



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2020

## Despite Loss in Final Game, Shamrocks Are Champs Both On and Off the Field

by Coach Pat Russman

The 2019 St. Patrick Football team was blessed with many things. Our seniors stepped up and provided leadership and extended their gift of experience to the younger players. This group of seniors was part of four years of highly successful football. They went 10-1, 11-2, 7-5, and 12-1, qualifying for the play-offs in each of their four seasons. In those four years, they won three Regional Championships and were the State Finalist twice.

Coaches Aaron Thelen, Ben Cross, Todd Davlin, Mike Coyne, and Ross Schneider have been instrumental in modeling our Catholic faith and the values of the school athletic program. I have enjoyed being a part of the growth in the faith and knowing that the gifts of the school mission are truly being lived out when our team takes the practice or game field. I appreciate the work of Colin Pline helping on the game days in the booth.

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The Shamrock team reacts after beating Climax-Scotts 49-6 in the semifinal game. They suffered their first loss of the season in the State Finals to Pickford by a score of 48-14.

*Principal Randy Hodge received the following message from a fan who was at the semifinal game:*

Hello Portland St Patrick,

I am from Tekonsha. I am 69 years old. I recently attended a football game between Portland St. Pat's and Tekonsha, I have never in all my years of attending high school games seen anything like Portland St Pat's. Every man played to his absolute best and with pride and at the same time was completely respectful and caring of the opponent at all times.

You have a team that I would consider the poster team for sportsmanship and just being good human beings. They not only ran all over Tekonsha but at the same time your players were coaching the Tekonsha players in how to do better at their position.

I go to the football finals every year at Ford Field and I have never seen a team more deserving of a title than Portland St. Patrick. Few things have impressed me in my life but that game did and whatever you have, the world needs it.

Bless all of you for setting an example that could solve all our problems if followed. Those boys are our future and the future from that view looks good.

Thomas Hampton

# Student Spotlight

Our Student Spotlight this time is Senior Olivia Fogarty, who transferred to St. Patrick School as an eighth grader. Olivia tells in her own words, about the journey she embarked upon when she made the decision to switch schools.

I transferred to St. Pat's in eighth grade after seven years at Portland Public Schools. I thought it would be hard for me to adjust to the new people, to a new reality, but lucky for me, I already knew a lot of the girls in my grade so it wasn't long until it felt like home.

Something that took a little more time adjusting to however, was the faith community. Going into St. Pat's, I had every intention of joining the Catholic Church, but after learning how deep this faith actually was, I realized I needed to wait and learn before making any decisions.



After two years worth of theology classes, and some really supportive friends, I decided it was time to take the leap. My Sophomore year I was baptized, received First Communion, and was confirmed, in front of the whole school.

To me, this wasn't just me receiving God, but also me receiving the Church as a whole. It was me joining a community of people who were there to support me.

That day I received Christ, but I also was given a community who supports me when I struggle in my faith, coaches me in my favorite sports, teaches me school work while also teaching me how to get to heaven, and most importantly loves me as a sister in Christ.

Thank you, St. Pat's.

*May blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,  
and trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

~Irish Blessing

## St. Pat's Alum Named CEO

At the January meeting of the Board of Directors, Chris O'Neill was promoted by unanimous vote to the position of Manager/CEO of Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Homeworks is a member-owned electric utility, serving about 26,000 homes and businesses in mid-Michigan. They also offer propane and are currently building a high-speed fiber internet network.



Chris graduated from St. Patrick School in 2001, and within months of his graduation, was hired to do filing at Homeworks while also attending Lansing Community College where he was taking medical anthropology classes. Chris vividly remembers his interview at Homeworks, as it took place the same week as 9-11.

A few months later, he was approached by Pat Essner, the Customer Service Manager, with the suggestion that he apply for an opening in the Customer Service Department. "Why me?" Chris asked. "Because you're broke and you need it," said Pat.

As he moved into the full-time job in customer service, Chris was also keeping his eyes open for ways to work his way up in the company. He loved working for Homeworks and knew that he wanted to advance his career there.

Over the next four years, Chris applied for 6-8 jobs, and finally, was hired to be the dispatcher for the Electrical Operations Department, which led to taking on responsibilities for mapping, GIS, and utility safety. Small businesses present opportunities to their employees to fill needs within the organization, and Chris became adept at stepping in to help wherever those needs arose. He also became adept at juggling a variety of duties.

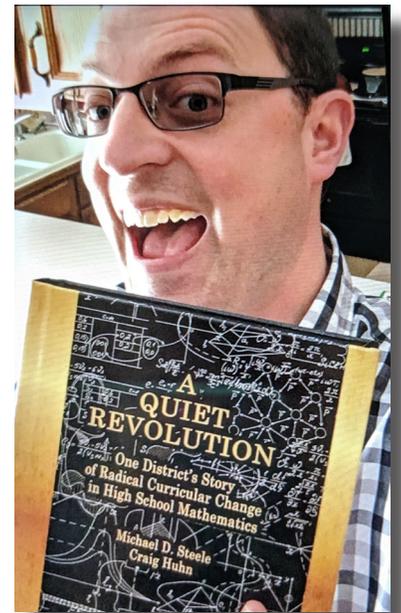
In 2006 he was promoted to be the First Safety Coordinator. Two years after that, a position in the Automated Metering Department opened and he took on those duties, as well. Soon after, he became involved in cyber security,

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# In the Spotlight

## Craig Huhn

*Craig Huhn graduated from St. Patrick School in 1994. He and his wife, Kellie, live in Holt, and Craig teaches math at Holt High School where their daughter Audrey is a freshman. When The Shamrock heard about Craig's venture into writing, we contacted him about this spotlight article. Here, in his own words, is his story.*



I graduated from St. Pat's in 1994, and, having been inspired by a bunch of great teachers, I decided to go to college for education. I initially intended to teach history, but when it came time to choose a major and minor, I decided that I'd major in mathematics and minor in history so I didn't have so many papers to write. At Michigan State, they require you to get a degree in your content area and then do a full fifth year of student teaching. Into my senior year, I still fully intended to be a high school history teacher, where I could facilitate conversations about some of the deep conundrums and consequences of controversial decisions throughout history that have shaped our world. Little did I know that MSU would place me into a methods course in that fourth year based on my major, so I was enrolled in a course on how to teach middle and high school mathematics.

It was here where I felt like my eyes were opened to a whole new world. I saw a way of approaching education in secondary mathematics where the students were involved in actually thinking and sharing their ideas, conjecturing and wondering, and figuring things out for themselves rather than listening to a teacher or professor relay the thinking that other people have already done. Thinking about how this could look gelled with what I envisioned for discussions in history class, and it was exciting to learn about all the work that was being done to research and improve math education. I quickly became passionate about this vision, and was really excited when my internship placement was at the lab school that had been partnered with MSU to work on and learn about this together.

My internship at Holt High School took place in 1998-1999, and I was fortunate to be offered a job there the following year. Between my training and education in math ed from MSU and being immersed in a professional culture of Holt High

School's math department, I began to recognize that teaching mathematics well (with my new idea of what that actually meant) had started to feel like a moral obligation. And part of that obligation was to continue to improve, study, learn, and share as part of a larger professional community.

So, in addition to working really hard to create experiences for students to help them understand mathematics, I was also in a place where I learned how to engage and collaborate professionally. Over time, this led to invitations to present at conferences, consult for curricula, work on research, and contribute to the literature in math ed. Ironically, my quest to avoid writing papers in college has ended up with me writing articles and chapters in books about teaching, and most recently, a book about our struggles and successes working to get more kids to learn more math.

I hadn't intended to do anything that ended up as a book about teaching math, but someone I had worked with previously at MSU had some ideas for putting something together that might be useful to an audience of teachers trying to initiate changes in their districts or buildings to be more consistent with best practices. Piece by piece over a school year and then with some intensive work over the summer, Dr. Steele and I collaborated on authoring Holt's story about rethinking the teaching of mathematics and what it's meant to me as a teacher. *A Quiet Revolution* came out from Information Age Publishing in 2018, and has given me opportunities to talk to teachers across the country about the pressures, surprises, pitfalls, and successes in the evolution of our understanding of how students learn mathematics.

*Craig's book, A Quiet Revolution: One District's Story of Radical Curricular Change in High School Mathematics, is available from Amazon.com.*

# 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](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com). Deadline is September 10, 2020.

## BIRTHS

To **Melissa (Pohl, 2011)** and **Lance Thelen**, a daughter, Lydia Marie, on June 24, 2019.

To **Dale (2005)** and **Chelsea Snitgen** of Howell, a son, Carson Stephen, on April 2, 2019. He joins one sister, Aubrey.

To **Chris (2010)** and **Caitlin Lay**, a son, Alexander William, on March 1, 2020.

To **Cristin (Stiffler, 2009)** and **Brandon Bigham**, a son, Emmett Scott, on October 20, 2019.

To **Kyle (2007)** and **Amanda Lay**, a son, Benson Kyle, on October 19, 2020.

To **Beth (Vallier, 2008)** and **Jake Lowe**, a son, Spencer William, on August 8, 2019. He joins brother, Ian (2).

To **Jake (2008)** and **Abby Gross** of Westphalia, a son, Hayden Edward, on March 3, 2020. He joins siblings Aleah (4) and Landon (2).

To **Mick (1999)** and **Anastasia Hamberg** of Goshen, KY, a son, William Henry, on March 10, 2020. He joins siblings Bethany (5), Evelyn (3) and Luella is (2).

To **Scott (2005)** and **Katie Wieber**, a son, Caleb Robert, on September 24, 2019. He joins brothers Micah and Aiden.

To **Ben (2008)** and **Megan Brown**, a son, Knox Gordon, on January 3, 2020. Baby Knox was born on his daddy's birthday.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Kyle Schrauben (2005)** and **Katie Goodwin** will be married on May 23, 2020, on Islamorada Island in Florida.

**Adam Schrauben (2001)** and **Stacey Spitzley** will be married on August 15, 2020, at Portland St. Patrick Church.

**Marlene (Simon, 1969) McAllister** and **Mike Keusch** will be married on August 1, 2020, at St. Patrick Church.

## WEDDINGS

**Hollie (Hoppes, 2004)** and **Nic McGuire** were married on September 1, 2019, in Grand Rapids. They live in San Diego.

The following weddings took place at St. Patrick Church:

**Bryan Rademacher** and **Katherine Simon (2010)** on September 21, 2019

**Kyle Miller** and **Jessica Jones** on October 5, 2019

**Benjamin Lawless (2012)** and **Jaqueline Platte** on October 19, 2019

**Sean Rutka** and **Macy Becker** on October 26, 2019

**Michael Kochensparger** and **Kristy Mitchell** on November 2, 2019

**Robert Miller** and **Kim Gray** on November 30, 2019

**David Selby** and **Melissa Bowerman** on January 4, 2020

**Mike Bozung (1999)** to **Jessica Klaus Bozung** on January 11, 2020 (Convalidation)

**Marc Finkbiner** to **Cynthia Feldpausch Finkbeiner** on January 18, 2020 (Convalidation)

## IN MEMORY OF

**Stephen James Nowak**, age 67, of Venice Florida, formerly of Portland, Michigan, passed away on September 20, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents (Pauline and Jim). He is survived by the love of his life, his wife Ava A. Nowak; siblings, Linda Armstrong, Sandy (Jim) Johnson, and Doug Nowak; two nephews Kevin and Matthew (Samantha) Armstrong; and two great nephews, Matthias and Maximus.

**Michael Edward Schafer**, age 94, of Portland, passed away September 20, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. He was born September 13, 1925, the son of Edward J. and Laura C. (George) Schafer. Mike was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a devout Christian man. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean War, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus #2168 and the VFW Post #4090. Preceding Mike in death are his parents; beloved wife of 63 years, Irene; siblings, Betty (Clayton) Kramer, Edward Schafer, Rita (Bernard) Walker, Martha (Steve) Fedewa, John Schafer, and Joey Schafer; and in-laws, Leon Stump, Delbert Schafer, Donna Martin, and Reynold (Mary) Martin. Surviving him are his children, Larry (Mary Ann) Schafer, Sue (Steve) Heiden, and Michelle Schafer; grandchildren, Brett and Madison VanHorn; siblings, Jerome (Connie) Schafer, Theresa Stump, and Agnes Schafer; and in-laws, Hilary Martin, Bernie (Robert) Pung, and Rita (Jerry) Schrauben. The family would like to extend their most heartfelt thank you to the staff at Portland Assisted Living and Memory Center and Grace Hospice for the wonderful care they took of Mike.

**Mary Louise Spurrell**, 96, of Portland, formerly Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, and Lansing, was called home by the Lord on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Preceding her in death was her son, David, and husband of 57 years, Arnold. Surviving are her children, Richard (Patti), James (Cindy), Kathryn (David) LeFurge, Pamela (Steve) Patrick, and Julie (Jeff) Lienhart. She was blessed with 12 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. She enjoyed her work at Grand Ledge Public Schools & retired from there. Memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Co. Palliative Care, 2675 S. Cochran Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

**Rosemary (Smith) Simon**, age 88, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister, passed away Sunday, October 20, 2019, surrounded by her family. She was born April 2, 1931, at 505 Divine Highway, Portland, the daughter of Julius and Julia (Feldpausch) Smith. Rosie was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Portland, Catholic

Order of Foresters, American Legion and the V.F.W. #4090 Auxiliaries. Preceding Rosie in death are her parents; husband, Richard J. Simon; brothers, John, Bill, Leo, Richard, and Chuck Smith; sisters, Rita Scheurer and Viola Dutcher; son-in-law, Dan Blemaster; and daughter-in-law, Pam Simon. Surviving are her children, Judy (Tom) Fryover, Charlene (Al) Fedewa, Cyndy (John) Knoop, Susan Blemaster, Gloria (Jeff) Badder, Jim (Martha) Simon, Dennis (Marilyn) Simon, and Andy (Cheryl) Simon; 32 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; sisters, Helen Simon, RuthAnn Hengesbach, "her oldest daughter" Jean VanOsteran, and Julie (Dan) Leonard; brothers, George and Joe Smith; special niece and travel companion, Alice Stanke; several brothers and sisters-in-law; nieces, nephews, cousins; and caring neighbors, Don and Bonnie Miller. The family would like to thank Dr. Abuarihy and Staff, Dr. Mahmood and Staff, McLaren Interventional Radiology, and Sparrow Home Hospice for being Rosie's "angels" and for the excellent care they took of her. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Parish or Sparrow Home Hospice in honor of Rosie.

**Suzanne Grace (Woodcock) Rosenberg** was born on the 4th of July, 1964, in Trenton, Michigan, and passed away on October 27, 2019, in Ionia, Michigan. She was the youngest of eight children born to Edward and Ruth (Kelly) Woodcock. Suzanne met her husband at Aquinas College, and they were married on June 25, 1988 at St. Bernadette of Lourdes Parish in Stanton, Michigan. She was a loving and caring mother to their sons, Andrew and Joey. Suzanne was an outstanding teacher for many years, with a particular gift for teaching children how to read. She taught at St. Patrick School in Portland, SS. Peter and Paul School in Ionia, and Ionia Public Schools. Suzanne was preceded in death by her father, Edward Woodcock, in 1969; mother, Ruth Woodcock, in 2004; baby son, Joey, in 2001; mother-in-law, Ellen Rosenberg, in 2002; and niece, Christina Woodcock, in 2018. She is survived by her husband, Bill Rosenberg and son, Andrew Rosenberg. Her siblings are Nancy, Bob, Dan, Sandy, Mike (Vicki), Steve (Laurie), and Patrick (Lori). Memorial contributions will go to SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ionia.

**Jill Ann Platte**, age 47, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, surrounded by family. Jill was born on April 12, 1972, the daughter of Julius and Patricia (Manning) Platte. Though she had cerebral palsy, Jill lived a blessed and full life navigating life's challenges with a positive attitude and a loving spirit. Jill loved all her nieces and nephews and eagerly awaited Christmas every year so she could be "Ms. Claus" and spoil each one with a gift. Next to her nieces, nephews, and great nieces

and nephews, her favorite thing in the world was shopping and she would go any chance she got. She was preceded in death by her brother, Herbert. Surviving are her parents; siblings, Judy (Jay), Tim (Amy), Ben (Mandy), Ted (Betsy); and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

**Janice Lynn Livingston**, age 81, of Portland, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Janice was born on September 13, 1938, the daughter of Burton and Marian (Barton) Brown. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland and was very dedicated to the Blessed Mother and the rosary. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, George Livingston; son, Joe Lazarus; brother, Jeffery Brown, and a son-in-law, Dave Fletcher. Surviving are her children, Richard (Connie) Lazarus, Dawn Fletcher, Mary Jayne, Elizabeth (Edwin) Helms and Laura (Mark) Davis; 25 grandchildren; several great grandchildren; step-children, Amy Patrick, Roy George (Karen) Livingston, Jr., Carl Eric Livingston and Witt Drewyor; siblings, James Brown, Joan (Kenneth) Guy, Joel (Nelda) Brown, Jerrold (Judy) Brown, William (Pamela) Brown, Anne (Fritz) Russman, Thomas (Cindy) Brown, Christopher (Constance) Brown, Jon Brown, Brian (Pat) Brown, and Michael (Lisa) Brown; sister-in-law, Sue Brown; and many nieces and nephews.

If you have announcements for What's Happening (births, weddings, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) send them to The Shamrock. See page 18 for email and address information.

**Thomas Francis Breimayer**, age 80, of Portland, passed away Saturday, November 2, 2019. He was born May 29, 1939, in Belding, Michigan, the son of Andrew and Esther (Ulrich) Breimayer. Private family services will be held. Arrangements are entrusted to Lehman Funeral Homes. Online condolences may be made at [www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com).

**Alexander John Scheid**, passed away on November 3, 2019, at the age of 93. Alex was born on February 18, 1926, in Tawern, Germany, the son of the late Matthias and Maria Scheid. In 2018, he was preceded in death by his brother, Konrad Scheid, age 91, of Lansing. He is survived by sisters, Olga

Kugel and Priska Schumann. He is also survived by many loving family members in Germany. Alex has resided in Portland since 1953. He was a good friend, helpful neighbor to all, and dear uncle. He will be missed by all. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association in memory of Alex.

**Nancy Kay Makowski**, age 71, of Portland, passed away on Monday, November 4, 2019.

**Hilary John Martin**, age 90, of Portland, passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2019. He was born on October 4, 1929, the son of John and Mary (Nureberg) Martin. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and the K of C # 2168. He is survived by his children, Judy Smith, Marilyn Partridge, Dick Martin, Mike (Liz) Martin, Duane Martin, Patricia (Gordy) Curns, and Phil (Robin) Martin; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters, Bernadine (Robert) Pung and Rita (Gerald) Schrauben; sister-in-law, Jean Esterline. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife of 67 years, Donna; daughter, Rose Binkley; infant son, John Martin; infant daughter, Diane Martin; grandson, Chris Binkley; great-granddaughter, Maxine Partridge; son-in-law, Gary Partridge; daughter-in-law, Jackie Martin; brother, Reynold (Mary) Martin; sister, Irene (Michael) Schafer; in-laws, Loraine (Harold) LeFurge, Allen (Beverly) Mellstead and Earl Esterline. Memorial contributions may be made to SKLD of Ionia or the Alzheimer's Association.

**Anthony Patrick Fitzpatrick**, age 80, passed away on Friday, November 29, 2019. He was born November 4, 1939, in Down Patrick, Northern Ireland, the son of William and Margaret (McNamara) Fitzpatrick. Anthony retired from General Motors after many years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife, Olive, and many other members of the Fitzpatrick and Conlon families. Surviving are his children, Patricia (Don) Neisinger, Margaret (Dennis) Marshall, Anthony (Aimee) Fitzpatrick, Mary (Doug) Hukill, John (Jennifer) Fitzpatrick, and Michael Fitzpatrick; 14 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and several members of the Fitzpatrick and Conlon families.

**Armon J. Platte**, age 79, of Portland, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2019. He was born December 27, 1939, in Westphalia, the son of Harold and Viola (Simon) Platte. Armon was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church where he was an usher and Eucharistic Minister. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany for 19 months. Preceding Armon in death are his parents; grandchildren, Katrin Ritzema and Eric Rekis; sisters, Beatrice Platte, Bernice (Joseph) Esch, and Rose

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## St. Pat's STEAM Program Takes a New TRAC

by Amber Ingraham

As a member of Portland St. Patrick's teaching staff, I am proud to announce the implementation of a new hands-on experience and PBL (project-based learning) program. With our new hardware, our students have had the opportunity to participate in a state-funded competition.

TRAC (Transportation and Civil Engineering) is an educational program sponsored by MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) and designed for integration into science, math, and social science. TRAC has seven modules which engage students in solving real-world problems while connecting them to the work world of transportation. The TRAC curriculum is aligned with the National Standards for Math and Science and offers expanded activities such as a statewide

Design & Build Bridge Challenge and internships for graduating high school seniors.

The MDOT Design and Build Bridge Challenge creates an opportunity for TRAC teachers to enter their students into the world of engineering.

To participate in the challenge students are required to write an engineering proposal, very similar to the work consultants do to secure engineering services. Students who submit complete proposals are invited to participate at the statewide bridge challenge. At the challenge, students test their bridge prototype for strength-to-weight ratios and provide a presentation, summarizing the entire competition process. The combination of the proposal writing, bridge testing, and delivery of a presentation provides 7th



Eight-grade students work on blueprints for their MDOT projects.

to 12th grade students a complete engineering experience that simulates components within the civil engineering industry.

With the professional help of Heather Davis, we were able to purchase five new computers that have the capacity to run sophisticated CAD (Computer-Aided Design/Drafting) programs. The funds to purchase the computers were donated by Sharron Davis; we also received a donation from Davis Construction to purchase our own Pitsco Structure Testing instrument to further the program within our school.

The TRAC program allows the students to compete, but having our own tester will put our STEAM program in a whole new level. For more details on the TRAC competition, please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdot>.

Unfortunately, this year's competition has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Our 8th grade students worked very hard at drafting their proposals to be accepted into the competition and we all really looked forward to the event.

We are continuing with the process as we have our own tester on order. It has been very gratifying watching these young minds explore different building designs, test their ideas in software programs, drafting them with CAD programs, and making their designs come to life by building their own prototypes to be tested. Participating in a multi-step project of this magnitude has offered our students authentic and real-life challenges that will carry with them throughout their education and into adulthood.

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!



Students show off their practice bridges on the day that they mailed their proposals.

## All Ages Attend Annual All-School Open House

The St. Patrick School Open House held March 1, 2020, allowed visitors to tour the facility; meet teachers, administration, board members, and school families; and see firsthand what academic, athletic, and extracurricular offerings are available at the school.

Alumni spanning six decades of graduates were in attendance to see the many updates and upgrades that continue in the facility, highlighted by the gymnasium floor, new technology, and safety and security installations.

Of the families that attended who do not have a student currently enrolled at St. Patrick School, half attended based on the recommendation of a friend, family member, or staff relationship. Prospective families from four counties visited the open house to explore St. Patrick school programs.

Families with prospective preschool and kindergarten students were well represented by those looking to begin their Catholic school



Ken and Kaylyn Livingston and their children, from Ionia, were among the guests who attended the Open House on March 3. Son, Austin (front left) is currently a kindergartner at St. Patrick School. Averie (front right) will be in preschool in the fall, and Adyson (in her mom's arms) is also a future Shamrock.

journey. Families with older students were also in attendance to explore alternate educational options.

Planning is already underway for the school open house in 2021. If you, or someone you know, weren't able to attend the open house, please call the school office at 517-647-7551 for more information or to schedule a tour.



## Improvements to St. Patrick Campus Continue

St. Patrick Campus improvements continue to progress. Last summer the Annex Building, also known as the old convent, was razed. More recently, the parish-owned house across Center Street from the gym was also demolished.

The school itself is also being upgraded. With funds from a large security grant, new exterior doors and a new security system have been installed. This system includes cameras strategically placed throughout the school hallways and at key exterior entries. New cameras and a new buzzer system to admit visitors replaced the old system that had been in place for more than ten years. Door locks are now controlled digitally.

In addition, safety lighting for the Grand River Avenue side of the school, the driveway between the church and school, and the parking lot between the church and school was installed at minimal cost to the school. Lighting fixtures were provided

at factory cost by Eaton/Cooper Lighting through Crites Tidey & Associates of Grand Rapids. Centennial Electric and NECA/IBEW Local 665 of Lansing provided labor at no cost, as a community outreach project.

Six lights were replaced with new LED lights which increased light output for better safety and security of our students and parishioners and also reduced our electrical usage by 66%. This project was the second phase of LED exterior lighting upgrades around our buildings; additional areas will be upgraded as funds and resources allow.

Finally, the school library is getting a facelift. A reorganization project, in its initial stage, involves creating new age-appropriate spaces, colorful signage, and child-friendly shelving. Volunteers and the art classes will be assisting, with no added cost to the school.



New exterior doors at several entrances are part of the recent upgrades to the school. The previous doors on the gym and office entrance dated back to 1951 when the school was built.

**We're enrolling now! Won't you consider joining our school family?  
Call for an appointment to take a tour. Find out more about St. Patrick School.  
(517) 647-7551**



## New Programs for Sacramental Preparation

by Lori Thelen

There have been a few changes in the past year in the Children's Faith Formation ministry. Perhaps the most important change was in the way we prepare our students to receive the sacraments.

We began using new programs for students preparing to receive their First Communion and to be confirmed. The new programs allow the students from our Catholic and public schools to come together to learn about the sacraments.

Since parents are the primary teachers for their children, the parents of the second and eighth grade students were also educated on the sacraments by spending several weeks in formation with Carolyn Heckman. This allowed the parents to gain more knowledge about the sacraments their children would be receiving. This preparation will help guide them through the process and help them answer questions that their children might have.

The second-grade students are now using *Signs of Grace* from Sophia Institute, which teaches them about Reconciliation and the Eucharist separately. The students learned about Reconciliation in the fall and then received this sacrament from Father Mike. The students are currently learning about the Eucharist, and they will receive their First Communions in May.

St. Patrick teachers and catechists shared their time and talents with the students on Sunday evenings for an eight week session. The students had the best of both worlds, gathering as one body of the parish and gaining Catholic knowledge from dedicated Catholics. Forty one St. Patrick, Portland Public, and homeschooled students will receive the sacrament in May.

The eighth-grade students are now using *Chosen* from Ascension Press to learn about Confirmation. When the

students are finished with their eight-week session, they will be confirmed in May. The 46 students are a combination of St. Patrick, Portland Public, and homeschooled students.

Johnathan Johnson was gracious enough (or Father Mike twisted his arm enough) to give up his Sunday afternoons and evenings to share his knowledge with the students. Mr. John told them about his experience and theological education. I believe that both students and instructor have enjoyed this positive experience.

Because of these changes to our sacramental preparation programs, our St. Patrick teachers and Monday night catechists had more time to focus in depth on other aspects of our faith.

Another small change, but one that made a huge impact, was the collection of coins for Positive Solutions, Informed Choices (formerly Pregnancy Services of Ionia County---PSIC). In the past the students collected diapers and made blankets for the agency. This year we learned that their greatest need was monetary donations, so we kicked it up a notch and started the *Baby Bottle Coin Challenge*. This gave the students an incentive to challenge each other, and the class who donated the most each month was rewarded. There were three classes that ended up winning this reward, and altogether we collected \$513.51 during the three months it ran. The students still made blankets for the agency.

What else is going on around St. Patrick Parish? It has been a strange yet rewarding year!

We all know about Father Mike's goal to "get yourself into the pews" and "show your face at Mass." Along with his motivational homilies and making attendance at Mass a high priority, he has brought to the surface the serious matter of our Catholic faith. As a result, more people are attending Mass, getting married at St. Patrick Church, having their children

baptized, joining the church, receiving the sacraments, and becoming involved in the many groups that have become available.

Does it start with the children? The parents? The teachers and staff? Father Mike? Why not start with YOU?

*If you would like more information about our Children's Faith Formation Ministry, contact Lori Thelen at 517-647-6505 ext. 419 OR [lorithelen@portlandstpats.org/church/](mailto:lorithelen@portlandstpats.org/church/). You can also visit the website at [portlandstpats.com](http://portlandstpats.com) under the Children tab. It runs September through May and is offered for 4-year-old to eighth graders on Monday evenings. We offer also offer a homeschool program if this is something that would work for your family's schedule.*



Last year's St. Patrick Parish Confirmation students at the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

# FEELING SUCH JOY OVER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Merry Hass

On November 7, 2019, Father Mike gave an incredible homily at a school Mass explaining vocations. Afterwards, he called all those children who are feeling called to the priesthood or religious life to come forward, and the congregation prayed over them. More than twenty-five students went forward for the prayers.

And these were only the students from St. Pat's preschool-8th grade who are feeling called at this time. There are even more than this if we include our high school and our students who attend Portland Public Schools.



More than 25 students went forward on November 7, when Father Mike asked how many of them have felt a call to the religious life.

On March 3, 2020, the current crew of altar servers received a letter from Deacon Don. Among other things, the letter stated that there are now 90 active altar servers. Because of this large number, most will only be assigned 2-3 Masses over the next four months, unless they have volunteered for a special assignment and have the seniority. This is amazing! Absolutely amazing!

Our family moved to Portland just a little more than three years ago. When I attended my first Holy Thursday Mass at St Pat's, it was a jaw-dropping experience for me. Seeing all those high school students serving at Mass was incredible. This is not the norm by any means in other parishes! What a great example to our youth and all of us!

Parents you are doing great. Deacon Don you are a true blessing; and parishioners of St Pat's you are doing many things right!

This is the church! Both now and in our future! Encourage them, pray for them, and support them!

# FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION



## Education Bell Award: Gary Fedewa

The Father Flohe Foundation has chosen Gary Fedewa as the recipient of the 2019 Education Bell Award. The award originated in 1992 and is given to an alumnus who has lived his/her life in such a way that he/she can be held as a model for our students.

Gary graduated from St. Patrick School in 1971 and has been a lifelong member of the parish. Gary is an ardent supporter of St Patrick's, where all three of his and his wife Janet's sons (Craig, Jeff, and Chad) graduated. His grandchildren, who are current students at St Patrick, are the fifth generation of Fedewas to attend the school.



Gary has been integral to a multitude of fundraising efforts for the school and parish. He has chaired the Century Club dinners, the Summer Festival, and served on the Father Flohe Foundation and as President of St Patrick School Board. When Portland was hit by the tornado in 2015, Gary was one of the first to start cleaning up Father Flohe Field. Additionally, he drives bus for school field trips and sporting events.

Gary always puts God first and has exemplified this for his family. He has served as an Altar Server, Lector, and Minister of the Holy Eucharist. Gary was the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and remains an active 4th Degree Knight. Gary is a second-generation Bell Award recipient, joining his parents Marvin and Janet Fedewa, who were awarded in 1995.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, Gary! The Bell Award will be presented to Gary later this year.

### Nominations Open

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

# Portland Country Club Now Under New Management

Last summer the Portland Country Club began a new phase under a new management team. Nick and Tabatha Spedokse and Adam and Kylie Spedoske took over on August 1, 2019. Nick and Adam are avid golfers and fulfilled a lifelong dream of running the course they grew up on.

Nick is a 1994 graduate of St. Patrick School and played varsity golf for four years. He was a member of the 1992 State Championship Team. His cousin, Adam, is a 1999 graduate of Portland High School and played on the varsity golf team at PHS. Adam has a degree in Turf Management from Coastal Carolina's Horry Georgetown College.

Since taking over the course, the team's main focus has been updating the course itself. They have gone through the entire property trimming trees, mowing overgrown areas, and aerating and top-dressing tees and greens. Reconstruction of the

bunkers is underway.

In addition, they look forward to introducing new challenges to the course and also plan to add new trees and bunkers this year. Golfers will also see new carts on the course; the 2020 fleet arrived on February 19. They are seeing steady improvement in the overall condition of the golf course and are looking forward to the 2020 season.

Future plans for the clubhouse include new flooring, roof repairs, and a complete remodel of the restrooms.

Doors will open on April 1, 2020, and kickoff of the 63rd annual Best Ball Invitational will take place in May. Registration is available at the Portland country Club or online at [www.oldpcc.com](http://www.oldpcc.com)

Nick and Adam are looking forward to an exciting year and invite everyone to stop out to see the changes.



## CHRIS O'NEILL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

networking, and IT support. Every responsibility that he took on gave him more knowledge of the company.

In 2015, after several years of simultaneously handling safety, IT, and metering, Chris facilitated strategic planning and tactical planning for the staff.

In 2017 he wrote the business plan for a new endeavor for the company, the Fiber-to-Home Project, that would provide fiber optic internet to Homeworks' entire customer base. The information for this plan came from two feasibility studies that had been contracted out.

In October 2018, the \$73,000,000 fiber project was adopted unanimously and Chris was promoted to Fiber Outside Plant Manager. Chris points out proudly that in the past 18 months, Homeworks has built out more than 700 miles of fiber and is currently servicing 2800 homes.

So, whatever became of that LCC degree in Medical Anthropology? Chris, like many other young adults,

ended up switching course and spent several years going to night school at Davenport University. Along the way, he earned two associate degrees and finally in 2017 earned his bachelor degree in Business Management with a specialty in Leadership Effectiveness. Chris says that while it is definitely possible to get a degree while also holding down a full-time job and supporting a family, it is a much harder way to do it.

Chris will step into his new position on May 1, 2020. In the meantime, he's shaking hands with many of the key players in the energy industry (hand shaking has been put on hold for the time being, due to the coronavirus), travelling around the state to meet leaders in government, and adjusting to what will become his new life. He will be the youngest CEO of an electrical cooperative in the state of Michigan. "I don't want to become a different person," said Chris. "I also don't want to lose the connection that I have now with my co-workers and members."

Chris and his wife Cali have been married for seven years and have three sons, Easton (6), Dominic (3), and Ericson (1).

# More information About the Old Convent

In the fall issue of *The Shamrock*, we told you about the demolition of the Annex Building, also known as the Old Convent.

**Patricia Glossi** called to say that there were lots of stories to be told about that old building, and two alumni, **Dick Tichvon** and **Laura (Platte) Stegenga** were kind enough to share their memories with us. Dick said that it's not easy to recall something that occurred 60 years ago, but he and Laura came up with the following information.



## FOOTBALL TEAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

### WE PRAY

The team prayed weekly rosary, daily prayer before and after practices and games. We set weekly faith goals. Knowing that we have confident young Catholics that have experienced the benefits and grace of prayer inspires me as a Catholic.

### WE LEARN

The 2019 team earned First Team Academic All State and had three Individual Academic All State players, Tyler Coyne, Bret Weller and Jeff Davlin. The academic success translated to the knowledge of the game and good relationships on and off the football field.

### WE ACHIEVE

This team was undefeated through the regular season and play-offs, with their only loss coming in the state finals. We had several MHSFCA All State players: Ned Smith RB, Zach Spitzley WR, Ned Smith DL, Alex Kissane DB, Riley Kissane DB, Derec Fedewa LB, Connor Cross QB.

Parents, I so greatly appreciate the opportunity that you have given your children to attend St. Patrick School. I know they appreciate the investment that you have made in sending them here. I appreciate so much the support displayed time and time again for St. Patrick School.

One of the many lasting memories that I will have about this season is how the parents and community members helped clear the snow off the football field in preparation for the semi-final game.

What a wonderful analogy of what you do for St. Patrick School and Parish. On faith you knew that cold seemingly endless task of clearing endless yards of snow just might make the game better for all. You didn't complain you just went to work and had faith that your efforts would help. It truly paid off. Thank you! I am grateful that we have parents who step up and make a difference for our School, Parish and Community.

Upon completing eighth grade at St. Patrick School, the boys in our class were excited that we would be going to the public school where we could play sports.

For some reason, that I am not aware of, Father Flohe decided to keep us at St. Patrick's. Our freshman year was spent in what was once the janitor's home; boys in one room, the girls in another. In our sophomore year, 1950-51, we moved into a brand new building, which later would become the nuns' home.

We had two teachers, Father Heyer who taught religion and history, and a nun, whose name we do not recall, taught English and Latin. Both were excellent teachers.

We recall having dances in the building; square dancing was popular at that time. In 1951-1952, we finally moved into the brand new high school for our junior year.

Despite our early resentment of having to remain at St. Patrick's, I now have no regrets as we received an excellent education.

In later years, the nuns' home became Miss Laura's, a preschool for 3 to 5 year olds which met two or three times a week for 2 hours. It was operated by Laura Stegenga assisted by Miss Joan (Opperman). Upon Laura's retirement, it was taken over by the parish and managed by Carol Kahn.

Sorry for not remembering more. Other classmates might have additional memories. Many others who attended school in the nuns' house are no longer with us.

# alumni news

## Reunion Information

The **Class of 1960** holds an annual reunion each September. Joyce Rogers says that planning will begin in June.

The **Class of 1961 Annual Reunion** will be on Friday, September 11, 2020, at noon at the Wagon Wheel. Contact Mary Ann Goodman for more information.

The **Class of 1965** will hold a reunion in the fall; a specific date has not yet been chosen. Contact Carol Kahn (517-331-1276) for more information.

The **Class of 1975** is just beginning the planning process for their 45-year reunion. Shiela Cook is the contact person.

The **Class of 1980** will be celebrating their 40-year class reunion on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The class will be attending 4:30pm Mass at St. Patrick Church followed by dinner at Fabiano's Restaurant in Westphalia at 6:00 pm. After dinner, the festivities will continue with a bonfire at Bill and Sharon Stegenga's house. Contact Debbie Miros (517-526-4179) for more information.

The **Class of 1985** will be holding its 35-year reunion on August 22, 2020. Details are still being worked out. Contact Amy Smith 517-526-3236 with any suggestions or questions.

The **Class of 1995** is planning a 25-year reunion for late summer or early fall. Classmates interested in participating can contact Chad Brown via Facebook or email at [chadbrown17@yahoo.com](mailto:chadbrown17@yahoo.com).

Attention **Class of 2000!** Save the date (or book your travel back to Portland!) for Friday, July 31, 2020, to celebrate your 20-year class reunion. The evening will include dinner and/or drinks at a local Portland establishment. More details to be provided in the Class of 2000 Facebook page, or contact Keelie Honsowitz 517-490-9773 for more information.

The **Class of 2005** will hold their 15-year class reunion on August 15, 2020. The event will include golf at a local course and dinner at Brenda Lenneman's residence: 7249 Juniper LN, Portland MI 48875. RSVP to Julie Wight 517-449-6597 or Brenda Lenneman at 517-204-0973.

The **Class of 2015** is finalizing plans for their reunion, which will be held in September—date TBD. Call Bailey Schneider (517-526-5263) for more information.

*If you need an address list of your classmates, contact Janet Pung at the St. Patrick School office ([janetpung@portlandstpats.org](mailto:janetpung@portlandstpats.org)).*

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

The **Class of 1959** held their 60-year reunion at the Wagon Wheel on Oct 11, 2019. The classmates have decided that they are going to get together every year from now on to stay in touch. They had a very good time reminiscing about all the good times they had during their school years.



Congratulations to the **Class of 1974**. Their 45-year reunion was hosted by Larry Fox. There were 37 in the graduating class, which included three exchange students. Sixteen classmates, including two of the exchange students (Paul Nystrom from Finland, and Frieda Van De Voorde from Belgium), attended and also two former teachers. A great time was had by all.



### 50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1970

Members of the Class of 1970 should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2020. The Father Flohe Foundation has already contacted you, asking you to send information for a class reunion book. You will also receive an invitation and complete information about the reunion in a few weeks. 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!

The 40-year reunion of the **Class of 1979** was held on October 5, 2019. The festivities started with the 4:30 Mass, followed by dinner in the Oak Room at the Wagon Wheel and a trip down memory lane. There were 23 classmates in attendance. The classmate who travelled farthest was Ken Kissane from Alabama, and the closest to home was Mark Mauren from Sunset Ridge. They are all looking forward to more shenanigans at their 45-year reunion.



Class of 1979

To celebrate their 5-year reunion, the **Class of 2014** gathered on a beautiful fall Saturday for a cookout. They played yard games, shared memories, and enjoyed catching up with one another. Special thank you to the Wiebers for hosting!



Class of 2014

Several members of the **Class of 1966** got together for lunch while they were all in Florida in February. The picture includes spouses and other guests who were also in the same area.



## SPRING PICTURE CONTEST

Here is another photo. What year? What event? Who are the players? See the contact information on page 18 and send us your answers.



## FALL PICTURE CONTEST ENTRIES

We ran this picture in the fall issue to see if it jogged any memories. It sure did! Jim Schneider from the Class of 1969 remembers it very well. Sara Pohl isn't old enough to remember the play, but she has worked with the Civic Players for many years and has undoubtedly heard lots of the stories.



I could not wait to respond. Easy, easy!

It is *Brigadoon*, of course. Kathie Russman and Annie Brown! I loved and pursued them both back in the day. I love them still...my First Loves! I will always love them.

The guy in back, second from the right, is Jim Trierweiler. He sang lead and got to hug Kathie. I was very jealous 'cause I thought I sang (and hugged) real well too. So what about Mary Thrasher? She supplied most of the music on the piano. I do not see her pictured. I think Anne Eddy may have directed, fuzzy on that.

And that skinny kid way right rear in the photo? Looks exactly like I did then. Who is he? He probably grew up very handsome, too, eventually.

All the men are Hollywood handsome and all the women astonishingly beautiful - just a typical bunch of Portland young folks in 1969.

Heck, I still love Portlanders.

**Jim Schneider (1969)**  
**Grand Rapids**

In the current edition of *The Shamrock*, you have a photograph of a group in costume. They are part of the cast of *Brigadoon*. On the far left, back row, is John Tannery. On the right, middle, with a hat on is, I believe, Dan Schrauben. I am not familiar with the rest. I believe that Anne Eddy directed that show, as she did several others, including *West Side Story* and *Charlie's Aunt*.

**Sara Pohl**

# Not Your Average Museum-Going Guy

by Anne Bennett

Ralph Wight (1979) has been around the world, but the museum he knows best is the one in his own home. Ralph, along with several members of his family, including son, Zach (2005), daughter Hannah (2006), and daughter-in-law Julie (Schafer, 2005), has hunted in many countries on several continents. He has 65 animals of various species in his home. His most recent trip to New Zealand, resulted in trophy animals such as a tahr, ram, red stag, fallow deer, goat, and wallaby.

Ralph has been hunting for years, starting locally, expanding to Northern Quebec to hunt caribou, Newfoundland, for moose with his kids, and Colorado for antelope with his son Zach. He expanded outward until he hunted in Africa and the Arctic Circle for a musk ox. Ralph does most of the taxidermy himself.

The Wights have had remarkable adventures on these hunting trips that include Zach's first hunting trip as a young teenager to Manitoba during which he and his father



Zach and his red stag. His father, Ralph also bagged one.

witnessed the majesty of the aurora borealis. In the Arctic, Ralph stayed in a small plywood hut with no heat while he hunted musk ox. In South Africa, Ralph brought back the trophies of blesbok, impala, zebra, gemsbok, kuku, warthog, jackal, springbok, and duiker. Maybe some of the frightening



Zach and Ralph on the snowy cliffs of New Zealand with Ralph's tahr in the background.

parts of this trip are registering your guns with the police when you are barely off the plane and going through the metal detector at the mall where there were also guards with machine guns.

In 2017, Ralph and Zach decided to take a hunting trip to New Zealand with Julie and Ralph's girlfriend Kathy. Hannah and her husband were unavailable for this family

adventure as they were having an audience with the Pope in Vatican City. The four spent 2½ weeks in New Zealand, where Julie, Ralph, and Zach each bagged a ram. Julie's hunting adventure included a 6-minute pre-load prayer before her one-and-done-shot was complete. Zach and Ralph continued to hunt for tahr, which meant taking a helicopter to the top of a mountain



Julie with her ram, a lucky one-and-done shot.

and jumping out of the hovering helicopter onto the rocky mountain terrain to hunt the tahr. Once Ralph was able to hit the animal, it tumbled hundreds of yards down the mountain. The pilot then had to find the fallen tahr, and the outfitter hooked it up to the helicopter for the haul back to the ranch. Zach describes this helicopter ride as the worst rollercoaster ride imaginable.

After their hunting adventure on New Zealand's South Island, the group made their way to the North Island for some mainstream tourism. Zach hiked a cold and wet Tongariro Alpine Crossing. For fellow Lord of the Rings followers, this is where they filmed Mount Doom. They explored the glow worm caves, repelling 215



Julie, Zach, and Ralph Wight, each with their own ram.

feet down, ziplining across a river in the dark, and inner tubing down the river. They also visited Hobbiton, the site of the Shire in the Lord of the Rings movies. In New Zealand there is little light pollution so, they also took time at night,



Zach and Julie Wight, Kathy Guthrie, and Ralph Wight at a roadside park on the North Island of New Zealand.

*continued on page 17*

# SUMMER FEST

*Always the Weekend After Fathers Day!*

**New this year:**  
**Free Pancake Breakfast**  
**More Food Trucks**  
**Music by Star Farm**

## SHAMROCK AUCTION APRIL 25, 2020

TICKETS & RAFFLES:  
[BIDPAL.NET/SHAMROCKAUCTION2020](http://BIDPAL.NET/SHAMROCKAUCTION2020)

### DINNER & DRINKS

Did you know your \$25 entry ticket to the Shamrock Auction gets you access to all you can eat and all you can drink for the entire evening? The menu will include a spin on Willy Wonka's three-course dinner gum and a special fizzy-lifting drink! You'll also be entered into an appreciation drawing for a chance to win \$200 (4 will be drawn)!



### RAFFLES



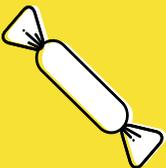
Our 2020 raffles Golden Ticket, "I want Tuition (do not need to be to win), Heads or Tails Candy is Dandy and multiple drawings. Most raffle tickets cap, so get your tickets only!

### LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

We've got a great start to our list of live and silent items to bid on. Visit our OneCause site and see a sneak peek of what's available to bid on during the Auction.



### DONATIONS



Even if you're unable to attend this year's Auction, you can still make donations. Donate an item for live/silent bidding, or visit our OneCause site and make a monetary donation.

# CANCELLED

Both events have been totally cancelled for 2020 due to COVID 19.

## SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

### Covid 19 Alert

*As the Shamrock Newsletter went to press, the auction plans were uncertain, due to Covid 19. The auction committee put out this alert:*

The Shamrock Auction WILL take place but we are currently making alternate plans for an online-only event depending on the state of affairs in April. We will send out more communication to our awesome and loyal Shamrock faithful just after Easter. Stay tuned and stay connected (and healthy)! We need our St. Pat's community now more than ever.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to one of the committee members, or send us a Facebook message: st. patrick school shamrock auction - portland mi.

## Saturday, June 27

7:30-10:30 am  
**Free Community Pancake Breakfast**  
 8:00 am Youth Baseball Tournament  
 8:30 am Volleyball Tournament  
 9:00 am 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament  
 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Kids Games/Activities  
*(all-day bracelets available)*  
 10:30 am - close Food Trucks open  
 12:00 pm Euchre Tournament  
 2:00 pm Silent Disco  
 3:00 DJ Dill Pickle  
 6:00 pm Tent changes to 21+ (Tickets \$10)  
 7:00 pm TBD  
 9:00 pm Star Farm

## Sunday, June 28

11:30 am We Three Strings  
 11:30 am - 3:00 pm Portland Cruisers Cruise-In  
 12:00 am - 3:00 pm Kids Games/Activities  
*(all-day bracelets available)*  
 1:30 pm Hubbardston Irish Dancers  
 3:00 pm Raffles  
 3:00 pm Baseball Awards Ceremony

### Beer, Craft Beer, Wine Tent OPEN DAILY!

5:00 - 11:30 pm on Friday  
 8:00 am - 11:30 pm on Saturday\*  
 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm on Sunday

# June 26-27-28, 2020

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Marie (Herman) Gensterblum; brothers, Jerry, Delbert, and Edward (Shirley) Platte; and brothers-in-law, Herman Miller and Frank Koenigsnecht. Surviving are his cherished wife of 53 years, Joane (Schneider) Platte; children, David (Bobbie) Platte, Ruth (Evan) Ritzema, Daniel (Julia Black) Platte, Angela Rabahat, Andrew (Kristin Davis) Platte, Brenda (John) White, Jeffrey (Alyson) Platte, and Sarah Platte; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; sisters, Kathleen Miller, Ellen (Ken) Bailey, Ann (Paul) Thelen, and Joann Koenigsnecht; brother, Bernard (Sharon) Platte; in-laws, Marguerite Platte and Charlotte Platte; and many Schneider in-laws and nieces and nephews.

**Richard Gilbert "Hickory" Fox**, age 70, of Ionia formerly of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2019. He was born on November 7, 1949, the son of William and Lillian (Hoppes) Fox. Dick was the Past President of the F.O.E - Woodland Chapter and a member of the Greenville Chapter. Dick was preceded in death by his parents; younger brother, David; infant sister, Connie; and sister, Beth Ralston. Surviving are his significant other, Eraina Young; children, George "Fred" Fox and Kari (Jordan) Braun; siblings, William (Lori) Fox, Jr., Diane (Tom) Allen, Steve (Laurie) Fox, Sue (Pete) Huhn, Louan (Pat) Malloy, and Doug (Evelyn) Fox; aunts, Leila Fox, Arlene Luscher, and Lucy Hoppes; and several nieces and nephews.

**Thomas Patrick Little**, born January 11, 1943, a faithful son of the Catholic Church, was born into eternal life on December 14, 2019. He pushed back on illness as long as he could in order to spend one last blessed year with his beloved family. Thom was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Palmer; his father, Francis Little, and his brother, Richard Little. Surviving are his wife of 52 years Susie; his children, Tommy (Jenni Weller), Jenny (Jeff) Hurst, and Jon (Audra Post). Thom is also survived by eight grandchildren who when they weren't sneaking Grampa Lump's Pepsi, enjoyed dancing with him.

**William Henry Trierweiler**, age 85, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Bill was born on February 8, 1934, in Westphalia, the son of John and Olivia (Koster) Trierweiler. He was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 2168. Preceding Bill in death are his parents; wife of 44 years, Colleen; siblings, Eva (Charles) Reineke, Frances (William) Hoffman, Annette (Edwin) Owen, and Mary Louise Trierweiler; and in-laws, Stanley (Joan) Hoppes, Gerald Hoppes, Leon (Geraldine) Hoppes, Richard (Carol) Hoppes, James (Sharon) Hoppes,

Virginia Townsend, Alice Hoppes, and Richard Kelly. Surviving Bill are his children, Brenda (Kevin) Schneider of Westphalia, David (Jan) Trierweiler of Holt, Steven (Linda) Trierweiler of Portland, and Lisa (Mark) Bartlett of Portland; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; siblings, Richard (Barbara) Trierweiler, Charles (Jeanne) Trierweiler, John (Catherine) Trierweiler, and Margie (Mike) LaRaia; in-laws, Eugene Hoppes, Larry (Dee Dee) Hoppes, Thomas (Jill) Hoppes, Mary Hoppes, Alice Kelly, and Oscar Townsend; and many nieces and nephews. For those desiring, contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Bill.

**Mary Jean (Bengel) Frye**, age 72, of Nevada, formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully at her home on December 30, 2019. Services will be held in the spring.

**Stanley Joseph Thelen**, age 74, of Portland, has earned his reward and is walking with Jesus after a beautiful life lived here on Earth. He was born December 10, 1945, to Florentine and Aurelia (Miller) Thelen. Stan met and married the love of his life, Carole Hollenback on September 23, 1967. As a result of their love, one son, Steven Wallace Thelen, was born. He is preceded in death by his parents, Florentine and Aurelia; special in-laws, Wallace and Beatrice Hollenback; sister, Janet Sanderson; and brothers, Thomas and James Thelen. Surviving Stan are his wife, Carole; son, Steven (Mary) Thelen; grandsons, Aaron (Becky), Sean (Tori), and Bruce Joseph; and his "favorites," his great-grandbabies, Charli, Fisher, Emmelyn, Faye, and Nora; sister, Rose Keener; brothers, Gene, Larry, Pat, Wayne, Bill, and Joe Thelen; as well as many nieces and nephews.

**Eloise Katherine Patrick**, age 99, of Portland, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 5, 2020. She was born on March 12, 1920, the daughter of Anthony and Anna (Fedewa) Pung. Preceding Eloise in death are her husband, William; granddaughter, Chris Wilcox; grandson, Mark Strang; great-grandson, Tristen Brown; sons-in-law, Richard Strang, Bernard Goodwin, and David Rector; and siblings, Leon Pung, Louis Pung, Lorena Irler, and Mary Ann Kolp. Eloise is survived by her adoring children, Joyce Strang of Portland, Janet (Jack) Wilcox of Clarksville, Ann Goodwin of Portland, Katherine Rector of Okemos, Bernadette (George) Wohlheter of Portland, Debra McClung of Grand Rapids, Susan (Ross) Martin of Portland, William (Alice) Patrick of Portland, Jerry (Beverly) Patrick of Portland, Steven (Pam) Patrick of Portland, Michael (Valisa) Patrick of Pewamo, and Thomas and Robert Patrick of Portland; 35 grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. For those wishing, memorial contributions may

be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation or a charity of one's choice in honor of Eloise.

**Linda Lou Smith**, age 77, of Portland passed away peacefully on January 13, 2020. She was born on August 21, 1942, the daughter of J. Louis and Marian (Thurber) Logel of Williamston. Preceding Linda in death were her parents, her husband, James A. Smith, sister, Mary Browers, brothers-in-law, Jerome Smith, Larry Klein, Chris Goodman Sr., Robert Shattuck, and sisters-in-law, Jewel Smith, Liz Gray, and Jeanette Shattuck. Linda is survived by her four children, Julie (Scott) Hughes, of Portland, Pamela (Phil) Hill of Eagle, Steve (Sara) Smith of Eagle and James (aka Charlie) Smith of Portland, her 4 beautiful grandchildren, Emily Hill, Samantha Smith, Edward Hill and Shane Smith, her admired baby brother, Doug (Noreen) Logel Sr., her cherished lifetime friend, Liz Courtier, sisters-in-law, Rita Klein, Pat Goodman, Marlyn Smith, Evelyn Smith, and several nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Food Bank, in honor of Linda.

**Elizabeth Ann Seal**, age 81, of Portland passed away peacefully on January 21, 2020. She was born on September 10, 1938, the daughter of Alfred Sr and Lucy (Miller) Goodman of Portland. Preceding Elizabeth in death were her parents; her husband, Gordon D. Seal; brothers, Jim and Mike Goodman; nephew, Brian Goodman; niece, Staci Rogers (Weatherbee), father and mother-in-law, Ernest and Genevieve Seal; daughter-in-law Kathy Seal; and brothers-in-law, David Bills, Dennis Seal, and Patrick Seal. Liz is survived by her seven children, Cary (Barb) Seal of Portland, Rory (Robin Smith) Seal of Portland, Bradley Seal and Patricia Need of Portland, Darcy (Thomas) O'Mara of East Grand Rapids, Daniel (Victoria) Seal of Portland, Stacy (Robert) Gross of Portland, and Shawn (Amy) Seal of Portland; 21 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Alfred (Carol) Goodman Jr., Pete (Ruth) Goodman, Pat (Luann) Goodman, Neil (Karrie) Goodman, Denny (Teresa) Goodman; sisters, Louise (Jim) Gensterblum, Alice Bills, Denise Goodman, Nancy Yager; sister-in-law Mary Ann Goodman, Patricia (Ron) Weatherbee, Suzi Seal, Joyce Matheny; brothers-in-law, Thomas "Buck" (Janie) Seal, Marvin (Doogie) Seal; and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Portland Community Fund, in honor of Liz.

**Dolores Marie Pline**, age 91, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. She was born on November 20, 1928, the daughter of William and Verina (Kloekner) Thoma. Dolores was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Preceding her in death are her beloved husband of 67 years, Wayne Pline; son,

Brian "Gus" Pline; granddaughter, Kelly Pline; great-granddaughter, Theresa Bartlett; and sister, Bernadine Witgen. Dolores is survived by her children, Keith (Jane) Pline, Bonnie (Donald) Miller, Allen (Roxie) Pline, Joe (Janice) Pline, LuAnn (David) Offord, and Lori (Steve) Schrauben; daughter-in-law, Robin Pline; 18 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and brother, Bill Thoma. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the ISD – Freedom Acres in honor of Samantha and Grace.

**John Albert Scheurer**, age 79, of Lyons passed away on January 28, 2020. He was born on March 17, 1940, the son of Harold and Bertha (Schlosser) Scheurer of Ionia. Preceding John in death were his parents and his in-laws, Leonard and Pauline Smith; his son, Spencer John; his brothers, Harold and Jerry Scheurer; his sister, Betty Knox; his brothers-in-law, Ken Knox, Harold Smith, Leon Smith, and Ron Gamble; and his sister-in-law, Elaine Gamble. John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marie (Smith) Scheurer; his children, Sonja Scheurer of Lansing, Shayla (Keith) Schneider of Portland, Stephea (Mike) Melnyk of White Lake, Sara (Steve) Smith of Eagle, and Charlie and Bruce; five grandchildren; his sister, Peggy (Joe) Russman; and his brothers and sisters-in-law, Joyce Segerlind, Janie Scheurer, Clara Smith, Sandy Smith, Norm and Mari Jane Smith, Barbara and Jake Eager, Betty and Pat Cavanaugh, Gladys and Chris Starr; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. John was born and raised on his parent's farm in Ionia, Michigan, and in his early years enjoyed farming with his family. He met his wife, Marie, from Westphalia, Michigan in 1964, and they married on April 30, 1966, at St. Mary's Church in Westphalia. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Portland St. Patrick Athletic Association in honor of John.

**Blanche Kincaid**, age 95, of Portland, passed away January 30, 2019. She was born in Brighton, Missouri, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Kroutil) Novak. Blanche was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Preceding Blanche in death are her parents; beloved husband of 61 years, Byron Kincaid; and siblings, James Novak, Charles Novak, and Marie Mulligan. Blanche is survived by her loving children, Byron (Mary Kay) Kincaid, Jr., Michael Kincaid, Tom (Jan) Kincaid, Patricia (Mark) Beech, Debra (Gary) Sochor, Susan Clemens, and Steven Kincaid; 16 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Hart; and sister-in-law, Marie Francka. For those wishing, contributions may be made to Burcham Hills Assisted Living, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 in memory of Blanche.

**Patricia Louise Platte**, 83, of Portland, our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-

grandmother and great-great-grandmother went to heaven on February 8, 2020. Patricia was born October 14, 1936, to Edward and Lorena (Cusack) Manning. Patricia was preceded in death by her son, Herbert; daughter, Jill; and granddaughter, Amber. Patricia is survived by her devoted husband of 61 years, Julius; children, Judy (Jay), Tim (Amy), Ben (Mandy), and Ted (Betsy); 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandson. For those wishing to do so, contributions may be made to Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, 1210 W. Saginaw St., Lansing, MI, 48915.

**Norma P. Simon**, of Portland, age 93, passed away Wednesday, March 4, 2020. She was born April 22, 1926, in Westphalia, the daughter of Ferdinand and Pauline (Arens) Martin. Norma was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Resurrection Choir. Preceding Norma in death are her beloved husband of nearly 50 years, Anthony Simon; son, Steven; brothers, Frederick, David, Vernon, and Anthony Martin. Norma is survived by her children, Larry (Sandy) Simon of Portland, Kathy Lehman of Portland, Annette (Brian) Fedewa of Portland, Dennis (Gladys) Simon of Spring Lake, Judy (Dean) Smith of Portland, Mary (John) Black of Lake Odessa, Anthony (Teresa) Simon of Portland, and Teresa (Dennis) Martin of Westphalia; 22 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; sisters, Millie Droste, Mary Ann (Roman) Koenigsknecht, Phyllis Thelen, Linda (Paul) Ambrustmacher, and Janice (Alvin) Feldpausch; sister-in-law, Genevieve Martin; brother-in-law, Celestine Simon. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church or the Fr. Flohe Foundation in honor of Norma.

**Dennis A. Pohl**, age 68, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020. He was born on December 27, 1951, the son of Joseph and Mary (Fedewa) Pohl. He was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, Marvin Feldpausch; nephew, Christopher Spitzley; and niece, Jennifer Simon. Surviving are his wife, Elaine Pohl, they were married for 43 years (will celebrate 44 on May 1st); children, Nicholas Pohl and Cindy Teague, Keith (Andrea) Pohl, Jason (Kristin) Pohl, Sonya (Jeremy) Boland; three grandchildren with another one on the way; siblings: Stan (Jean) Pohl, Larry (Ann) Pohl, Eugene (Jan) Pohl, Ann Fedewa, Mike (Anita) Pohl, Lauren (Glenn) Simon, Jan (Den) Spitzley, Julie (Terry) Thelen, Steve (Julie) Pohl, and Robert (Jackie) Pohl; in-laws: Marilyn (Rick) Fisher, Duane Feldpausch and Cheyne Branham, Ralph (Diane) Feldpausch, Denise (Steve) Simon, Janet (Tony) Schafer, Lloyd (Rhonda) Feldpausch, Roy (Patty) Feldpausch, Giles (Karen) Feldpausch, Lavern (Nancy) Feldpausch, Teresa (Jack) Pline, Donna (Scott) Piggott; and many nieces and nephews.

when the sky was clear, to admire the Milky Way beaming across the sky.

Zach, probably because he was the hero of the Mount Doom hike, was made a chief when they visited a Maori village. He was part of a ritual, played some games, and led the tribe in battle chant, which required presenting a scary face. The Maori meal, reported to be tasty, was prepared by burying hot rocks with food on top, then covering it all with hides.



Chief Zach representing the Wight tribe during the visit to the Maori Village.

After their adventures in New Zealand, the Wights spent a few days in tiki huts on stilts over the water in Tahiti, where they also snorkeled and kayaked.

Many of us have a phone full of photos or scrapbooks of our adventures, but the magnificent results of Ralph Wight's adventures are on display in his home, complete with a full musk ox.

Next up for Ralph is a hunting trip to Canada with some close friends to hunt a moose in Manitoba. Then in 2021 a family hunting trip with his son and brothers-in-law to British Columbia to hunt bear.

# Upcoming EVENTS

- Shamrock Auction .....April 25, 2020
- Confirmation ..... May 3, 2020
- Graduation .....May 17, 2020
- First Communion .....May 30-31, 2020
- Summer Fest..... June 26-28, 2020
- Class of '70 50-Year Reunion ..September 12, 2020
- Fall Festival ..... October 11, 2020
- Fall issue of The Shamrock..... Late September
- Deadline for submitting info....September 10, 2020

Please note: The dates for many of these events will undoubtedly change, depending upon the Covid 19 situation. Watch the school/parish websites for current information.

## LOST SHEEP

The post office is returning more and more newsletters to us with the notation that they are *Address Unknown*. Can you scan the list below and see if you know where any of these Lost Sheep are?

We are quite sure that some of them haven't moved, but the automated sorting system has kicked them out for one reason or another.

Please contact us (see contact info at right) with up-to-date information, even if they haven't moved. Thank you!



- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1954 Mary Lou Barley Martin | 1987 Shiela Morales            |
| 1956 Duane Irrer            | 1987 Stacy Ferhnolz Steinman   |
| 1957 Marlene Hoppes Tanner  | 1989 Amy Wixon                 |
| 1958 Ronald Tichvon         | 1990 John Huhtala              |
| 1959 Joyce (Howe) Davis     | 1991 Elaine Mauer              |
| 1960 Bill Koelzer           | 1992 Karen Fedewa Aldering     |
| 1961 John D. Pung           | 1993 Darcy (Hinds) Vandecar    |
| 1966 Dan Lehman             | 1994 Jeremy Pohl               |
| 1966 Tony Blundy            | 1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom |
| 1973 Lillian Castranova     | 1996 Shaun Lehman              |
| 1974 Steve Jenkins          | 1996 Paul Theuerkauf           |
| 1975 Susan Thelen           | 1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa |
| 1977 Brian Jenkins          | 2000 Jeff Pung                 |
| 1977 Bob Rensi              | 2000 Adam Bartlett             |
| 1980 Angie Young            | 2001 Segrid Johnson            |
| 1980 Patrick Ellis          | 2002 Andrew Stopczynski        |
| 1981 Mike Binder            | 2004 Don Vollman               |
| 1982 Jeff Strang            | 2004 Cara Monks                |
| 1983 Steve Lehnert          | 2004 Mark Schulte              |
| 1985 Scott Osmar            | 2005 Tony Fedewa               |
| 1986 Phil Gensterblum       |                                |

## 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/school](http://www.portlandstpats.com/school)
- Parish website: [www.portlandstpats.com/church](http://www.portlandstpats.com/church)
- School Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/portlandstpatrick/>

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!

## 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. It can also be dropped in the collection basket. Please see the box below for specific addresses and phone numbers. To prevent errors, we require all information to be submitted in writing. Be sure to mark it **ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS**.

## The Shamrock Newsletter

Contact information:

- 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
- Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807
- Text: 517-575-8000 (Be sure to say who you are)
- E-mail: [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com)
- Website: [www.portlandstpats.com/school/alumni](http://www.portlandstpats.com/school/alumni)

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

- Sue (Stiffler) Van Lente..... [suevanlente@gmail.com](mailto:suevanlente@gmail.com)
- Kathy (Zimmerman) Schrauben..... [kaschrauben@gmail.com](mailto:kaschrauben@gmail.com)
- Cindy (Stiffler) Selden ..... [cindyselden@yahoo.com](mailto:cindyselden@yahoo.com)
- Judy (Pung) Fleischer ..... [judyfleischer@portlandstpats.com](mailto:judyfleischer@portlandstpats.com)
- Sue (Gross) Fox..... [fox\\_mike@att.net](mailto:fox_mike@att.net)
- Anne Bennett ..... [annebennett67@gmail.com](mailto:annebennett67@gmail.com)
- Connie (Fedewa) Vallier..... [vallierbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vallierbc@sbcglobal.net)



As this newsletter was being written, our world was in the grip of Covid 19. Though it's not the cheeriest puzzle that has ever appeared on this page, it deals with the reality of the situation. All of the words are ones that you've undoubtedly heard hundreds of times in the past weeks. Find all of them and uncover the phrase, which comes from Proverbs. It is an appropriate reminder and is the answer to the puzzle.

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

### 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 May 1, 2020. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

CANCELLED  
 CHINA  
 COMPASSION  
 COMPLICATIONS  
 CONGESTION  
 CORONA  
 DOCTORS

HEALTH  
 HOSPITAL  
 ISOLATION  
 MASKS  
 PRAYER  
 PREVENTION  
 ROSARY

SANITIZER  
 STAY HOME  
 SYMPTOMS  
 TAKE OUT  
 TOILET PAPER  
 TRANSMISSION  
 TRAVEL BAN

TREATMENT  
 VENTILATOR  
 VIRUS  
 WASH HANDS



The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words about 1969. The answer to the puzzle was a well-known quote: *“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”* The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Jane Pohl, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Jane. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

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 140 Church Street  
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This issue of The Shamrock is dedicated to our seniors, the Class of 2020. Their senior year has turned out to be a lot different than anyone could have imagined. Stay strong, Class of 2020. Persevere in life and move out into the world like the wonderful, strong people that you are. You will make a difference in the world!

