



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2020

## COVID CAN'T KEEP US DOWN!

### Despite virus, St. Patrick Church and School continue to thrive

*Who would have ever thought that 2020 would turn out to be such an unusual year? COVID-19 and the worldwide response to it have created a historic and newsworthy time that will certainly be remembered by all. People from Portland will remember the quiet streets, closed businesses, and eerie silence that blanketed the community for several weeks in March and April. St. Patrick parish has its own story that will, undoubtedly, be told by those who were there. The story about adaptations and survival.*

The executive order from Governor Whitmer to shut down all schools came on Thursday, March 12, 2020. It definitely was a cause for concern, but thankfully, St. Patrick School was prepared.

"We anticipated the shutdown ahead of time," said High School Principal Randy Hodge. "We had a plan ready, which allowed us to adapt and transition to distance learning efficiently and effectively. Even though this was the first time we had to face an issue like this, we had the know-how and the tools that allowed us to successfully switch to remote learning. Despite the challenges we faced, our students only missed one day of instruction. We did not panic; we were prepared!"

K-8 Principal Cortney Smith agreed, "St. Patrick was extremely nimble and able to shift seamlessly from in-person to remote instruction."

By Monday, March 17, the students from St. Pat's were "back in school," completing lessons and participating



Mass was held outside during the summer months in this large white tent located in the parish office parking lot. Graduation, First Communion, and Confirmation were also held in the tent.

in virtual classroom instruction with their teachers.

St. Patrick Church also faced unprecedented conditions. Working under the directives of the governor and Bishop Walkowiak, Sunday Masses were immediately suspended.

Administrative Assistant Amy Smith said that the Serenity Prayer was what got her through those first difficult days. The parish office was

closed, there were no Sunday Masses, and though the questions kept coming, she didn't always have the answers.

Thankfully, the church itself remained open, with protocols in place, so that worried parishioners had a place to sit quietly and pray. Weekday Masses also continued.

Within a few weeks, St. Pat's was ready to begin Sunday Masses online. Each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., Father Mike Alber celebrated Mass in the church, with no one present except an altar server, a lector, the organist, and the camera man. The response was phenomenal. The debut Mass on April 5 garnished 3500 views. Holy Week services also were seen by thousands of viewers.

When the weather warmed, an enormous white tent was erected in the parish parking lot, and St. Patrick parishioners could once again attend live Sunday Mass. Hundreds of people were there each week, wearing masks and carrying their own chairs.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Student Spotlight

Our Student Spotlight this issue is sophomore Joshua Snitgen, a third-generation Shamrock with a passion for science and technology.

"I've always been very curious about how things work," says Joshua. "I used to take apart old phones and electronics when I was little just to see what they looked like inside. Then I got really interested in astronomy and how the universe works. I was the kid that asked for things like telescopes and chemistry kits for Christmas."

This natural curiosity has allowed Joshua to work ahead in his science classes at St. Patrick High School.

"I was able to take freshman science as an eighth grader at St. Pats, then completed biology on my own in the summer through Michigan Virtual," says Joshua. He's currently the only sophomore studying physics with a class of seniors. "Mr. Hodge and my teachers have been so helpful and encouraging; I don't know if I could have done this at any other school!"

Joshua was also a co-leader of the St. Patrick School "Hack Club" for two years, where he helped other students explore computer coding and mini-robotics competitions at weekly after-school meetings.

"I remember talking with Mr. Austin at the St. Patrick Summer Fest the summer before seventh grade," says Joshua. "He told me about 'Hack Club,' an international network of student-led computer coders. I didn't know much about coding at the time, but it sounded so exciting that I couldn't stop thinking about how to get others involved!"

The recent COVID-19 shutdowns gave Joshua an opportunity to do a lot of science-related writing. His blog, [thatspreposterous.com](http://thatspreposterous.com), delivers a weekly dose of "how can that possibly be true?" topics in astronomy, physics, and quantum mechanics. He's also been working on a science



fiction novel that he hopes to finish before the end of the year.

"St. Patrick School has been a great place to try new things," says Joshua. "The teachers and staff have always encouraged me to explore my ideas."

Joshua is the son of Doug (1996) and Grace Snitgen. His sister Emily is a freshman at St. Patrick High School. Joshua is a member of the St. Patrick Bowling and Quiz Bowl teams. He also enjoys playing piano, studying business, planning escape rooms, and traveling with his family.

## Like Father, Like Son!

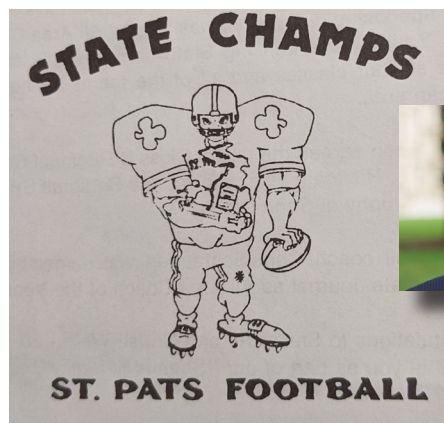
For more than 31 years, *The Shamrock* has been featuring students and alumni. Way back in the winter of 1992, *The Shamrock* printed the following story about Doug Snitgen, Joshua's dad.

### THE NEXT PICASSO?

As a result of the successful athletic seasons that St. Patrick's experienced this year, Shamrock T-Shirts have become the fashion hit among the fans. Available in many different styles, they can be seen almost everywhere you go -- including church!

One of the ninth grade students has particular reason to feel proud when he sees all of these shirts, for he drew the pictures and designed the layouts which appear on the fronts and backs of the shirts.

Doug Snitgen, son of Dave and Jean (Kissane) Snitgen, has been interested in art since he was young. This year, his drawing of a big burly football player wearing a Shamrock uniform was chosen to appear on the State Championship shirts -- cradling the Championship trophy in his arms. The shirts were marketed to the school by the TJH Co., owned and operated by alumnus, Tom Hodge. (Reprinted from Winter 1992 Shamrock newsletter)



This design on the left, created by Doug Snitgen (right), was used on state championship t-shirts in 1992.



# In the Spotlight

## Randy Hodge



*St. Patrick High School principal and alumnus Randy Hodge (Class of 1987) is currently enrolled in the Diocese of Grand Rapids Diaconate Formation program. The diaconate program is a four-year discernment process to ascertain if the interested individual meets all the necessary and required qualifications to become a deacon.*

Three years ago, while spending time before the Blessed Sacrament, Randy Hodge felt an unexpected calling from God. The voice was suggesting to him that he should pursue the diaconate.

Ironically, that same week, several people from the St. Patrick School family asked him if he had ever considered becoming a deacon. Taking that as a sign, Randy began researching the diaconate program in the Diocese of Grand Rapids and ended up meeting with Deacon Jim Hessler, who oversaw the program at that time, and soon began the application process.

Before a candidate can submit his application, he must meet the following qualifications. He must be:

- A Roman Catholic man, at least 35 years of age (and no older than his early 60s).
- An active member of his parish, living within the diocese.
- In good health, of sound moral character and mature faith, and a regular participant in the sacramental life of the Church.
- If married, in a strong, valid, Catholic marriage for a minimum of five years and have the support of his wife and family.
- If unmarried, be willing and able to commit to celibacy.

The application and screening process are rigorous. Sixteen candidates are chosen for the program, which enrolls a new class every other year. Randy was accepted into the

class of deacons called the Parmenas Class, which began its formation in 2019, and began his first year, which is called Aspirancy.

After the first year, if the Aspirant agrees to continue in the program and the diaconate assessment team believes he has met all the requirements to continue in the program, he then becomes a Candidate for the next three years.

Throughout the four years of the program, the Candidate will take a required 20 courses through the University of Notre Dame STEP program. Each course lasts approximately 6-8 weeks and is completed online. The candidate is expected to commit approximately 25-30 hours a month completing courses and meeting the other requirements of the program, which also includes time spent volunteering in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, and parish and street ministry.

The diaconate is not a paid ministry; it is one of service. However, a deacon may be hired to fill the role of Director of Faith Formation or administrator of a parish, or work in some other paid position in a parish or diocese. In those instances, he is being paid because of the job he is hired to fulfill and not because of his role as deacon.

If a candidate finishes the program and is ordained to the permanent diaconate (not to be confused with the transitional diaconate for those who are becoming priests), the bishop assigns him to a parish. If Randy successfully completes the diaconate program and is ordained to the permanent diaconate, this would not impede his ability to continue in his role as administrator at St. Patrick School.

Randy has enjoyed taking the courses through the STEP program and enjoys learning more about the Catholic faith. He says that he has enjoyed the first year of the program. "Michelle and I have enjoyed spending time with the other Aspirants and their wives and look forward to the second year of the program," he said.



Randy and his first granddaughter, Brynley Cora, born on April 2, 2020.

# 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 March 10, 2021.*

## BIRTHS

To **Sam** (2017) and **Amelia (Schrauben, 2018) Hodge** of Columbus, GA, a daughter, Brynley Cora, on April 2, 2020.

To **Victoria (Spitzley, 2011)** and **Zach Smith**, a son, Abel Leon, on August 4, 2020.

To **Jeff** (2005) and **Jordan Brown**, a son, Weston Rodgers, on August 19, 2020, which was his daddy's birthday. We're not sure how they do it, but the Brown boys seem to have a knack for having babies on their birthdays. In the last issue we announced that Jeff's brother Ben had become a father on his own birthday!

## WEDDINGS

**Shane Riley** (2003) and **Stephanie Hoag** were married on July 11, 2020, at the Basilica of St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids. The officiating priests were Father Troy Nevins and Shane's brother, Father Ryan Riley. Father Troy was the associate pastor at St. Pat's when the Riley boys were in school. Father Ryan said, "Right after Steph came down the aisle, my dad started crying, Shane's allergies got the best of him, and then I started tearing up. Fr. Troy looked at us and said, 'Are we all gonna start crying today?'"

**Courtney Dixon** (2013) and **Jesse Shafer** were married at Westbrook Farmstead in Ionia on July 25, 2020. The new couple live on a Centennial Farm in Ionia.

**Tyler Pierce** and **Victoria Schiller** were married at St. Patrick Church on July 25, 2020.

**Mike Keusch** and **Marlene (Simon, 1969) McAllister** were married at St. Patrick Church on July 31, 2020.

**Kyle Smith** and **Hanna Sands** were married at St. Patrick Church on August 1, 2020.

**Grace Pearson** (2015) and **Shane Ferris** were married at St. Patrick Church on August 8, 2020.

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

**Linda Price** (2016) and **Andrew McCleary** were married at St. Patrick Church on August 22, 2020.

Dear readers:

We really need your help.  
Will you please send in  
information for this page.  
It's beginning to be very  
difficult to find things to fill  
the space. Thanks!

See page 18 for email and  
address information.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Byron and Mary K. (Bower, 1969) Kincaid** celebrate 50 years of marriage on September 26, 2020. They were married at St. Patrick Church.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Mary A. Kloeckner**, age 90, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away on Sunday,

March 22, 2020. She was born on October 16, 1929, the daughter of Patrick and Margaret Redmond. Mary was member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and enjoyed singing in the choir. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; daughter, Janet; siblings, Thomas, Richard, Vincent, and Rita; and many members of the Kloeckner family. Surviving are her daughter, Susan (Scott) Thelen of Westphalia; two granddaughters; sisters-in-law, Patricia Mace and Joan Cook; and many nieces and nephews. Per Mary's wishes, memorial contributions may be made to the food bank in her name.

**Susan Ann Brown**, age 73, of Portland, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2020. She was born on January 3, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of Leo and Virginia (Shinske) Swistara. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. Preceding Susan in death are her parents; husband, Jeffrey Brown; sisters-in-law, Janice (George) Livingston and Anita Swistara. Susan is survived by her loving children, Michele (Bernard) Pelc, Jennifer (Robert) Brennan, and Chad (Jennifer) Brown; nine grandchildren; brother, Gary Swistara; and several brothers and sisters-in-law.

**Catherine L. Schafer**, age 80, of Portland, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. She was born July 5, 1939, in Portland, to Elon and Hilda (Brown) Dilley. Catherine was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and lived life to the fullest through simple pleasures. She did daycare while the kids were young, then worked as a lunch lady at the school and assisted with catering. Catherine did ironing for many people throughout her adult life. She also loved to crochet, read, garden, tend to flowers, and watch the birds until Alzheimer's disease took these things from her. Preceding Catherine in death are her parents; husband, Frederick Schafer; and daughter, Sharon Schafer. Her memory will be cherished and kept alive by her children, Michael (Ronda) Schafer, Deborah (Richard) Kueick, Jane (Daniel) Russ, Gregory (Cindy) Schafer, and Joseph Schafer; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and brothers, sisters, and in-laws.

**Ted Miller** died following a stroke on April 10, 2020. He was born in Portland, Michigan, to Herbert and Verena Miller, who preceded him in death. Ted graduated from Portland St. Patrick High School as Valedictorian of his class in 1964. After graduating from Michigan State University, he moved to Washington D.C., and worked as an analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1967-1994. He married Mary A. Maby on June 3, 1972, and they had two children, Elizabeth Verena of Wake Forest, North Carolina, and Herbert George of King George, Virginia. Prior to his retirement from the CIA, he earned his law



degree from George Mason University and worked parttime as an attorney, continuing that until moving to Sequim, WA, in 1997. Ted is survived by his wife and children along with daughter-in-law Sandra; one granddaughter; sisters, Carol Kahn, Sue Miller, and Joyce Pline. There were no services, but the family will plan a Celebration of Life when conditions allow. Memorial donations in "Memory of Ted Miller" can be made to the Sequim Boys and Girls Club, PO Box 4167, or the Shipley Center (Sequim Senior Services), PO Box 1827, both of Sequim, WA, 98382.

**William Schrauben, Jr.**, age 66, died on April 25, 2020, at his home in Portland, MI, from complications from cancer of the head and neck, which he had been living with since the spring of 2018. Bill practiced as a small-animal veterinarian at the Arbor Hills Veterinary Clinic in Jackson, Michigan, for 37 years before retiring in 2015 and moving back to his hometown of Portland. Bill was born July 5, 1953, in Portland, Michigan to the late Bill Sr. and Marie (Gross) Schrauben, and was the oldest of eight children. He graduated from Portland St. Patrick High School in 1971 and went on to study veterinary medicine at Michigan State University, where he graduated in 1977. While studying at MSU, Bill met the love of his life, Denise Mergener. They were married on September 17, 1977, and were married for 27 years until her death in 2005. Bill enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. His pastimes included deer hunting, sci-fi reading, and watching MSU sports. As a retiree, he enjoyed Wednesday night trivia, golfing with his brothers, and testing his green thumb. He will be remembered as an honest and forthright veterinarian, a helpful and appreciative son and sibling, and a loving and protective father. Bill is survived by four children: Nathan, Joel (Sarah), Lee (Keegan), and Eric (Rhiannon). He is also survived by his seven younger siblings and their families; numerous nieces and nephews; his mother, Marie; and five grandchildren.

**Daniel J. Lehman**, 72, of Escanaba, MI, passed away April 30, 2020, in Escanaba. He was born January 23, 1948, in Portland, MI, to Fred and Ann (Curtin) Lehman, and graduated from Portland High School in 1966. He was formally trained as a plumber and pipefitter at Lansing Community College, eventually completing his certification as a high-pressure pipe welder. He was a strong union supporter, retiring as a member of UP Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 506 (Escanaba). Dan was an accomplished private pilot who occasionally flew in support of the Delta County Civil Air Patrol, and was a member of the Michigamme Chapter (#439) of the Experimental Aircraft Association. Dan was preceded in death by his parents; wife Mary Lehman; and brother-in-law James R. Fedewa. Surviving are his sons, Eric (Lois) Lehman of Rockford and William (Mellanie)

Lehman of Gladstone; five grandchildren; siblings, Francis (Ginger) Lehman of Portland, MaryAnn Fedewa of Dimondale, John Lehman of Branch, Sam (Marcy) Lehman of Woodland, Dave Lehman of Hastings, and Connie (Mark) Huckendubler of Sunfield; and lifelong friends Dan (Diane) Martin, Chuck (Connie) Carr, and Dennis Esch. A private burial was held at Gardens of Rest in Wells, MI. A memorial mass will be celebrated at Portland St. Patrick Parish at a date to be determined. Memorial contributions may be made in Dan's memory to a charity of your choosing.

**George Leo Smith**, age 82, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, May 13, 2020. George was born on May 23, 1937, in Portland, the son of Julius and Julia (Feldpausch) Smith. George greatly enjoyed his time working at Cook Brothers in Portland and also at the Ionia County Road Commission. Preceding George in death are his parents and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by four sisters and one brother; many nieces and nephews; two sisters-in-law; the Cook Family; and his best friend, Dr. Busch.

**Katrina Marie Pace**, eldest daughter of Rick and Sue Guilford, left this world in the early hours of May 18, 2020, eight days shy of her 58th birthday. Katrina was bigger than life, an empathic person who shared other people from the inside out. A tireless protector of her flock, her list of friends is the phone book. She was known as Mama K to many who took shelter beneath her wings. She made the most of the hand she was dealt. Katrina celebrated 37 years of sobriety this year, and was damned proud of it. She used her experiences to counsel others looking for a better way. Her life was proof that they could find it, too. Always up for a road trip with friends she called Soul Sisters, she traveled when she could, taking in Rod Stewart and Santana concerts, the Women's March in Washington, soaking up the sun in Florida, and going barefoot every chance she got. She was a good bridge player, loved a good double or better yet, redouble, and believed no game is complete without a little smack talk. At the top of Katrina's list of passions were the love of her life, Joe, and their large combined family. They loved each other fiercely and delighted in making their home a haven for those they loved. She called him "my man" and he loved her with all his heart. Joe's enduring memory of Katrina was their engagement, an event that took place a few short hours before her death. It was captured on camera, thankfully, for Joe and all of us to cherish. Pancreatic cancer is vicious, and though Katrina fought like a tiger, it proved more than she could overcome. She leaves behind an army of people who are heartbroken over her departure, including fiancé Joe Martinez; children Susan (Nate) Reed, Angelica Pace, and James Pace;

stepchildren Brittany Fischer, Blayke Luna, Juan Luna, and Selena Luna; nine grandchildren who adored her; parents Rick and Sue; sisters Jeni Sainz, Pauline Guilford, and Andrea Guilford; and nine nieces and nephews.

**Kathryn "Kay" Ellen Hartwig**, age 67, passed away on May 20, 2020, in Wyoming, Michigan, after a long illness. Kay was born on October 12, 1952, to Vera (Lawless) and Newton Hartwig. She was preceded in death by her father (1962) when she was 10 years old; her mother (2006); and her brother Rev. Fr. Lawrence Hartwig (1998). As a youngster, Kay was known for her Irish red hair, wonderful blue eyes, and freckles. She loved pickles, potato chips, and playing with her friends outdoors. She loved Michigan in the winter, sliding, skating, and snowmen. As an adult, she graduated from the Mercy School of Nursing and spent her early career in hospital acute care, public health, and eventually pursuing today's equivalent of a nurse practitioner degree at the University of Michigan. She is survived by her brother, Thomas (Peggy) Hartwig of Rockford, MI; three nieces; one nephew; and three great-nieces. Kay, like so many others, suffered from a complex health condition for many years. Her journey on earth was long and hard. May she now rest in peace in the arms of her God, her parents and brother, and all of those loved ones. In lieu of flowers or memorials, anyone wishing to may direct a donation in her memory to: Disability Advocates of Kent County, 3600 Camelot Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546.

**Leon "Pete" N. Sondag**, age 87, of Portland, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 5, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was born on July 13, 1932, the son of Edward and Anna (Heyer) Sondag. Leon was a devoted Press Operator at General Motors for many years until his retirement. He was a proud medic of the Korean War in the U.S. Army. Leon enjoyed camping with his family at Gun Lake and Davenport, Florida. He spent his free time waterskiing, snowmobiling, smelt dipping, and traveling. Leon's greatest joy in life was his family and the time he spent with them. Preceding Leon in death are his parents; beloved wife of 63 years, Alice (Selden) Sondag; siblings, Robert (Rita) Sondag and Rita (Tom) Mason; and several in-laws of the Selden Family. He is survived by his children, Dolores Sondag, Joyce (Jon) Bower, Connie Rosas, Steve (Kendra) Sondag; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; brothers, Jerry (Gertie) Sondag and Jim (Marsha) Sondag; several Selden in-laws; and many special nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Portland V.F.W. #4090, 1324 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI, 48875 in honor of Leon. The family would like to express a

*(continued on page 16)*

## What is A Shamrock Legacy?

by Randy Hodge

Over the past year, the benefactors of St. Patrick School should have received three issues of *A Shamrock Legacy* in their mailboxes. Because there has been some confusion and concern, we want to tell you about the new publication and to ensure you that it is totally separate from *The Shamrock* newsletter that you are reading now.

*The Shamrock* newsletter was created in 1989 to ensure that our alumni stay up-to-date with the happenings of St. Patrick School and Parish. It lets you know what is going on with more than 2,000 living alumni located around the world. It helps share news of births, deaths, marriages, ordinations, and other life events of our alumni and it keeps everyone informed about major school/parish events and happenings.

*A Shamrock Legacy* was created last year to make sure all current students and their families, all alumni, and all donors are aware of what is happening at St. Patrick School, and more importantly, to help them understand how they can help meet the needs of the school. The common goal of the two publications is to ensure that St. Patrick School remain viable and affordable in perpetuity.

We cannot accomplish this goal alone. We can't do it with just the school families. We must reach out to our alumni and friends for support. We need your prayers, expertise, and financial support so that St. Patrick School can continue to be the best possible educational facility in our area.

Last year we told you about our new Development and Advancement Team. This team has accomplished a lot in its first year:

- Established a Planned Giving. You can access this website by going to [www.portlandstpats.com/school](http://www.portlandstpats.com/school), and clicking on the Giving tab at the top.

- Created a donor database that allows us to accurately record and recognize our donors.

- Sent out three issues of *A Shamrock Legacy*.

The team will continue to evolve, thrive, and grow, and has plans that include but are not limited to the following:

- Continue to send out three *A Shamrock Legacy* newsletters a year with a holiday appeal in our midyear edition;

- Begin scheduling meetings with benefactors to talk about planned giving options;

- Add new members to our Advancement and Development Committee;

- Set up an Enrollment Management Committee to recruit students to St. Patrick School;

- Establish an endowment fund for scholarships to ensure any family can afford to send their child(ren) to St. Patrick School.

Please note that these endowment funds will not take away from the Father Flohe Foundation fund. We encourage donors to continue to make donations to the FFF; any new fund will be set up to work in conjunction with the Foundation, not in opposition to it.

If anyone is interested in making a major contribution to the St. Patrick School general budget, to a capital

improvements fund, to an endowed scholarship fund, or to the Father Flohe Foundation, please contact us.

Contact Mr. Randy Hodge at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or Mrs. Cortney Smith at [cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org](mailto:cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org). You may also contact them by calling the school at (517) 647-7551.





# What's Happening at School?

**CHROMEBOOKS:** We are within a few months of having our entire student body (K-12) on a 1:1 Chromebook program. Students in grades 6-12 already have a 1:1 Chromebook. Students in grades K-5 will have devices later this year. An order for Chromebooks has been placed. Due to high demand, the estimated shipping time is December. When devices arrive, they will be prepared and issued to each K-5 student.



Future engineers in the making! Our 8th grade STEAM class is building cities and will program robots to travel through them. (See Mi-Star information at the right.)

**DONATION FROM GRAND HEARING:** Thank you to Doug Logel/Grand Hearing Center for donating clear masks to Portland St. Patrick School. These masks make it significantly easier for students who are deaf and hearing impaired to see/hear their teachers.

**DONATION FROM THK:** Thank you to THK Rhythm Automotive Michigan Corporation for designing and donating shields for St. Patrick office and classrooms. One type of shield will be used in the school office; the other shields are designed so that a teacher can sit at a table with several children, and all of them are separated from the others. These will be invaluable in the younger classrooms and will make our classrooms much more versatile.



(continued on page 14)



## New Middle School Science Resource

We are excited to announce the adoption of a new science curricular resource for middle school. MiSTAR out of Michigan Technological University (MTU) is grounded in the new Michigan Science Standards, and has engineering at center of each unit.

### ENGINEERING

Each unit in MiSTAR has an engineering and design challenge built into the learning. Students will recommend how to use a donated piece of land, how to build a better dog crate, and design a home "off the grid."



### ALIGNMENT

In 2015, the State of Michigan adopted a new set of science standards. These standards require students to figure things out and solve problems. MiSTAR provides a vehicle for teachers to support this type of learning.



### STEMWORKS

MiSTAR is a certified STEM-Works curricular resource. This simply means it is vetted as a notable resource that provides students with the opportunity to engage in high quality STEM experiences.



### MICHIGAN

There are 130+ school districts, 700+ teachers, and 70,000+ students using MiSTAR in the state.



### NETWORK

MiSTAR is continually updating their resource, and it provides a network of educators, a series of web-events, and professional learning facilitators to support teachers throughout the year.



### AWARD WINNING

MiSTAR's cell phone case unit was just awarded a High Quality NGSS Design Badge, meaning it is nationally recognized as an exemplar science unit in middle school.



### CENTERED IN SCIENCE

What does Creation tell us? The MiSTAR resource allows for students to make sense of God's Creation, the ultimate goal of science. Students will make evidence based claims, and engineer design solutions supporting those claims.



**We are 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**

# Athletic Association Needs Your Help

## Successful Fall Festival Dinner and Raffle are Crucial

For nearly 70 years, St. Pat's Athletic Association has been a rock-solid fixture at St. Pat's, supporting the entire athletic program and helping out wherever we are needed. Though there have been a few times in past decades when our funds ran low, generous donations and careful budgeting allowed us to survive the tough times and get back on track.

Last year, the school and parish needed our support more than ever. Prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year, we discovered the gym floor needed replacing. The Athletic Association stepped forward and covered the entire cost. When we decided to rebuild the Fr. Flohe building in a way that allowed us to leverage the building for multi-use, year-round parish, school, and athletic needs, the Athletic Association again came through with the funding.

As a result of these two unexpected projects, we have depleted not only most of our savings account but our rainy-day fund, as well. This is the challenge we faced back in January. We looked forward to our upcoming fundraisers and sports seasons that would allow us to begin the path back to stable finances. We had faced challenges in the past, but through the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, Shamrock athletics had never been in danger.

We have never faced a challenge like COVID-19. As a result of the coronavirus, events supporting the Athletic Association like our Shamrock Auction and Fall Festival have been either cancelled or reduced in scale, making fundraising for St. Patrick sports nearly impossible. On top of this, the MHSAA has rules in place to minimize or eliminate fans at high school sporting events for the foreseeable future. This limits opportunities to gather as a community and cuts into our revenues from ticket sales, concessions, and 50/50 raffles.



The new building on Father Flohe Field can be used year round, and is designed to be multi-functional.

We can't hold our annual Fall Festival like we usually do, but we have redesigned it so that it complies with the rules that are in place. The only two events of Fall Festival that we can conduct this year are the takeout dinner and the redesigned raffle. It is crucial to the future of Shamrock athletics that these two events succeed and turn a profit.

Complete information about the Fall Festival can be found on page 9. To comply with COVID-19 rules, most of the event will be virtual. You can sign up for takeout meals and buy raffle tickets online. For our supporters who do not have access to a computer, or who prefer not to do these transactions online, we'll be here to help you! Contact Jill Scheurer at 517-944-4725. She will take your information and then place the orders for you.

Please be generous this year. We can will get back on track. But, we can't do it alone. We need all of you! Thanks in advance.



The new gym floor was installed in the fall of 2019.

The spirit to raise the money is still alive and well, but the reality is that COVID-19 and the MHSAA rules will dictate what we can and cannot do. It is a much more stressful financial position than we've ever seen in the past, and we are asking for your help in finding a way out of it.

## Our Mission

The St. Patrick School Athletic Association (SPSAA) was formed in 1951. The organization's original charter was to raise funds necessary to operate Shamrock athletic programs and to furnish the volunteers that make them successful. Today's mission remains the same. We have been successful in meeting these goals for almost 70 years.

Currently, the budget runs about \$150,000 per year. This money is raised through:

- The Shamrock Auction
- The Fall Festival
- The Shamrock Sports Raffle
- Gates and concessions

Hundreds of volunteer hours help us run these fundraisers and ensure that our home games are hosted in a way that represents our parish and our school well. Our network of volunteers are what make St. Patrick School so special.

## No Pay-to-Play

Over the years, St. Patrick athletic programs have been blessed with a generous following and community support. This has enabled the Athletic Association to pay for the entire athletic budget and ensures that Shamrock athletes do not have to "pay to play." To our knowledge, we are the only school in the area that does not require player fees for sports.

In addition, our fundraising allows all St. Patrick students, with or without prior experience, to participate in any sport and keeps many of our smaller programs going.

## More than Athletics

The Athletic Association does so much more than pay for uniforms, coaches, and referees:

- Funds the St. Patrick Quiz Bowl Team;
- Provides manpower to help maintain Father Flohe Field;
- Pay for items that the school and parish budgets don't cover.

Please read the information on this page and seriously consider helping the Athletic Association through this tough time.





# Portland St. Patrick Fall Festival

## Big changes this year!

Because of COVID 19, the 60th Annual Fall Festival will have a different look in 2020:

- The date has changed.
- The dinner and raffle formats will be different.
- There will be no Arts and Crafts Show, Kid Fest, 5K Run, or Euchre Tournament.

### There will be TWO Dates

The **Fall Festival Dinner** will take place on Sunday, November 8, from 11:00 - 2:00, and **will be takeout only**. You can purchase your dinners online and choose your own pick-up time. A dinner costs \$10 and will contain the following:

- 2 Meats
- Potatoes
- Vegetable
- Choice of dessert

Links to sign up can be found at [www.freewebs.com/stpatsfallfestival](http://www.freewebs.com/stpatsfallfestival). If you need help with online purchase or would like to place your order over the phone, please call Jill Scheurer at 517-944-4725.



The **Fall Festival Raffle** has been totally redesigned and simplified. It is now the **Big Bucks Raffle**, and the **prizes have been tripled!** You can buy a ticket for \$100 with prizes of:

- First prize: \$5000
- Second prize: \$1000
- 3rd-6th prizes: Your choice of \$500 or 1/4 side of beef (includes cutting and wrapping)

Buy your ticket online at [www.bidpal.com/fallfestival](http://www.bidpal.com/fallfestival), from any Shamrock athlete, or use the ticket order form below.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival supports the Shamrock athletic program, which is funded entirely by the Athletic Association.

The past year has not been kind to the group, who saw their rainy-day fund disappear because of large unexpected expenses.

The Shamrock Auction, which is traditionally held in April, was cancelled due to the virus, and along with it, the hopes of replenishing the coffers.

Now, with the cancellation of fall sports, expected revenues from admissions and concessions have vanished. All in all, the Athletic Association is in dire need of funds to support the Shamrock teams.

Please consider buying one or more tickets for the Big Bucks Raffle, and ordering dinners for your family. Tell your friends and neighbors, too, and invite them to buy tickets and dinners.

*Thank you from the Shamrock athletes, coaches, and fans.*



## SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL Big Bucks Raffle

November 15, 2020, 2:00 pm, Parish Hall

**1st prize \$5000**

**2nd prize \$1000**

**3rd-6th prizes \$500 or 1/4 side of beef  
(processing included)**

Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased online at [Bidpal.net/fallfestival](http://Bidpal.net/fallfestival) or by filling out this form and returning the stub to the school or parish office.

Due to COVID, the Big Bucks Raffle is taking the place of the Fall Festival raffle that is usually held in October. Visit the Fall Festival website for complete information about the raffle and dinner.

[www.portlandstpats.com/school](http://www.portlandstpats.com/school) -- click on Fall Festival

### Big Bucks Raffle

Name, Address, Phone:

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KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

Return this stub along with payment to **Big Bucks Raffle, St. Patrick Parish Office, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875**. Be sure to allow plenty of time for it to go through the mail.

# A Special Little Dress

*When Josie Pung made her First Communion at St. Patrick's on June 21, 2020, she walked down the aisle in a dress that was very special. The little white dress with puffy sleeves has been worn by three generations of girls, beginning 56 years ago.*

In 1964, Janet Fedewa bought a First Communion dress for her oldest daughter, Ann. No one knows for sure where the dress was purchased, but in those days many First Communion dresses came from stores like Penney's.

Over the next 14 years, the pretty little dress was worn by seven more Fedewa girls, including Marlene, Jane, Laura, Marie, Connie, and finally, Carol in 1978. The only one of the girls who did not wear the dress was Jane's twin sister, Judy, who wore a dress from her Godmother's family.



Twelve years later, the second generation of Fedewa girls began wearing the dress for their own First Communions. Judy's daughter, Lynn, wore it in 1990, and over the next 19 years, fourteen of Janet's granddaughters were attired in the beautiful vintage dress.



Marv and Janet Fedewa and granddaughter, Amy Pung in 1993.

In 2018, Natalie Pung, Janet's great-granddaughter was the first of a third generation to wear the dress. The veil underwent a couple of renovations through the years and Natalie's Grandma Jane did some minor touch ups including some new buttons and whitening, but otherwise, the dress was still in great shape! Natalie was excited to wear the dress that her grandma, mom, and Godmother had all worn.

Natalie's sister, Josie, got her turn to wear it this year. She thought it was funny when she heard that this was the white dress her mom (Amy Schafer Pung) wore when she walked down the aisle at St. Pat's with her dad (Mark Pung) the first time. Yes, Mark



Amy Schafer and Mark Pung were First Communion partners in 1993. Fifteen years later, the two walked down the aisle together again at their wedding.

and Amy were First Communion partners in 1993.

Amy said that she is trying to talk her girls into wearing her wedding dress from 2008 when they get married, to keep the tradition alive, but they have already nixed that idea!

The special little dress has now been passed to another member of the Fedewa family. Janet's great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Wight, daughter of Zach and Julie Wight, will wear it for her First Communion next spring.

No one knows what Grandma Janet spent on the dress originally, but everyone agrees that she definitely got her money's worth!



Natalie Pung in 2018 and Josie Pung in 2020



Nine of the girls who wore the special dress: Back row: Connie Vallier, Brenda Lenneman, Amy Pung, Jane Schafer, Richelle Vallier, Beth Lowe, Kelly Vallier. Front row: Josie Pung and Natalie Pung.

**First Communion  
and  
Confirmation  
DRESSES**

**\$5<sup>98</sup>** SIZES 6 TO 14  
Others to \$19.98  
SLIP INCLUDED

We Carry a Complete  
Stock of White Dresses

**PENNEY'S**  
ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY!

Open  
Every  
Evening  
Till 9



## COVID CAN'T KEEP US DOWN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



2020 First Communion took place in the tent.

Several important celebrations were also held outdoors in the tent. Graduation was delayed until June 14; First Communion was held the following week on June 21; and Confirmation was held on July 15.

On August 19, 2020, St. Patrick students went back to school. Families were given the option of coming back into the classrooms or attending virtually. 95% of the families returned to the school for in-person instruction.

According to Mr. Hodge the administrative team spent the summer preparing for the return to school, working hard so that families would feel comfortable with whichever option

they chose. "We had a plan and were prepared. The school year is off to a great start. We are making the best of a tough situation, learning new skills, making sure St. Patrick School remains the best educational opportunity in our area.

"The students have adapted well and continue to help with new ideas and challenges we face. We are blessed to have such a great teaching staff, student body, and parental support."

Mrs. Smith continued, "We want to thank our students, families, staff, faculty, and our parish community who all worked together to make this possible. St. Patrick school is able to know their student families very intimately. We are able to stay vigilant and versatile to customize instruction for all learners. This year we have welcomed 35 new K-12 students and 34 preschool students. We are so grateful to be back!"



Students participate in a virtual lesson in May 2020.

## Miss Carol's Memories



It is obvious that the old convent, also known as the annex building, on Center Street, which was demolished last year, continues to evoke memories. Carol (Miller, 1965) Kahn sent a note to The Shamrock after reading the article in the last issue.

Carol remembers her own involvement in the transformation of the convent, after she purchased Miss Laura's Wee People in 1994. "I had big shoes to fill," she said. "In 1995 I moved the preschool from the East Grand River location to the annex building."

The name of the preschool was still Miss Laura's Wee People, even after Carol became the owner/program director, and it stayed the same until 2007 when St. Patrick purchased the furnishings and by mutual decision changed the name to St. Patrick Preschool.

Carol remained the program director and was assisted by aides, Joyce Pline and Roseanne Lansdell.

The preschool was moved into the lower level of the school in 2014.

The history of the annex building includes many additional uses, including five years as a daycare center, the headquarters for the youth program, and an adult foster care center.

"Previous to 1995, it was O'Neill's Adult Foster Care Facility," said Carol. "The closing of that business gave us a place to put Miss Laura's Wee People.

"I still miss that old building, it contained so many wonderful memories and children's smiles."

#shamrockpride



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
DIOCESE OF PORTLAND



portlandstpats.com

"We have always been happy with our decision to send our children to St. Pat's, but seeing how the administrators and teachers responded to the recent pandemic and the resulting change to online learning, definitely reinforced our belief that we made the right decision."

Nick and Jenny Sandborn

# alumni news

## Reunion Information

Needless to say COVID-19 wreaked havoc on celebrations everywhere and changed a lot of reunion plans.

- **Class of 1960** cancelled their 60-year reunion.
- **Class of 1961** cancelled their 59-year reunion.
- **Class of 1965** has postponed their 55-year reunion and will possibly reschedule it in the spring.
- The 50-year reunion for the **Class of 1970** has been postponed until spring. Classmates still went ahead with a mini-reunion on September 12, 2020. The report on that get-together will be in the spring issue.
- **Class of 1975** has no plans at this time.
- **Class of 1980** postponed their 40-year reunion and are not sure if it will be rescheduled or not.
- **Class of 1985** postponed their 35-year reunion and will possibly reschedule it in the spring.
- **Class of 1990** has no plans at this time.
- **Class of 1995** has no plans at this time.
- **Class of 2005** had a small golf outing on August 15, 2020, but cancelled the rest of the reunion. They will possibly reschedule in the spring.

## Reminder to Reunion Organizers

If your class is planning a reunion, let us know and we'll help you spread the word. When the party is over, tell us what you did and send us a photo. Everyone loves to see how other classes celebrate—and how young they all look! Send report and picture to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

Despite the pandemic the **Class of 2000** met at the Wagon Wheel on Friday, July 31, 2020, for a low-key evening, to catch up on old times. How has it possibly already been 20 years since graduation? Where did the time go? It was a great evening with many laughs while we reminisced about high school days. Most of the group made their way to ConfluxCity Brewing for a nightcap. A huge thank you to Kristy (Brown) Lane for traveling home from Tennessee to join the fun. We know others wanted to join, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, were not able to make it happen. Brian has declared that we should do this every year on the last weekend of July, so Class of 2000 mark your calendars!



The **Class of 2010** went ahead with their 10-year reunion on August 8, 2020. They kayaked the Grand River then met up at James and Rachel (Miro) Spohn's house for a cookout and fire afterwards. Everyone had a great time.



## 50-Year Reunions Planned for Classes of 1970 and 1971

Because of the coronavirus, the Father Flohe Foundation will sponsor two 50-year reunions next year.

The reunion for the **Class of 1970** will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Invitations have already been sent out; classmates are asked to send in information for the memory book as soon as possible.

The reunion for the **Class of 1971** will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Your invitations will be mailed in the spring.

As is customary for the 50-year reunions, there is no cost to attend; classmates and spouses will be treated to a prime rib dinner at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room. Please put the date on your calendar now and come enjoy a fun-filled evening.



## Alum Honored by City

On August 3, 2020, the Portland City Council presented a certificate of appreciation to **Dana Hengesbach (2014)** for her work as an AmeriCorp VISTA volunteer for Portland Downtown over the past two years. Americorp VISTA members are part of a national service program where volunteers take on assignments in community-based organizations. Dana provided more than 4,000 hours of service work to Portland Downtown. *(From The Portland Beacon)*



Left to right: Mayor Jim Barnes, Dana Hengesbach, DDA Director Tina Connor-Wellman, City Manager Tutt Gorman

## Lemonade League

SPS alumnus and current Saginaw Valley baseball player Brandon Scheurer played in the Lemonade League at Lugnuts Stadium in Lansing this summer. Brandon was just one of many players whose summer was thrown into flux by COVID-19 limitations. Four other summer leagues in which he had agreed to participate fell through. The Lemonade League played 20 games at Cooley Law School Stadium in July and August. Because of limitations, only 100 spectators were allowed at each game.

The league featured local college players, yellow baseballs, Minor League baseball umpires and seven-inning games. Extra innings were replaced by a one-on-one Home Run Derby. The league was made up of two teams, the Lugnuts and the Locos.

Brandon was a Loco and spent most of his time playing short stop. The Locos beat the Lugnuts for the "league title" with 12 wins, versus eight for the Lugnuts.

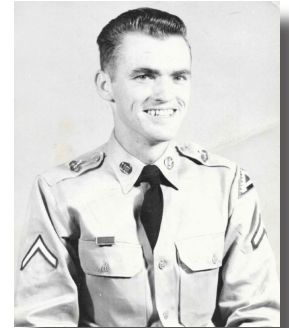
He said that he's aware that he's probably from the smallest high school among the Lemonade League players, but he wears it as a badge of honor.



Locos' Brandon Scheurer looks on during the first inning of the July 23 game at Cooley Law School Stadium. Photo credit: Nick King/ Lansing State Journal

## Doug Kissane Honored for United States Army Service

Doug Kissane (1961) passed away on August 22, 2020. (See obituary page 17). A few weeks before he died, the Sparrow Hospice program paid tribute to Doug for his service to our country in the United States Army. The tribute was organized by Sparrow nurse Miranda Ridenour, whom Doug fondly called Nurse Nicey-Nice.



Doug served in the army from 1962-1965, on the border between East and West Germany, during the Korean conflict. Following basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Doug shipped out and began his work as a radio operator and repair person for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Division, the same division once led by the famous George Custer. Doug had vivid memories of armed Russian soldiers on the east side of the Iron Curtain patrolling to ensure East Germans citizens did not escape to the west. Part of his job was to patrol the area and help anyone who managed to get across the border.

Following his service in the military, Doug returned to his job as a welder at Lansing Drop Forge. He rose in the ranks of union leadership, becoming Bargaining Chairperson and ultimately, President of UAW Local 724.



Back row from left to right, Roy Kissane, Pat Vashaw, Pat Quigley, Dick Manning, and Bill Stump. Seated is Doug Kissane.

Along the way, Doug and his wife and lifetime partner, Carleen, raised four children (Lynn, Donna, Mike, and Amy). He retired from Lansing Drop Forge in 1994 after 30 years of service.

Doug invited some of his childhood friends who also served in the military to the Sparrow tribute. Joining Doug to be recognized for their contribution to our nation's defense were Pat Quigley (Army), Roy Kissane (Air Force), Bill Stump (Army), Pat Vashaw (Navy) and Dick Manning (National Guard). Doug and his buddies helped defend and secure our freedom and our nation owes them a debt of gratitude. *(From The Portland Beacon)*



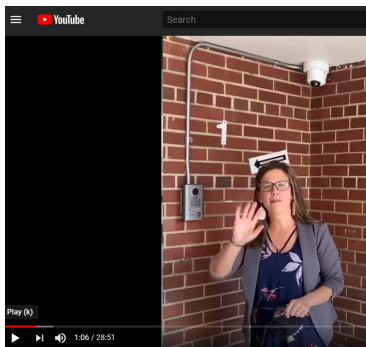
*(Alumni News continued on page 15)*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SCHOOL?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

### VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE:

Because we could not hold a regular open house before school began, our staff did it virtually with a Youtube video. You can find the link to the video on the school website ([portlandstpats.com/school](http://portlandstpats.com/school)) on the Prospective Families page.



**CANVAS:** We learned a lot when we were forced to switch to virtual and at-home learning at the end of last year. St. Patrick teachers and staff collaborated with other diocesan schools, and all of them learned from each other. This year, all of the diocesan schools are using the Canvas

Learning Management System. Canvas gives our students, parents, and staff an easy-to-use digital platform that seamlessly allows students to receive a quality education in and out of the classroom. See the school website for additional information about Canvas.



# Show Your Shamrock Pride!

Visit our School and Spirit Wear online store

[fabricatedcustoms.com/collections/st-patrick](http://fabricatedcustoms.com/collections/st-patrick)



Polo shirts, full zip and 3/4 zip jackets are uniform approved to be worn in school.

Orders can be shipped for a small charge or picked up at  
212 Kent Street  
Portland, MI 48875

Adult, youth, child sizes available.  
New items added weekly.  
(517) 449-3027



## Grad Will Travel With Net Ministries

*St. Patrick 2020 graduate, Veronica White, will be traveling and evangelizing with NET Ministries for the next two years. Veronica and her parents, Bob and Jessica White, took a long weekend in August to travel to Minnesota where NET Ministries is headquartered. The Shamrock will print excerpts from Veronica's journals as she undertakes this mission of evangelization.*



### Excerpts from Veronica's NET Journal

**Getting Ready:** Sometimes I sit here and I fear the future. I pray, "Dear God, I only have two weeks left!" And then my lovely sister Sophie tells me how many nights I have left in the house, and I cry over what I'm leaving behind. Don't get me wrong, I am SO excited, and I have no doubt this is where I'm supposed to be! But even so, there is so much that I don't know. There are very few things I do know. But what I do know far outweighs what I don't. God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good. God loves me. Jesus saves me. He picks me up when I fall. This experience will be like nothing I've ever done. I realize that, while life will be flipped upside-down, it will also be flipped right-side-up as God shows me what he wants.

Keep me in your prayers this week and next, and know you are in mine! Your prayers will be what gives me the graces to be everything God is calling me to be this year!

**Week 1:** I have been at the NET Center for five days now. Most people have been here for two, but I came early for music training. I have never seen an environment, a culture, like the one here. Everyone wants to be here, and everyone is here for the same reason: to grow in Christ and to be the missionaries we are all called to be. That means that I, the introvert, was literally running to meet new people and help them with their luggage yesterday. At one point I paused, and I was like, "Whaaaaat???" That is so totally not me, but having been immersed in this culture for three days, by that point, it allowed Christ to pull out the extroverted part of me to show me how I could start to serve others.

I did struggle at the beginning, leaving my family. Being the oldest of eight and the first one to go made it hard. But isn't the Holy Spirit called the Comforter? He is, and he does comfort us! The thing is, I am very much on "Jesus high" right now. I know that probably in a week or two when I start to struggle, I'm going to wish for home. I think a lot of us have that one thing we want when we are upset about something. I'll want home. So please pray for me over these next four weeks.

On Sunday morning, we will all leave the NET center to go to Camp Wapogaset, otherwise known by the NETters here as Wapo. During this time they've asked us to leave our phones in our lockers at the NET center, so you won't hear from me for at least two weeks. I also learned that our fifth week of training will be on the road with our team supervisor. So here we go! Pray that the Holy Spirit can show me the hidden rooms of my heart. Pray to my guardian angel, that he will help me become aware of those rooms. Pray that Mary will wrap me in her mantle and keep me safe. Pray that St. Joseph will support me with his strong arms. He is, after all, a carpenter. They're pretty strong.

## Alumni Facebook Page Receives a Face lift!



### St. Patrick Alumni and Friends

Community

Send Message

Attention St. Patrick alumni and supporters: Be sure to visit the revamped alumni Facebook page. And, while you are there, LIKE or SHARE the page so that others will see it too. We're going to be using this page a lot more in the future to let you know all of the great things that are happening at St. Patrick School.



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portlandspats.com

"St. Patrick school ensures our kids are exposed to sacred scripture, supported by staff that connects the Gospel across the curriculum and promotes the development of a personal relationship with Christ."

Dan and Jessica Rockey

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

special thank you to Brenda Miller and the staff at Hastings Rehabilitation Center and the Oaks of Cascade.

**Ronald Vincent Shinaver, Jr.**, age 54, of Portland, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, the son of Ronald and Carol (Goodman) Shinaver, Sr. Ron was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a graduate of the Portland High School Class of 1984. He was a devoted employee at THK for 32 years. Ron loved animals and the outdoors, especially, fishing, camping, swimming, and boating. He was a proud uncle to nephew, Vincent and was a very kind, caring, and sensitive man. Preceding Ron in death are his grandparents, George and Dorothy Goodman, Gerald Shinaver, and Reva Shinaver Bell; and several aunts and uncles. Surviving Ron are his parents; sister, Danna Shinaver; nephew, Vincent Shinaver; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; and special friends, Brenda, Jesse, and Chuck.

**Steven Mark Bengel**, age 57, of Eagle, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, on January 30, 1963, the son of Edward and Monica (Werner) Bengel. Steve enjoyed the outdoors. He liked hunting, fishing, cooking, and grilling. He was also an avid MSU Spartan fan. Steve loved his dogs tremendously. He would give the shirt off his back to any friend in need. Preceding Steve in death are his son, Joshua Bengel; his parents; and sister, Mary Jean Frye. Steve is survived by his daughter, Heather (Joshua) Lantz; brothers, Dan (Jo) Bengel, John (Cheri) Bengel, and Doug (Joni) Bengel; sister, Diane Bengel; brother-in-law, Mike Frye; and many special nieces and nephews.

**Sarah Elizabeth Strzalka**, age 86, of Eagle, formerly of Stockbridge, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. She was born on November 13, 1933, in Dyer County, Tennessee, the daughter of Cannon and Eva (Woods) Walker. In 1961, Sarah married the love of her life, Frank Strzalka, Jr., and they shared 54 wonderful years of marriage together. They settled in Riverview where they raised their son Larry and later moved to Stockbridge in their retirement. Sarah was dedicated and hardworking. She was also a strong leader. Sarah was employed for 33 years at Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association and then later at the Chelsea Retirement Center. In her freetime, Sarah also enjoyed decorating and gardening. Preceding Sarah in death are her parents; husband, Frank Strzalka, Jr.; three brothers, Jack (Edith) Walker, Charles Walker, and William Walker; and several

brothers and sisters-in-law. Sarah is survived by her son, Larry (Coreen) Strzalka; two grandchildren; several brothers and sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly. In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make contributions to St. Patrick Parish in memory of Sarah.

**Charles Louis Willems**, age 88, of East Lansing and longtime resident of Burcham Hills Retirement Center, passed away Sunday, June 28, 2020. He was born on October 9, 1931, in Portland, the son of Anthony and Katherine (Spitzley) Willems. Charles was well loved by the AARP and his St. Martha's Catholic Church family. He was a devout Catholic and a member of the Knights of Columbus. As a young man, he was selected to attend the United States Naval Academy, and he proudly served in the Korean War. Charles was a lifelong learner, earning many college degrees. He practiced law in Portland and the surrounding areas for many years. Charles had a love and devotion to his dogs and made many friends over the years. He enjoyed his 88th birthday party, where he was able to share memories with all of them. He loved his wife, Bert "Mary" who preceded him in death in 2011. He is also preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Donald Willems, Mary Etta Mercer, and Ethelene Lillie. Surviving are his sister, Margery Willems and several nieces and nephews.

**Doris Pung**, of Portland, went to be with our Lord on June 30, 2020. We rejoice at the occasion because she will finally be reunited with her husband, Joseph and other family members. She was born on February 6, 1936, to the late Gilbert and Clothilda Hengesbach. She was a longtime faithful member of St. Patrick Church in Portland. Doris spent 30 years driving bus for Portland Public Schools and was a head caterer for 33 years at various banquet centers. She was famous for her homemade donuts on Halloween and her Christmas cookies. When time allowed, Doris enjoyed playing euchre, especially with the crew at the Knights of Columbus Hall. She also enjoyed spending time with her morning McDonald's friends and completing puzzles. She will be lovingly remembered by her children Gary (Brenda) Pung, Glen (Eva) Pung, Janet (Joe) Kransz, Steve (Julie) Pung, Bruce (Amy) Pung, Brenda (Steve) Carr, and Craig (Tina) Pung; 11 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; sisters Marilyn Theis, Kathy (James) Voisinnet, and Ann (David) Fedewa; brothers Jerome (Charlotte) Hengesbach and Larry (Susan) Hengesbach; sisters-in-law Jean Briggs and Mary Jo Hengesbach; brother-in-law, John Pung; and special friend, John Vallier. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Pung in 2012; brothers, Richard Hengesbach and Thomas Hengesbach; brothers-in-law, Julius Theis and Bill Briggs. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions

may be made to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or to Mel Trotter Ministries.

**Gerald Joseph Sunday**, age 83, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020, with his family at his side. He was born on March 24, 1937, in Portland, the son of Edward and Anna (Heyer) Sunday. Jerry was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He retired from General Motors after 30 years of service. After retirement, he painted for many people in the Portland area and worked for Neller Funeral Home and later Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Home in Portland. Jerry enjoyed camping with his family, fishing, coaching softball and baseball, watching softball games, and an occasional trip to the casino. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Robert (Rita) Sunday, Rita (Tom) Mason, and Leon "Pete" (Alice) Sunday; sister-in-law, Mary (Joe) Pohl. Surviving are his beloved wife of nearly 62 years, Gertrude; children, Kathy (Doug) Stedman, Dave (Lisa) Sunday, Dan (Donna) Sunday, Mike (Stacie) Sunday, and Kim (Nick) Weller; nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother, Jim (Marsha) Sunday; and several nieces and nephews.

**Cynthia Marie Schrauben**, age 54, of Portland, passed away July 20, 2020. She was born on April 5, 1966, in Lansing, Michigan. Cindy was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School Class of 1985. She worked for 19 years at Portland Public Schools as a paraprofessional, working with children with special needs. Cindy was an avid Detroit Lions fan and she loved the Christmas season. Preceding Cindy in death are her in-laws, LaVern and Mary Ellen Schrauben; aunt, Jean Breyer; grandparents, Tom and Little Botsford, Irene Smith, Jack Breyer, and Ed Smith; and her dog, Toby. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, LaVern Schrauben; daughters, Hannah (fiancé, Sean Brown) Schrauben and Holly Schrauben; parents, Jim and Sherry Botsford; sister, Teresa Botsford; and many special in-laws, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family, and friends.

**Richard Arden Guilford**, beloved husband of Sue (Lash) Guilford, left this world in the early morning hours of July 25, 2020, from the effects of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Richard was the beloved father of Andrea, Pauline, Jennifer, and late daughter Katrina; father-in-law to Joe Martinez; beloved grandfather to 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Rick was a man of many accomplishments, but caring for his family was the primary purpose of his life. He was a critical thinker with a lifelong love of learning. He constantly sought out new educational opportunities, devouring books and lectures on concepts as varied as comparative religion, nutrition, and string theory. Anything that challenged him fascinated him. He was a



respected member of the United Universalist congregation in Naples FL, and spent his Sundays in community there, participating in the organization's forum and lecture series. He considered travel one of the best modes of education, and he and Sue relished their travel adventures with Rick's brother Nick and sister-in-law Pat. Together, they explored the world. He was valedictorian of his graduating class at Sturgis High School, President of his fraternity at Dartmouth College, and distinguished at the University of Michigan Law School. He was a member of the Michigan and Florida Bar Associations and the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. After law school, Rick served in the Air Force JAG in Panama City, Florida, while his young family was growing. His was a life of dedicated service. He served on many boards, including St. Vincent Home for Children (Lansing, MI), the Portland School Board (Portland, MI), and Rotary International (Lansing, MI). In addition to the aforementioned family, he also leaves his brother, Noel, sister-in-law Patricia, and sister Vicki Doe. We are full of grief at the loss of Rick, the constant, the anchor in our lives. He was an introspective, thoughtful man, who did not act on impulse. He was the heart of our family, and he kept us grounded. There will be no immediate services. Memorial services will be held in Michigan and in Florida as the world allows.

**Robert L. Rademacher**, age 74, of Eagle, MI, passed away on July 25, 2020, with his loving family by his side. He was born June 14, 1946, in Lansing, MI, son of the late Sylvester and Rita (Smith) Rademacher. Bob worked for Farm Bureau for many years and went on to work for Sparrow Health Systems retiring as I.T. Supervisor. He served in the United States Army during Vietnam and was a 50 year member of Portland VFW Post 4090 as well as a lifelong member of the Catholic of Order Foresters. Bob enjoyed the outdoors, working in his garden and making sure his yard always looked its best. He also enjoyed playing horseshoe leagues during the summer months. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Mary; two sons, Jeff and Eric (Wanda) Rademacher; four grandchildren; sister, Marie Cooper; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Corey; and two siblings, Paul and infant sister Laura. In lieu of flowers, memorials contributions may be made to the North Eagle Cemetery Society, c/o Pat Mitchell, 5772 Keeney Dr., Six Lakes, MI 48886 American Heart Association, 300 S. Riverside Plaza Ste 1200 Chicago, IL 60606.

**Thomas Anthony Pung**, of Portland, passed away on Monday, August 10, 2020. He was born on October 3, 1931, in Portland, the son of Leon, Sr. and Pauline (Gross) Pung. Tom was a member of St. Patrick Church and the K of C Council #2168. He was a veteran of the

U.S. Army, serving as a Corporal during the Korean War. He worked at Fisher Body for 39 years and retired in 1987. Life did not stop there for Tom, he enjoyed traveling, going for rides, working in his garden, hunting, fishing with his brothers in the U. P., playing cards, golfing, and most of all spending time with his family. He was Rose's handyman for her antiquing hobby. Tom was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Henry and Rose Fedewa; brothers, Donald Pung, Leon Pung, Jr., and John Pung; brothers-in-law, Anthony Hradecky and Gerald (Kate) Fedewa; and sister-in-law, Germaine (Fred) May. Surviving are his wife of 68 years, RoseMary (Fedewa) Pung; children, Steve (Kim) Pung, Diane (Brad) Sandborn, Mark (Sharon) Pung, and Lisa (Chris) Fedewa; 10 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; siblings, Robert (Bernie) Pung, Ann (Jerry) Kloeckner, Joan Hradecky, Richard (Ann) Pung and Ken (Carrie) Pung; sister-in-laws, Barb (Dick) Trierweiler, Dorothy Pung and Kathy Pung; Fedewa in-laws, Joe (Alice) Fedewa and Kathleen Bengel; and several nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the entire staff at Portland Assisted Living and Memory Center, the Grace Hospice team, Fr. Mike Alber, Jim and Linda Spring for bringing them weekly Eucharist and a special thank you to Michelle VanSlambrouk, who spent many days with them prior to their going into assisted living. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation at St. Patrick or Grace Hospice.

**Douglas Lynn Kissane**, age 77, of Portland, went to be with the Lord surrounded by family

on Saturday, August 22, 2020. He was born on March 28, 1943, the son of Francis and Dorothy (Wilcox) Kissane. Doug was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. Doug worked at Lansing Drop Forge for 30 years. After retirement, he spent many years as a real estate agent in the Portland area. He loved golfing, bowling, camping, fishing, and hunting. HDoug loved cooking and was the barbecue master. He also enjoyed making wine and painting with his grandchildren. Preceding Doug in death are his parents and brother, James Kissane. Doug is survived by his loving wife of almost 56 years, Carleen (Stump) Kissane; children, Lynn (Marc) Nichols, Donna (David) Crim, Michael (Ann) Kissane, and Amy (Michael) Gorham; 15 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; siblings, Marlene (Larry) Schrauben, Linda Wohlfert, Tom (Toni) Kissane, Kathy Clark, and Pat (Mike) VerPlanck; and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank Sparrow Hospice and Doug's caregivers, Michelle, Nancy, Gina, and Lyndsey for the compassion and care they gave to him.

**John Warren Carbaugh**, 69, of Kaplan, LA, died Monday, August 24, 2020, at his residence. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Joyce Carbaugh of Kaplan; his son, Stephen Carbaugh of Kaplan; his sister, Anne Carbaugh of Houston, TX; his two brothers, Bill Carbaugh (Dang) of Houston, and Mike Carbaugh (Suzette Cavanaugh) of Seaside, CA; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Anna (Waldman) Carbaugh.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

"Our jobs took us to the Grand Rapids area for almost 10 years, but after we started a family, we knew we wanted our kids to have a Catholic upbringing in the same close-knit community as we did. We are excited to be back as a part of the parish and school family."

 portlandstpats.com

Brett and Tara Klein

# Upcoming EVENTS

Fall Festival Takeout Dinner .....November 8, 2020  
 Big Bucks Raffle.....November 15, 2020  
 Catholic Schools Week.....Jan 29 - Feb 6, 2021  
 50-Year Reunion (Class of 1970) .....April 17, 2021  
 Shamrock Auction .....April 23, 2021  
 Confirmation .....TBD  
 First Communion .....TBD  
 Summer Fest.....June 25-27, 2021  
 50-Year Reunion (Class of 1971) ....Sept. 11, 2021  
 Spring issue of The Shamrock..... Early April  
 Deadline for submitting info.....March 10, 2021

Please note: It is possible that some of these dates will change, depending upon the COVID situation. Watch the school and parish websites/Facebook for accurate 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!



1956 Duane Irrer  
 1959 Joyce (Howe) Davis  
 1960 Bill Koelzer  
 1961 John D. Pung  
 1966 Dan Lehman  
 1973 Lillian Castranova  
 1974 Steve Jenkins  
 1975 Susan Thelen  
 1977 Brian Jenkins  
 1980 Angie Young  
 1980 Patrick Ellis  
 1981 Mike Binder  
 1982 Jeff Strang  
 1983 Steve Lehnert  
 1985 Scott Osmar  
 1986 Phil Gensterblum  
 1987 Stacy Ferhholz Steinman

1989 Amy Wixon  
 1990 John Huhtala  
 1991 Elaine Mauer  
 1992 Karen Fedewa Aldering  
 1993 Darcy (Hinds) Vandecar  
 1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom  
 1995 Andy Carr  
 1995 Emily Batty  
 1996 Shaun Lehman  
 1996 Paul Theuerkauf  
 1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa  
 2000 Jeff Pung  
 2001 Segrid Johnson  
 2002 Andrew Stopczynski  
 2004 Don Vollman  
 2004 Cara Monks  
 2005 Tony Fedewa

## 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: St. Patrick School-Portland-MI

Alumni Facebook: St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends

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.org](mailto:judyfleischer@portlandstpats.org)

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)





Who would have believed, six months ago, that we would still be so focused on the coronavirus. Since that is the main topic of conversation, we might as well look for some of the words that we hear over and over every day. Find the 29 words from the list below. The words that are left over will spell out advice that all of us would do well to remember during these trying times.

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

### 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, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

ALCOHOL  
 AMAZON  
 ANTIVIRAL  
 BLEACH  
 CANCELLATIONS  
 CORONAVIRUS  
 COVID  
 DELIVERY

DISTANCING  
 DROPLETS  
 FATIGUE  
 FAUCI  
 GAITERS  
 HOSPITAL  
 HOTZONE  
 IMMUNITY

ISOLATE  
 NORMAL  
 PANDEMIC  
 SANITIZE  
 SHORTAGES  
 SNEEZE  
 STAY HOME  
 TESTS

TOILET PAPER  
 VACCINE  
 VENTILATOR  
 VIRTUAL  
 ZOOM



The puzzle in the spring issue also dealt with COVID 19, and the hidden phrase was a reminder of where to turn during fearful times: *The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.* The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Joyce Rogers, who received \$50 for her efforts. A little contest secret: Joyce is always the first puzzle entry to arrive. She sends us an email an hour or two after receiving her newsletter. We're glad that she is finally the prize winner! Congratulations, Joyce!

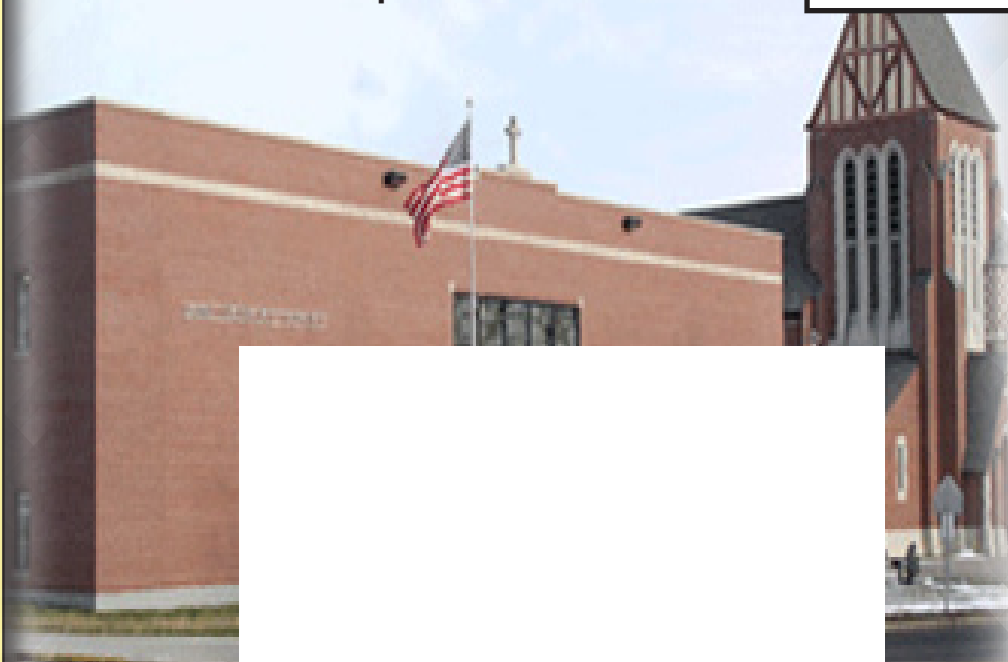
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**St. Patrick Parish School**  
**140 Church Street**  
**Portland, MI 48875**

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As this issue of The Shamrock goes to the printer, St. Patrick students have been back in class for one week, and it's been a great week, indeed! Teachers say that there is much joy in the school! If you would like to join this joyful group, call (517) 647-7551 and set up a time to take a tour!

