was right.

I made my first call to U of M that same day. They were closed,

but I left a message. The following day they returned my call and scheduled the first of many appointments to undergo a huge amount of testing to verify that I would be able to live a perfectly healthy life after donation.

My first appointment was on March 15 and my surgery was on July 27. The team at U of M took very good care of me, and I always felt like I was in good hands. Although I have not yet met my recipient, I was told that my kidney (that I named Miss Grace after my Grandmother) continues to work very well in the recipient and that she is doing great. Thank the Lord!

Recovery went very well, and today I am feeling fantastic. I was given eight weeks off work but did so well that I went back after only six weeks.

So there you have it...the nudges from God. Over the course of 20 years, He showed me every possible scenario of the importance of becoming an organ donor. I've seen people suffering while waiting for a transplant, I've seen their loved ones caring for them and the pain they go through not knowing if they will ever receive the transplant or will die waiting. I've seen a kidney donor live a perfectly healthy life after donation. And I've seen a recipient breathe new life after they were blessed with a new liver.

Over 100,000 people in the U.S. are in need of a kidney transplant. About half of them will die waiting. That was unacceptable to me when I knew there was something I could do about it. God has blessed me with excellent health and I knew I would continue to live a healthy life even with one kidney. So donating was an easy decision for me.

More information about becoming a living donor can be found at <https://www.donatelife.net/types-of-donation/living-donation/>.



Tanya and her five children, all sporting U of M shirts from the Transplant Center. Tanya and Lee Schneider live in Portland. She is employed at Homeworks Tri County Electric in Portland.

# Sister Diane Densmore Celebrates Golden Jubilee



As a junior high school student at Portland St. Patrick School in the early 1960's, Diane Densmore was already beginning to feel a calling to be a teacher. Her own teachers were Sisters of St. Joseph, and Diane admired them greatly. She found them to be caring, friendly, and prayerful. They were also welcoming and fun to be with. At the early age of 13, she was hearing God calling her to the religious life.

Diane was the oldest of seven children, born to Francis and Joyce Densmore, and raised on a farm three miles outside of Portland, MI. She attended a one-room school house for her kindergarten year, transferred to St. Patrick School for first grade, and spent the next twelve years at St. Pat's, graduating in 1967.

During her senior year, with the help of the principal, Sister Joyce, Diane began the process that would lead her to a vocation as a Sister of St. Joseph.

In February 1967, she received a letter that told her she had been accepted. In August of that same year she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and at the same time became a freshman at Nazareth College in Kalamazoo. She earned a B.A. Degree, majoring in English, with minors in secondary education and Sociology. During her years of teaching, she also attended Eastern Michigan University during the summers and received a Master's Degree in the teaching of reading. She spent 45 years in the classroom, mostly teaching language arts and religion to middle school/junior high students in the Detroit and Kalamazoo areas.

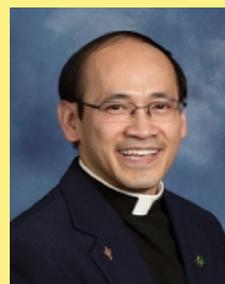
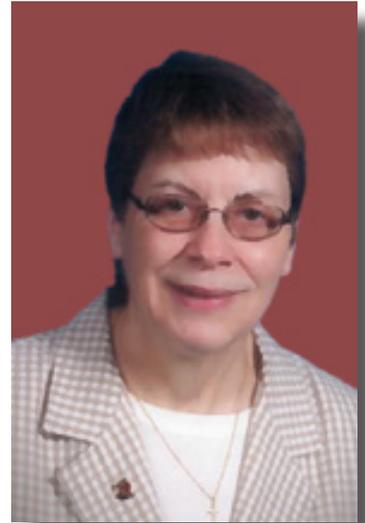
Sister Diane has a special love for and devotion to the Trinity, which has been an integral part of her spiritual life. She also believes that she has been supported by a trinity of communities: her family, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the community of educators with whom she has worked through the years.

"My family's love has sustained me throughout my life," she says. "Being a Sister of St. Joseph has enabled me to use my gifts/talents in a variety of ways. My sisters are always supportive as my 'companions on the journey.' I have received comfort, hope, and encouragement in times of difficulty or sorrow. We also share the joy and celebration

of happy times. Finally, it has been a blessing to minister with so many wonderful, dedicated, and faith-filled people in schools and parishes throughout my teaching career."

When asked about being a teacher to young teens for 45 years, she said, "It is always a privilege and a joy to work with young people during their formative years. For me, they are a source of inspiration and hope for the future. In all these ways and more, God's presence is revealed, and I am amazed."

Sister Diane observed her golden jubilee on August 23, 2017, and was the guest of honor at a celebration at St. Patrick Parish Hall on August 27. She won't be in a classroom this fall, as she is taking the next year to reflect on and pray about what God wants her to do next, as she enters her retirement years.



Former St. Patrick Associate Pastor, Father Peter Vu has written two devotional prayer books (a family/child edition and an adult edition) titled *Lord Jesus, I Want to See*. (Dog Eared Publishing 2017). He describes them as "an easy, meaningful, and uplifting way for us to be connected to God in our busy, fast-paced life."

Both editions are available online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Proceeds from the sale of the books will go to Catholic Relief Services and other Christian outreach programs.

# Class of 1967 50-Year Reunion



**First Row Left to Right:** Pam Vroman Brenner, Linda Irrer Kupferschmid, Donna Strong Patrick, Sister Diane Densmore, Jeanine Bennett Cross, Kathy Hahn, Jeanne Wieber Adams

**Back Row Left to Right:** Terry Piggot, Jeanie Fitzpatrick McClung, Kurt Decke, Jim Moses, Linda Zimmerman Spedoske, Jim Fedewa, Steve Platte, Steve Spitzley, Ellen Leik, Dann Werner, Tony Pung, Marv Schrauben, Larry Simon, Coach Lou LaScala, Bob Schneider, Doug Smith, Gail Nowak

**T**wenty-three members of the Class of 1967 were honored on Saturday, September 9, 2017, at a 50-year reunion celebration hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation.

Classmates and their spouses were given a tour of the school in the afternoon, then they attended the 4:30 Mass which was offered for the members of the class. A prime rib and chicken dinner at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room followed.

Several weeks prior to the reunion, classmates were sent an information sheet and asked to fill it out. It contained questions about their families, careers, and memories of their days at St. Patrick School.

While several teachers were mentioned in their replies, one stood out—Lou Lascala, who had arrived at St. Pat's at the beginning of their senior year, fresh from Western Michigan University. It was very exciting and a huge surprise when Lou walked in to the reunion.

A quote from the 1967 yearbook probably explains the fondness that the students and players felt for him. "Coach LaScala was every football player's friend; his relationship with them did not end when he walked off the field; his door was always open to them, and he never turned anyone away or said he had no time for them."

Memories flowed throughout the evening, and everyone had a great time.

## What Was Happening in 1967?

- The Vietnam war continued. Protests were commonplace.
- Race riots occurred in several large cities, including Detroit.
- Elvis married Priscilla in Las Vegas.
- O. J. Simpson was a running back for the University of Southern California.
- Israel fought and won the 6-Day War.
- A flash fire killed three Apollo astronauts.
- 1967 was known as the Summer of Love.
- The first successful heart transplant was performed in South Africa.
- The first issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine was published
- Interracial marriage was declared constitutional.
- John McCain's plane was shot down. He would become a POW for the next 5 1/2 years.
- The #1 song for the year was *A Whiter Shade of Pale*.
- The #1 movie was *The Graduate*.
- Most popular baby names were still Lisa and Michael.
- Pringles and Slurpees were introduced.
- The Big Mac debuted. It was priced at 45 cents.
- The World's Fair was held in Montreal and was known as the Montreal Expo.
- Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American justice of the Supreme Court.
- You could buy a gallon of gas for 33 cents, a new car for \$2,750, and a new house for \$14,250.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

He was a lifelong farmer who enjoyed making homemade cider, playing cards, hunting, and always having the "gift to gab." Don retired from T.R.W. after 30 years of service and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 71 years, Marcelene "Marcie" May. Surviving are his children Sharon (Bernard) Platte of Pentwater, James (Patty) May of Dale, TX, Kenneth (Debra Tomasek) May, and Daniel (Lori) May both of Portland; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation or McLaren Hospice Services in memory of Don.

**Robert F. Gensterblum**, 84, of Lansing, MI, passed away June 27, 2017. Robert was the son of Peter and Helen (Fernholz) Gensterblum. Robert retired from General Motors. . Bob was preceded in death by his brothers, Richard, Leon, Alvin, Paul, Marvin, and Larry Gensterblum; sisters, Lucille Redman, Bernita, Virginia Shimp, Elizabeth Huhn, and Geraldine Hodge; and several sisters and brothers-in-law. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Mary; children, Kaye (Glen) Wilcox, Kurt Gensterblum, and Kristin (Javier) Lozano; four grandchildren; siblings, Sr. Bernita Marie SSJ, Mary Louise (William) Hanses, Eleanor (Bud) Peake, Dolores Houser, Barb (Leon) Densmore, and Jim (Louise) Gensterblum.

Former St. Patrick Principal **Robert Norris Cathcart**, 79, passed away on June 14, 2017, at Portland Assisted Living. Bob was born May 3, 1938, the son of Robert and Alice Cathcart. He married the love of his life, Helen Jo (Harker) on July 9, 1960, and together the two grew their family to include three children. Bob was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was a very service-oriented person, always looking for ways to help others and placing their needs before his own. He was a teacher earlier in life as well as a football and wrestling coach. After receiving his Master's Degree from Notre Dame University, Bob was the principal of numerous Catholic high schools. His heart eventually led him to be ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church. He served for 11 years before retiring in 2013. Caring, funny, and tolerant were all words used to describe Bob. He was known to have a tough exterior with a soft heart, and a wonderful sense of humor. He spent a good portion of his life in Portland, MI, but his heart was in the Mecosta area. He truly enjoyed his time serving as a deacon at St. Michael's Catholic Church. While

living on Lake Mecosta, Bob enjoyed fishing as often as he could, and rooting for Notre Dame every chance he got. Left to cherish his memory are his two sons, Gregory (Lisa) Cathcart, and Jeffrey (Laurie) Cathcart; daughter, Deborah (Allen) Pung; brother, Charles Cathcart; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. He is preceded in death by his parents and wife Helen Jo who passed away in 2008. Memorial contributions can be made to Great Lakes Caring Hospice or St. Michael's Parish.

**Donna E. Martin**, age 86, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on July 5, 2017. She was born September 15, 1930, to John and Beulah (Bennett) Mellstead. Donna was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She greatly enjoyed the holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. She loved making cookies and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donna is survived by her beloved husband of 67 years, Hilary Martin; children, Judy Smith, Marilyn Partridge, Dick Martin, Mike (Liz) Martin, Duane Martin, Patricia (Gordy) Curns, and Phil (Robin) Martin; 17 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Loraine LeFurge, Allen Mellstead, and Jean Esterline. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Rose Binkley; infant son, John Martin; infant daughter, Diane Martin; grandson, Chris Binkley; great-granddaughter, Maxine Partridge; son-in-law, Gary Partridge; and daughter-in-law, Jackie Martin. Memorial contributions may be made to Portland Assisted Living & Memory Center or Great Lakes Hospice in honor of Donna.

**Robert John Sochor**, age 86, passed away peacefully at his home on July 17, 2017, after a courageous battle with leukemia. He was born on December 17, 1930, in Ionia, Michigan, the son of Paul and Anna (LaPar) Sochor. Bob graduated from Ionia High School in 1948, and married Rosalie "Toots" Leik on July 26, 1952, in Portland, Michigan. Bob was a dedicated family man, had a love for the outdoors; enjoyed hunting, fishing, and hiking; and was a passionate woodworker. Bob wore many hats in his family, but his prize role was Papa. He always led by example and was a very hard worker. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Rosalie; children, Debbie Ward, Sherry (Harry Krug) Keyes, Lynne (Jeff) Russell, Tim (Sue) Sochor, and Scott (Dawn) Sochor; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brothers, Stanley, Charles, and Harry; and sister, Nancy. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Patrick's Parish, Portland Senior Center, or Mary Free Bed Hospital. Until we meet again, Go BLUE!

**Stanley John Platte**, age 79, of Fowler, MI, passed away peacefully Sunday, July 23, 2017, at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI. Stan was born in Portland, MI, on June 8, 1938, the son of Bernard and Mary (Gross) Platte. He graduated from St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Portland with the class of 1956. Stan married Jane F. Mathews on May 23, 1959, at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Fowler, MI; Jane passed away on March 27, 2012. He was a member of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He owned and successfully managed Mathews Elevator Co. for 54 years with Miss Jane at his side for 23 of those years. Stan is survived by his seven children, Mark (Joy), Dean (Lynette), Gregg (Deb), Adam (Laurie), Joan, Peter (Sheri), Nick (Gail); 18 grandchildren; five great-grandsons, and one on the way; brothers, Leon, Julius (Pat), Paul, and Steve (Sue); sisters, Laura Stegenga and Marilyn Kiel; sisters-in-law, Ann Donoghue and Deb Mathews; and many nieces and nephews.

**Helen M. Schmitt**, age 71, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Helen was born November 6, 1945, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the daughter of Philip and Blanche (Subachus) Souza. She was a long-time member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and took joy in caring for the elderly. Helen also enjoyed knitting, cooking, and watching soap operas. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Schmitt; daughter, Ann Schmitt; sons, James Schmitt, Richard Clark, Mark Clark, and Steven Clark; grandson, Christopher; and several sisters and brothers-in-law. Helen is preceded in death by her parents; son, Paul Clark; and brother, Philip.

**Elizabeth E. Gray**, age 68, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2017. She was born December 8, 1948, the daughter of Edwin and Regina (Thelen) Smith. Elizabeth had a love for gardening and flowers. She enjoyed going to the casino, playing card games, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren. She is survived by her children, Donald (Patti) Weber of Portland, Marc (Betsy) Weber of Caledonia, and Kimberly Weber of Portland; step-children, Cathy Lugibihl of Lansing, James (Lori) Gray of Grand Ledge, Sandra Gray of Lansing, and Darrin (Debbie) Gray of Eagle; 14 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and sisters, Pat Goodman, Rita Klein, Evelyn Smith, and Marilyn Smith. Elizabeth is preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Gray; brothers, James Smith, Jerome Smith, Richard Smith, and Donald Smith; and sister Genet Shattuck. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Ele's Place in honor of Elizabeth, 1145 Old Oakland Avenue, Lansing, MI, 48915.

**Diana “Tia” Rivera**, 93, passed away on July 28, 2017. Diana was known to all as “Tia” and was born on September 27, 1923, in Sabinal, Texas, to Ramon and Sapopa Rivera. She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers, Antonio, Thomas, Raymond, and Ernest. She is survived by her two sisters-in-law, Elvira and Maria; eleven nieces and nephews; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice or Sparrow Hospice in honor of Diana.

**Marlene V. Schafer-Walser**, age 55, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 31, 2017, surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer. Marlene was born on November 29, 1961, the daughter of Marvin and Mary (Smith) Schafer. She was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and St. John Student Parish. Marlene graduated as valedictorian from the St. Patrick Class of 1980 and from M.S.U. with a degree in Medical Technology. She was also an avid Spartan fan. Her dogs, Scooby Doo I and Scooby Doo II were very dear to her. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Ronald, Larry, and Patrick (infant). On April 21, 2001, she married Jeffrey Walser and he survives her. Also surviving are her parents, Marvin and Mary Schafer; siblings, Jan (Chuck) Glassmire, Julie (Thomas, Jr.) Brennan, Bonnie (Gary) Watkins, Marie (Nelson) Monroe, Steven (Marie) Schafer, and Deanna (Tad Drake) Hodge; several precious nieces

and nephews; mother and father-in-law, Jim and Joyce Walser; and in-laws, Mike (Cara) Brink and Joel (Jeanne) Walser. Memorial contributions may be made to McLaren Hospice or St. Patrick Educational Fund in honor of Marlene.

**Mildred I. Wight**, passed away on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at the age of 100. She was born in Riley Township on March 24, 1917, the daughter of John and Amelia (Feneis) Schrauben. Mildred was a lifelong resident of Portland and a member of St. Patrick Church and the Altar Society. She enjoyed camping with her children, traveling, cooking, and playing euchre. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Ralph L. Wight; brothers Herman, Isadore, Raymond, Clarence, Edwin, and John; sisters, Martha and Agnes; daughter-in-law, Judy (Ralph) Wight. Mildred is survived by her three daughters, Linda (Dale) Bower, Noreen (Douglas) Logel, and Nancy (Gerald) Lyon, all of Portland; two sons, Gary (Marie) Wight of South Dakota and Ralph R. (special friend, Kathy Guthrie) Wight of Portland; sisters, Helen Kavanagh of Lansing, Alice Veltman of Grand Ledge, and brother, Richard Schrauben of Portland. Mildred has 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Michigan Chapter in honor of Mildred.

**Marv H. Weber**, 70, of Pewamo, MI, went to be with our Lord, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family on August 23, 2017. He was born in Portland, MI on May 10, 1947, to Norman and Edna (Pohl) Weber and was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Arlene; and in-laws, Ed and Lillian Thelen. He married his best friend, Janice, on April 12, 1969. She survives him. He retired from GM after 38 years of service and enjoyed his retirement by tending to his tree farm, camping, and traveling. He loved his family immensely, and loved meeting new people wherever he went. Family and friends were very important to him, as he always had some humorous wisdom to share. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, neighbor, and friend to all. He will be greatly missed by his wife, and their children: Judy (Tim) Personious, Brian (Brenda) Weber, Randy (Laura) Weber, and Sherry (Larry) Goodwin; 11 grandchildren; siblings, Jane (Jerry) Goodman, Joan (Pat) Vashaw, Lee (Jane) Weber, Jerome Weber, and Dan (Joyce) Weber; along with many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph Educational Fund.

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## NICKNAMES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

which likely was more proper and less disturbing to our classrooms.

Even after high school, my friends and a few relatives often addressed me as Bobo. One person who called me by that nickname was the late Leo Smith. Leo was a former classmate, and he stands out in my memory. There are several other people, many with the last name Schrauben, it seems, who have regularly called me Bobo even though I haven't lived in Michigan for over 50 years.

Nonetheless, over the years, I have had lots of fun with that nickname because I have used it in combination with other words to make up things like passwords for my computer, (not currently). Anyway, my life as Bobo has been very enjoyable. Of all the nicknames I've been given throughout the years, “Bobo” holds a special place in my heart.

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## JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

the immense blessings I received, in addition to school and friends, at St. Patrick's. These included weekly school Mass, daily religion class, and my own first communion. I began to really notice the altar servers at Mass, and in fifth grade I became one. My spiritual life shot off like a rocket after that. The experience of assisting in the highest form of prayer and being so close to the Eternal Sacrifice of Christ is amazing and never ceases to strike me as such. All of this growth was supported and guided by helpful and formative religion classes, morning prayer at school with scripture, and the wonderful examples of faithful

Catholicism that I saw and continue to see today in the St. Patrick's staff, who just helped my class and me receive Confirmation.

So, St. Pat's has impacted me deeply, but this is just my own unfinished story. I'm sure there are many other stories of how this school has touched other people's lives. My question is what will your story be? Come visit us, try us out, and see what it's like to go to class in a preschool through twelfth grade Catholic school. I believe you'll like what you see, because the presence of Jesus and His grace are as plain as can be when you walk the halls. Please pray for our school, and rest assured that I will be praying for you.



# PUZZLE time

The culture of America was definitely being shaken up in 1967. The Vietnam war was still raging and war protestors were still protesting. Ironically, the summer of 1967 became known as the "Summer of Love" as 100,000 young people, most dressed in hippie garb, converged on the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco. All of the words in the puzzle below relate to 1967. Find the 28 words. Use the letters left over to spell out the answer, which is a quote by an icon of those times, John Lennon. Good luck!

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

## ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 19, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by November 1, 2017. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

APOLLO  
 ASTRONAUTS  
 BIG MAC  
 DETROIT  
 DRAFT  
 ELVIS  
 EXPO

GRADUATE  
 HIPPIES  
 LISA  
 LOVE  
 MICHAEL  
 MONKEES  
 MONTREAL

PEACE  
 PRINGLES  
 PRISCILLA  
 PROTESTS  
 RACE RIOTS  
 RECORDS  
 ROLLING STONE

SIX DAY WAR  
 SLURPEE  
 SPACE  
 SUMMER OF LOVE  
 SUPREMES  
 TRANSPLANT  
 VIETNAM



The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words from that issue. The quote, and the answer to the puzzle was *Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.* The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Marlene Chartrand, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Marlene. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

# LOST SHEEP

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

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



- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1956 Duane Irrer               | 1979 John Fedewa    |
| 1957 Patricia Hilligan Immonen | 1980 Angie Young    |
| 1961 John D. Pung              | 1980 Patrick Ellis  |
| 1966 Dan Lehman                | 1981 Mike Binder    |
| 1966 Tony Blundy               | 1985 Scott Osmar    |
| 1968 Carolyn Rowe Embree       | 1991 Elaine Mauer   |
| 1973 Lillian Castranova        | 1994 Jeremy Pohl    |
| 1974 Mark VanderHoff           | 1995 Andy Carr      |
| 1975 Susan Thelen              | 2000 Jeffrey Pung   |
| 1977 Brian Jenkins             | 2001 Segrid Johnson |
| 1977 Bob Rensi                 | 2004 Donald Vollman |

# Upcoming EVENTS

- Fall Festival ..... October 8, 2017
- Confirmation ..... October 11, 2017
- Veterans Day Observance..... Nov. 10, 2017
- Catholic Schools Week .....Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2018
- CSW Breakfast ..... January 28, 2018
- Senior Appreciation Dinner .....April 14, 2018
- Shamrock Auction ..... April ??, 2018
- Group First Communion ..... May 7, 2018
- Graduation.....May 20, 2018
- Summerfest .....June 22-24, 2018
- Class of 1968 50-Year Reunion.....Sept. 8, 2018
- Spring issue of The Shamrock..... Early April

## HOW TO CONTACT US

It isn't necessary to use a special form to submit information for the newsletter. Information can be sent by mail, fax, email, or text. Please see the box below for specific addresses and phone numbers. We prefer that all information be in writing to prevent errors. Be sure to mark it ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS.

## How to Stay in Touch!

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

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

To download our parish app, you'll need a smartphone or tablet. Go to [www.myparishapp.com](http://www.myparishapp.com). Click on App Store or Google Play. Follow directions to download the app. Search for St. Pat's by zip code (48875). Now, everything you need to know will be at your fingertips!



## The Shamrock Newsletter

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The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, and upon request.

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- Anne (Brown) Russman..... 517-647-4094

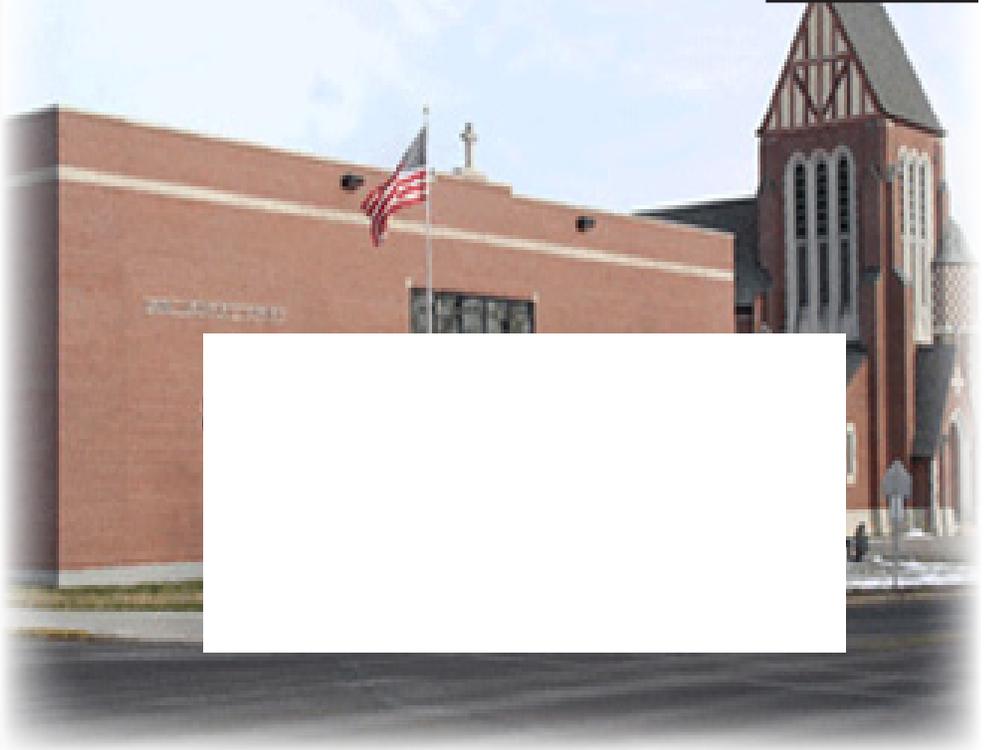
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