



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2021

Another Trip to the State Finals



Portland St. Patrick School has certainly had its share of athletic success, but over the past five years, the football team has found its niche. The Shamrocks traveled to the state finals in 2017, 2019, and 2020; and to the semifinals in 2018. This year was different from any football season in Michigan history. It was also the longest season in Michigan history. Because of the pandemic, the season was cancelled twice before finally being able to finish on January 16, 2021, almost five months after it began in August of 2020.

The beginning of the season was confusing, to say the least, as teams across the state were allowed to practice and condition but then had their season cancelled. The young men were left confused, not knowing if they would be able to play the sport that they love. In early September, a reduced schedule was announced and

the games commenced, albeit without the normal crowds. Each player/staff member was allowed just two fan tickets.

The boys worked hard to get back into shape and took the field on September 19 against Webberville. Despite being rusty, the Shamrocks won handily, winning 40-18. Over the next weeks, the Shamrocks defeated every team, outscoring their opponents 252-111. They gained much respect and team confidence when they held off Merrill, a team who had just come

from 11-man football and was heavily favored.

In the playoffs, an expanded field led to blowout wins over their first two opponents, North Adams-Jerome, 52-0, and Waldron, 53-26. Colon was next on the schedule. Colon had won the State Championship in the upper division in 2019, and was the largest school in the lower division. Colon was also heavily favored to beat the Shamrocks. Coming in with a bigger team, in numbers as well as size, the Colon offense featured a 260-pound fullback and a highly rated offense that was very difficult to stop. The Shamrocks were ready to play, and in what was one of the most gritty and outstanding victories in St. Patrick School history, the Shamrocks came from behind and defeated Colon 44-34.



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Student Spotlight

St. Patrick School Introduces Student-Led Mind Over Matter Committee

My name is Emma Scheurer and I am a leader of the Mind Over Matter Committee. This is something new that Mrs. Garcia and I brought to Portland Saint Patrick School this year. The Mind Over Matter Committee focuses on promoting a positive school culture and good mental health. Each week our group gets together and plans activities for the school that boost morale while focusing on mental health. Some activities that we have done in school so far are a fall hallway decorating contest to give the students and teachers something fun to look at as they go class to class, a pumpkin smash to help relieve some steam, and a relaxing day to show different ways to cope with stress. When we went to remote learning, we continued the fun activities with a thankful video to see what we are most thankful for and a Christmas costume contest to show holiday cheer even though we were far apart.



Emma Scheurer and Mrs. Jenny Garcia

I can't even explain how much this committee has helped the school. With all these activities we have done, I have heard so much laughter and joy in people's voices, and I know that under those masks people are smiling. Our school is coming together and is letting each other know that they are not alone. Everyone is fighting their own battles in different ways. Sometimes it's hard to see that because people are hiding it better than others. But God has a plan for all of us, and this is just part of his plan.

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

I always think of this bible verse whenever I feel stuck. I feel that this plan is like a road trip. God has a destination



for us, and he's going to get us there. No matter how many turns we take or how many places we stop, it's all part of his plan. On this road trip, we see so many beautiful things and experience so much joy. But sometimes we get a flat tire or get stuck in traffic, and it feels like we are going to be there forever.

God puts these situations along our pathways not to harm us but to show us something much bigger. To show us that we can turn something so bad into something beautiful. And this is what I think the Mind Over Matter Committee is doing. We are showing people that even in a difficult situation, we can get up and make it something incredible. We can have fun and make memories so that the next time we feel stuck, we can remember that not every bad situation has to be bad.

If COVID hadn't hit, the Mind Over Matter Committee probably wouldn't be here. I wouldn't have gotten to see how much this committee has changed this school. I wouldn't have these memories and friendships that I have formed because of this group. And I wouldn't have been able to see people coming together and showing so much love.

After I graduate this year, I hope that this committee keeps going because it has taught me so much, and I will always remember the feeling of seeing people experiencing joy and God's love. It is so important to show people you care and to let them know that you are there because you never know how someone is feeling.



The Mind Over Matter Committee, soon after they formed the group last fall.

In the Spotlight

Stan Fedewa (1981)



When we contacted Stan Fedewa about doing a Spotlight article on him, his reply was, "Why me? There's nothing special about me." But, Stan gave it some thought and changed his mind. He said, "I was quickly reminded that yes, there is. I'm the 11th child of 14, born to Marvin and Janet Fedewa. But, even more importantly, I am a son of the King of Kings. I am lucky to be married for over 34 years to my best friend and blessed to have an amazing son and daughter." In his own words, here is his story.

I was born in 1963 on a very important day, my birthday. It also happened to be the very first day of school for my twin sisters. My mom was in labor and rushed each little girl into a classroom. Then off to the hospital she went. Unfortunately for my sisters, she didn't read the class lists, so Judy and Jane were in the wrong rooms. They spent the entire first day not answering because teachers were calling them by the wrong names. The next day, teachers figured it out when the girls came in and said they had a new baby brother, me.

My parents had a dairy farm on Emery Road, south of town, and a cottage on Morrison Lake. My siblings can attest that I was a little accident prone. Mom had to take me to the emergency room more than a couple times for stitches and X-rays. My bumps and bruises always seemed to be a little more than a bandaid and kiss could handle. The X-Rays fascinated me. I thought seeing inside the body without having to get cut open was cool. This is what started me thinking about a career as an X-ray technologist.

Being number 11 means a lot of things. It means I have four older brothers and six older sisters to tease me, boss me, and teach me the ways of the world. It means I have one younger brother and two younger sisters whom I get to tease, boss, and teach the ways of the world. Most of all, it means I am part of a family that works together, plays together, and prays together. We did all of these things each

and every day. We worked hard, played harder, and said all our prayers together.

I attended St Patrick School for 12 years and graduated in 1981. I have many fond memories of those years. Some I will happily share here, and some are best saved for class reunions! Two things my children did not learn in school that were required way back when: cursive in 3rd grade (a lost art) and square dancing with Sister Kathleen in 6th grade. This actually came in handy later in life when I had to teach my bride how to square dance at our wedding while

my cousin's band, *The Royal Ramblers*, played and their sister Jan called the dance. Who would have thought this would be a useful life skill?

High school then, like high school today, still feels like the fastest and also the longest four years in a child's life. For me it brought an undefeated JV football season my freshman year and the varsity girls basketball team reaching the state finals for the first time ever my sophomore year. I lost the tip of my finger in a paper cutter incident while we were making confetti for the semifinals game. (That was a bloody mess and another trip to the ER.) Some of you may have to Google what an old paper cutter is to understand how this could have happened.

Between my junior and senior years, I had severe cataracts in both eyes. By the time I had both surgeries, I was only able to distinguish shades of gray. While in the



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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. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

BIRTHS

To **Beth (Vallier, 2008)** and **Jacob Lowe**, a son, Lucas James, on January 21, 2021. He joins two brothers, Ian (3) and Spencer (1).

To **Shelbi (Wilcox, 2009)** and **Matt (2009) Pline**, a daughter, Ryleigh Roselynn, on July 30, 2020. She joins one sister, Brooklynn.

To **Ben (2008)** and **Annie (Lawless, 2008) Schneider**, a son, Michael Joseph, on December 23, 2020. He joins big sister, Kate (3).

To **Andrea (Weller, 1999)** and **Kingsley Ossei** of Connecticut, a daughter, Zarai yaa Serwah, on October 29, 2020.

To **Andrew (2002)** and **Emily Brown** of Frankenmuth, a son, Ulysses Donald, on February 20, 2021. He joins brother, Oscar (3).

ENGAGEMENTS

Joe Weller (2016) and **Cammi Schneider (2016)** will be married on October 2, 2021.

WEDDINGS

The following weddings have taken place at St. Patrick Church:

On August 29, 2020, **Jacob Moyer** and **Mari Behovitz**.

On September 5, 2020, **Austin Scheurer** and **Savannah Hodge**.

On September 12, 2020, **Nicholas Thelen** and **Gabriela Causley**.

On September 19, 2020, **Hunter Maniez** and **Jennifer Bosworth**.

On October 24, 2020, **Joseph Mackowiak** and **Madison Schrauben**.

On October 31, 2020, **Jordan Osburn** and **Theresa (Tessa) Kreiner**.

On December 19, 2020, **Jordan Krausz** and **Brittni Wilcox**.

On November 6, 2020, **Chase Geisenhaver** and **Holly Gunderman**.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Peggy Russman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family. They were married on June 20, 1970, at St. Patrick Church.

Tom and Denice (Huhn, 1966) Hansen celebrated 50 years of marriage on November 6, 2020.

Chris and Janet (May) Pung both class of 1986, will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary on June 15, 2021.

GRADUATIONS

Thank you to Grandma Carol Wilcox for sending in information about her family. Carol says that they have had a very busy year!

Emily Miros (2016) graduated from CMU, BS in Science/Clinical Exercise Science.

Brittni Wilcox (2015) graduated from Ferris State University, BS in Elementary Education.

Jacob Moyer (2014) graduated from Ferris State University, BS Surveying Engineering.

Travis Moyer (2016) graduated from Ball State University, Master's Degree in Information and Communication Sciences.

Ryan Wilcox (2012) graduated from Ferris State University, BS in Criminal Justice.

IN MEMORY OF

Robert (Bob) Joseph Johnson, age 79, passed away on August 20, 2020, at his home in Cypress, California. He will be missed dearly by friends and family. Born in Portland, Michigan, on April 18, 1941, he was a graduate of St. Patrick High School in 1959. He was also a US Air Force veteran. He retired from GTE Telecommunications/Verizon as a fiber optic engineer after a 30-year career. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vern and Rose Johnson, and a brother, Victor Johnson. Bob is survived by his wife of 58 years, Margaret; daughters, Cheryl Thompson and Tamera Johnson; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and siblings, Janet Hengesbach, Mickie Johnson, and Joe Johnson.

Patricia Ann Klein, 83, of Portland, MI, passed away peacefully at Sparrow Hospital surrounded by her loving family. In recent months, she struggled with declining health, but she continued to spread love, joy, and gratitude each day. The Lord blessed Victor and Aurelia Cook with Patricia on November 1, 1936, in Pewamo. In high school, Pat loved playing basketball and was the co-captain of her team for two years. She graduated from Gladwin High School in the top five of her class of 95 students in 1954. Her class nailed it with her personalized saying, "Big things come in small packages." She worked at Dow Chemical Bank in Midland, for Michigan National Bank in Lansing, and for the Secretary of State. Pat married her first husband, Martin Hoerner in 1958. Martin tragically died in a car collision, leaving Pat with their two young boys, Anthony and Francis Hoerner. In 1968, she married Joseph H. Klein, and they had two children, Maria and Harry Klein. She was a very devoted, loving, and caring daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and follower of the Lord and Christ. She is survived by her sister, Hildegard Platy, her husband of 52 years, Joseph Klein; four children, Anthony (Steve) Hoerner, Francis (Kathy) Hoerner, Maria (Joel) Pennington, and Harry Klein; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Jan Marie (Fedewa) Tefft, age 64, of Vermontville, passed away September 5, 2020, at her home with her loved ones by her side, after a short but valiant fight against ovarian cancer. Jan Marie Fedewa was born in Lansing on January 20, 1956. She graduated from Portland High School in 1974 and worked for 30 years at Fisher Body before retiring in 2008. Jan had a feminine side that loved the color pink, hearts, and bling. But she had another side that was just as comfortable rolling up her sleeves and doing the hard and dirty work in the garden. Jan was a very high-energy person, always on the go with the speed and agility of a hummingbird.

She and Mike loved camping, hiking, and fishing. Jan is survived by her husband, Michael Howard Tefft; her son, Andrew Fowler, and wife, Casey of Grand Ledge; daughter, Crystal Fowler, of Portland; three grandsons; and her beloved dog, Jasmine. Also surviving are siblings, Brad Fedewa, Brian (Annette) Fedewa, Greg Fedewa, Chris (Lisa) Fedewa, Valerie (Doug) Erwin, Tonya (Michael Nowik) Fedewa, Wendy (Don) Cole, Andrea (David Haines) Fedewa, and Lynne (Joe) Vermillion; numerous nieces and nephews; in-laws, Sue (Randy) Fogle, Steve (Gloria) Tefft; and stepson, Tyler (Alia) Tefft. Jan was preceded in death by her father and mother, Vernon and Dorothy Fedewa and sister-in-law, Jeri Fedewa. The family requests that donations be made to Heartland Hospice of Mason.

Kenneth Carl Smith, age 74, of Portland, passed away on September 13, 2020. He was born in Lansing, MI, to Elgin and Mable (Koelzer) Smith. Ken was a graduate of St. Patrick High School Class of 1964. He then joined the US Marine Corp and served in the Vietnam War. Ken worked for several years in the IBEW #665 and went on to work for many years as an electrician at General Motors. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and playing euchre. Most of all he loved his family, especially the time he spent playing with his grandchildren. Ken is preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Norbert and Bertha Simon; and sister, Elaine Miller. Surviving Ken are his beloved wife of 49 years, Marie; children, Michael Smith, Karen Allerding, and Melisa Smith; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, with one on the way; siblings, Steve (Deborah) Smith, Doug (Connie) Smith, Kathy (Tom) Russman, Annette (John) Pohl, and Darrel Smith; and many Simon brothers and sisters-in-law. Donations may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Ken.

Carleen Kay (Stump) Kissane, age 75, of Portland, went to be with the Lord surrounded by her family on September 14, 2020. She was born on October 11, 1944, the daughter of William and Dorothy (Werner) Stump. Carleen was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a devoted teacher to the children of the Portland community. Carleen began her career at St. Patrick School and transitioned to Portland Public Schools as an elementary teacher. She loved quilting, golfing, walking, and spending time with her family and friends. Preceding Carleen in death are Douglas, her beloved husband of 55 years; her parents; and brother, Phillip Stump. Carleen is survived by her children, Lynn (Marc) Nichols, Donna (David) Crim, Michael (Ann) Kissane, and Amy (Michael) Gorham; 15 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; siblings, MaryEllen (Bob) Morgridge, Janice (Dick) Manning, Bill (Cindy) Stump, Barbara Stump, Pat (Linda) Stump; and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank her caregivers from FirstLight, specifically Gina and Lyndsey and the compassion and care also provided by Michelle and Nancy.

Larry C. Blundy, age 68, of Portland, passed away surrounded by his family on September 20, 2020. He was born on January 21, 1952, the son of Roman and Rita (Smith) Blundy. He was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus #2168. Larry grew up on a farm

north of Portland where he cultivated his love for woodworking and the outdoors, specifically, hunting and fishing. Some would say he was the modern-day Daniel Boone as a child. Larry was the Director of Emergency Services and a paramedic for the City of Portland for many years. He served on the Portland Fire Department since the age of 17 and was the Fire Chief. Larry owned and operated West Side Deli in Lansing and ABC Home Inspection. Preceding Larry in death are his parents; brothers-in-law, Tom Channel and Bob Densmore; sister-in-law, Kayla Densmore; special friend, Dave Teachout; in-laws, Robert Densmore and Elmer and Clarabelle Nurenberg; and step-brother-in-law, Leon Nurenberg. Surviving Larry are his wife of 13 years, Toni (Densmore); children, Jennifer (Brendan) Pohl, Joshua (Rachel) Blundy, Brandi (Andy) VanDeusen, Heather (Jeff) Cooper, and Heath (Jenny) Werner; ten grandchildren; the mother of Larry's children, Char Blundy; siblings, Don (Loni) Blundy, Joyce (Larry) Rogers, Judy (Jerry) Brown, Dick (Diane) Blundy, and Debbie Channel; and many nieces and nephews.

Pamela Jean Ockert of Eagle, went to be with the Lord September 25, 2020, in Lansing after a brief illness. Pam was born June 24, 1950, in Lansing, MI to the late Charles and Helen (Fedewa) Snell. She graduated from St. Patrick's Catholic High School Class of 1969. Pam was a devoted wife and stay-at-home mom raising two wonderful daughters. She was a devoted Christian and longtime faithful member of Capital City Church of God. She enjoyed keeping in touch with her many friends through Facebook, feeding and watching her hummingbirds, and enjoyed completing word searches. She is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Donald Ockert Jr.; daughters, Shannon (Daniel) Crane and Tami Green; stepsons, Jeffrey (Tracy) Ockert and Donald Ockert III; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her brother, David Snell. Memorial contributions in Pam's name may be given to Capital City Church of God, 6228 Bishop Road, Lansing, MI 48911.

Daniel Louis Spitzley, age 80, passed away on October 15, 2020. He was born on June 6, 1940, in Lansing, the son of Louis and Theresia (Bengel) Spitzley. Dan was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, served in the U.S. Army (Spec 4) Defense Command, and was a financial officer at the Portland American Legion. He served as the treasurer of K of C Council #2168, Danby Township, Boca Ciega Estates, St. Patrick School Board, and Boy Scouts. Dan worked in the telecommunications business for over 40 years, mainly for AT&T and MCI. Along with all of his bookkeeping interests, he enjoyed repairing antique clocks and tinkering on anything that was electronic. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Marie Manning and Elizabeth "Betsy" Spitzley. Surviving are his wife of nearly 57 years, Kathleen; children, Mark (Dannelle) Spitzley, Eric (Theresa) Spitzley, Bernadette (Jonathan) Burne, Veronica (John) Kennedy, and Elizabeth (Tim) Stallard; 16 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings, Eugene (Frances) Spitzley and Margaret (Joseph) Mleko; and several nieces and nephews. For those desiring, contributions may be made to the Father Flohe Foundation Fund, 140

Church St., Portland, MI 48875.

John Charles VanHouten, passed away unexpectedly on October 21, 2020, at his home. John was born on March 17, 1941, in Lansing, MI, to Cloyce and Alma (Rademacher) VanHouten. He joined the Marines at the age of 18 and was stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina. During this time, John met the love of his life, Kathy, at the Wagon Wheel in Portland. This was the beginning of a love story that blossomed into a 56-year marriage. He retired from GM after 31 years but never stopped working. His strong work ethic has been instilled in his children and grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his parents; sisters-in-law, Marlene VanHouten and Lois Bullen; in-laws, Darlene and Bill Ward; and brother-in-law, Tim Feazel. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; children Mimi (Vitas) Zubrickas, Rick (Caroline) VanHouten, and Tamara (Keith) Brown; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, Neil VanHouten; sister-in-law, Beverly Feazel; and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his precious dogs, Sassy and Copper, who were a constant source of love and delight.

Robert Lee Jurstik, of Portland, passed away October 25, 2020, at the age of 72. He was born in Owosso, MI, the son of Frank and Esther (Brininstool) Jurstik. Bob was known as "Mr. Fix-it" by many, and he enjoyed collecting and restoring antique engines. He was a part of the infamous Mackinaw Bridge tractor crossing. Bob worked at ADM (Central Soya) for 40 years where he was a dedicated employee until his retirement. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion. Preceding Bob in death are his parents; brothers, Michael Jurstik and Gale Jurstik; father-in-law, Anthony Fox; and brothers-in-law, Dennis and Gary Fox. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Carolyn (Fox) Jurstik; children, Jessica (Charles) Cleven and Michael (special friend, Carla) Jurstik; one grandson; siblings, Gary (Mary) Jurstik, David Jurstik, and Cheryl (Steven) Bolf; mother-in-law, Lella Fox; in-laws, Katy Remington, Tony Fox, Ron Fox, and Brenda Fox; goddaughter, Missy; godson, Joe; and several nieces and nephews. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Sparrow Cancer Center in memory of Bob.

Anita Marie Weller, age 68, passed away unexpectedly on October 30, 2020. She was born on February 4, 1952, the daughter of Ray and Theresa Kramer. Anita was an avid Spartan fan. She loved going on long walks with family and friends, and going to the casino occasionally. Anita took great pride in putting together "treasure hunts" and enjoyed camping with her family. She was a caregiver to anyone who needed her help and loved being a Grandma whether that meant attending their sporting events, rocking them to sleep, or planning family gatherings. Anita is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jim Kramer; her in-laws, Jacob and Lorene Weller; sister and brothers-in-law, Kay Marie Weller, Frederick James Weller, Gerald Weller and Terry Weller. Surviving are her husband of 47 years, Patrick; children, Rachel (Scott) Gross, Todd (Liz) Weller, Aaron (Jen) Weller, and Sarah (Dan) Harraka; 13 grandchildren;

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Football Cheerleading Returns to St. Pat's

During the 2020 football season, assistant coach Ben Cross heard that there was an interest in cheerleading, an activity that had been absent from St. Patrick School for a few years. Ben spoke to Athletic Director Pat Russman, who looked into it further and began collecting names. Within a very short time, there were 36 names on the list, and former cheerleading coach Stacy Russman was asked to come out of retirement to coach the new team.

"I was very excited to bring this back to SPS," said Stacy. "After many years of not having cheerleaders, I was unsure of how this was going to turn out, for none of the girls had ever cheered before."

High school teacher, Anne Bennett, graciously volunteered to help Stacy, and within a few days, they were ready to begin.

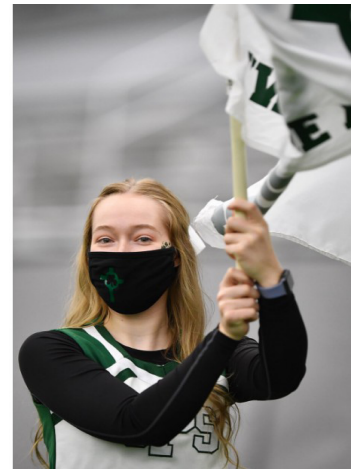
Stacy said, "We were really impressed with how well the girls picked up on the cheers and with their willingness to try new things. We are so proud of their leadership and the enthusiasm they brought to the game. We had an awesome season and heard so many compliments. The girls truly made a difference, and I am so grateful that we were able to bring so much excitement to the game."

As is typical with Shamrock athletics, the cheerleaders did more than cheer on the football team. With their coaches, they worked each week on faith and service goals. In a note

to the parents, Stacy said, "As I listen to their goals, they bring me to tears. We have beautiful conversations about our faith. They are such an amazing group to work with. You should be so proud of your daughters! Thank you for the sacrifices you make to send them to a Catholic school and thank you for allowing me to coach them!"

A fan from one of the opposing teams noticed that this team was different from other cheerleading squads. He sent this message to the school:

"My buddy and I both said we have never seen so many cheerleaders! Their coach took time prior to the game to lead them in prayer. And it was not just something quick and forget it, but real prayer, concentration, and buy in. It was the only time in my life I have ever seen that and what a great/powerful witness that is! Very impressed today."



Newest Shamrock Team: Trap Shooting

On March 1, 2020, St. Patrick School launched their first 6th- to 12th- grade trap shooting team. The team is registered as a member of the Michigan State High School Clay Target League. The team is led by head coach, Mr. Craig Corbeil. Assistant coaches are Troy Smith and Ben and Mandy Teachworth.

The team competes locally at Oakhill Gun Club, Pewamo, MI. The trap team will compete during fall and spring seasons for both girls and boys.

The State Tournament occurs in June, and every league participant is invited to attend. Participants compete against student athletes in classifications based on similar shooting abilities determined by their season average score. All members of the team are required to complete hunter's safety training. Students are eligible to receive varsity letters and college scholarships.



The Shamrock cheerleading team headed for the state final football game.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Cook Attend FIRE Inclusion Conference



"FIRE was founded in 1996 by a group of parents who shared a common dream; for their children with special needs to attend their parish schools with siblings and friends. The FIRE Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 organization, makes it possible for partner Catholic schools to hire special educators and paraprofessionals and to acquire learning materials and technology that create successful learning experiences for all children. Without grants from FIRE, most schools would not be able to welcome students with Down syndrome, significant learning disabilities, many who are on the Autism spectrum and students who face other special learning challenges. In inclusive learning environments, children grow up knowing and appreciating each other's unique gifts." (From <http://firefoundation.org/about/>)

On March 3 and 4, principal Cortney Smith and elementary teacher Mrs. Mary Cook attended the FIRE Inclusion Conference. This year the two-day conference took place virtually, with experts from across the nation and the world coming together to celebrate inclusion in the classroom. Together they focused on a school environment that includes human dignity, gentleness, kindness, and compassion to bring out the best in and provide opportunities for all students, with a focus on all students learning together and from one another. Research has shown the benefits of learning side by side. Socialization, graduation rates, post academic success, and behavior outcomes improve significantly when all are included.

#shamrockpride

Willow Wood Golf Club in Portland announced it's first hole-in-one of the season. Eight-year old Tanner Simpson got his first-ever hole-in-one on hole #3 using his hybrid! The event was witnessed by the whole Simpson family. Congrats Tanner!

Tanner is a second-grade student at St. Patrick School, he is in Mrs. Simon's class.



Coming soon! Little Shamrocks PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE



For families who select the full-day option for their preschool-aged children!

Please visit the school website or contact the main office at 517-647-7551 for more information regarding this exciting new offering.



WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!

St. Patrick Implements Sensory Room

St. Patrick School has implemented a new sensory room. This room is a place where all students can regulate emotionally and cognitively. According to Experia USA's informational website, "Sensory rooms are spaces that have been specifically designed to give an immersive sensory experience for people with various abilities. The features of a sensory space will differ depending on the user and their needs. Sensory rooms typically use lights, sound, colors, and other sensory cues to calm, engage, and help users to develop emotionally and cognitively."

These rooms help students explore all of their senses. Students can self-regulate to become the best version of themselves before entering the learning environment. Mrs. Smith said, "We are grateful for a generous St. Patrick family who donated funds to make the following items for the sensory room possible: landing pad, swing tripod, swing, bodysuits, and calm lighting. We have an explicit obligation to foster belonging. We will continue to reflect on what we do well, what we can do better, and what we can do to support all learners."

For more information about sensory rooms, visit <https://www.experia-usa.com/sensory-rooms/>.

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

New Music Director at St. Patrick Church

James Tavadze is the new music director at St. Patrick Parish. He is originally from the country of Georgia, located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. James has two grown sons, Bakar and Ilia, from his first marriage, and an 11-year-old daughter, Liza, with his wife, Elene. James tells us about his journey to the United States and to our parish.

I started playing music when I was seven. My parents bought an upright piano for me. It was huge and black, and it served me for more than 15 years. I entered the Special Music School of Tbilisi, Georgia, when I was 10. It was one of the few schools in the former Soviet Union where music was taught on a professional level, as if it already was a conservatory.



As a child I played both solo and orchestral recitals. But my greatest passion was improvisation. After finishing the music school, I became a student at Tbilisi State Conservatory, from which I graduated with Master's degrees in Piano Performance and Composition. During a long period of time after that, I collaborated with drama theatres in my country as a composer writing music for theatrical performances. At the same time, I played for art exhibitions improvising on piano according to the character of exposed pieces of art.

In 2015, a friend of mine who lived in the U.S. told me he wanted to open a music school in Connecticut and asked if I would be willing to take the professional part of the business. My wife, Elene, and I decided I should accept the offer. We decided so because of the poor economic situation in our home country. We already had Liza, and we knew we should do something to take care of her future.

I traveled to the U.S. in October 2015, and this is when

my American journey began. However, things did not go as planned regarding the music school. My friend was not sure if he wanted to get a loan and take all the risks related to the business. I was faced with a very difficult choice: should I stay in the U.S. or go back to Georgia? I started looking for doctoral programs in piano throughout the country.

My childhood friend, an excellent pianist named Vakhtang Kodanashvili, who by this time lived in Indiana, became aware of my situation. He called me and told me I could visit him, and he could introduce me to Professor Moriarty, Chair of Piano Performance at MSU, who was his professor when he was a doctoral student. I traveled to Indiana to visit Vakhtang and his family, and then Vakhtang gave me a ride to Michigan to meet with my future professor. Professor Moriarty warmly welcomed me into the College of Music and accepted me into her studio as a doctoral student.

In 2016, I came to Michigan with my family to start my doctoral studies and a new life. We had some funds available for the first period of our American life, but I needed a job to be able to continue. I started looking for church job openings. I saw there was one in Portland, at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church. The church was about 30 minutes from our home, but I really needed a job and decided to try. (My cousin, Temo, and his wife, Debra, presented us with a car, an Oldsmobile which was old but in a very good shape.) I sent an email to the church address mentioned on the website and I got a response. Sometime after that, I was driving to Portland for my interview. When I saw St. Patrick Church my very first feeling was - Home. There were three people waiting for me: Therese, Deacon Don, and Rose Marie.

I come from a Greek Orthodox background. As a child and teenager, I lived in what was then considered the Soviet Union. At that time, the people of the country, especially of my home country, Georgia, were gradually becoming anti-Soviet. Going to church was especially meaningful by then because of all the oppression and terror the Church and the Soviet people suffered at the hands of the Communist party. While there was no real oppression when I was a child, a dark shadow of former decades was still present in mind of the people.

As time passed, not all of those who went to church during that last Soviet period kept going to church later. This fact revealed that some people were going to church just because doing so was anti-Soviet and "fashionable." But many remained faithful!

I had periods of getting closer to church and periods of immersing in a modern, secular lifestyle, until I finally realized it was the Church where I belonged with all my

(continued on page 15)

STAN FEDEWA
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

hospital I got even more interested in a career in the medical field. The time spent with limited eyesight helped me become more compassionate and an empathetic listener.

My senior year, the girls softball team won the state championship---I did not make confetti for that game! Academically I enjoyed math and science. I was not very good at either one, but I did enjoy those classes.

I went to Lansing Community College and graduated as a Radiologic Technologist. During my final term, the Director of Clinical Services for the MSU Department of Radiology came to talk to us about a brand new diagnostic technology called Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). At the time MSU had the only one in the state, and most people had never heard of it. I approached her after class and expressed my interest in it. Later she called me and asked if I wanted to do a three-month internship. If it worked out there would be a full time job waiting for me.

That was over 34 years ago, and I am still a Spartan today.

Being in MRI at MSU from the very beginning has given me great opportunities. I have been able to meet many Spartan athletes, as well as Olympic and professional athletes. I have also met local and national government officials, religious leaders, and celebrities. While continuing to work running the MRI scanner, I also spent several years as a college anatomy instructor and co-authored a textbook for MRI Technologists. I have written several questions for the National Board Exams for Radiologic Technologists. Even though I have been there a few years, I still enjoy going to work every day and helping people with their medical problems. I have also been back to St Patrick School a few times and have spoken at Career Days which was a fun experience.

I met my wife, Nancy, while we were both kids working at McDonald's in Portland. We have been married for over 34 years. My excitement for health care and her caring nature led her into health care as well. She has been a registered nurse for over 27 years. With both of us in these roles, we have been able to support each other professionally and spiritually.

My parents never stopped teaching by example. Nancy still says how she learned so much about how to be a Christian, a wife, and a mother from watching my mom. She had many heart-to-hearts with my dad. She says these gave her so much insight into the Catholic faith and helped her on her journey to join the Catholic Church. I think the love my wife had for my parents is something special and the way they loved her was pretty special too. It's because of

this relationship our marriage has had a strong foundation and grown so well and solid all these years.

Like the family I grew up in, we work, play, and pray together. We enjoy woodworking, house remodeling, and gardening (work). We have done a lot of traveling around the USA and Caribbean (play). We are members of St Mary in Williamston where we have both been on a variety of councils and committees, volunteering our time, talents, and treasures where God leads us (pray). Presently I am an officer in our local Knights of Columbus council and an officer in the 4th Degree Assembly.

Our son, Nathan, recently moved from Colorado to Illinois. This decreased the drive from 20 hours to five, so we look forward to being able to see him more frequently. He is an

MSU graduate with talents that make us so very proud. He is an engineer and composes music that takes our breath away. Kristen, our beautiful daughter, is closer to home living here in Michigan. She works very hard as an assistant manager of a restaurant (a challenge in this day and age) and does so with style and grace. She is a talented photographer and artist. Her artwork with both the camera and the brush are amazing.

God has blessed me in so many ways. I had parents who taught me the value of hard work and faith. I have a wife who loves me unconditionally. I have not one but two children who have been a gift every single day, and without them my life would not be so rich and full. I am aging, but God is good, and I am healthy. God saw further to bless me with a career that has survived this crazy year intact. So I praise God for the big things but also for the little things that carry us along the way.



Stan, ziplining with Nancy, Kristen, and Nathan

Looking for St. Pat's Alumni to Spotlight

Can you suggest or recommend a St. Patrick Alumni to Spotlight in a future issue of *The Shamrock*? You can write the article yourself or provide the information and photo and we'll do it for you. Send ideas and information to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT BEING A STUDENT AT ST. PATRICK SCHOOL!

I like being a student because teachers are caring, nice, and helpful. Family is here. People here are loving, caring, helpful, and kind. There are so many people that love it here because it's a good school. Good teachers to teach and help us learn.

Maci M, 4th grade



What I like about this school is that we have Big Rocks.

Alexis Juszczuk, 1st grade

I LIKE THAT WE GET TO PRAY TOGETHER OUT LOUD. ALSO, I LIKE BEING WITH MY FRIENDS.

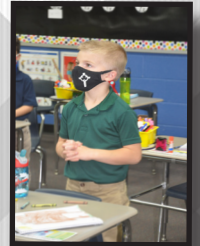
Alice Newman, 5th grade

Learning lots of stuff and STEAM.

Emerson, 3rd grade

I LIKE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS EACH OTHER AND HOW WE HANDLE PROBLEMS.

Ivan Chen, 5th grade



I like wearing dress code at St. Pat's because I don't want to spend a half hour picking out clothes to wear to school.

Peyton Schafer, 5th grade

I like that there are no bullies and you always have a friend. I like that the teachers are nice and help you to succeed.

Liam, 4th grade



I love being in a school filled with faith and the love of God! I enjoy going to mass on the weekdays and praying every morning.

Rylee Scheurer, 9th grade

Going to church.

Daniel Harraka, 1st grade

I like the teachers at St. Patrick School. I also like gym class and STEAM and what we do. Sometimes we program robots and sometimes we build and solve problems.

Simon Fedewa, 4th grade

We get to go to mass during a school day and we still get specials. My favorite specials are Gym and Art.

Amelia Lansdell, 4th grade

I LIKE HOW THE TEACHERS ARE UNDERSTANDING AND NICE.

Josie, 3rd grade



I like how friendly people are.

Maximus Shellberg, 5th grade

I like being able to talk about God whenever I need to.

Tori Sandborn, 9th grade

I like being a student at St. Patrick School because of all the good friends I have. I also like being a student because how nice and kind all the staff are. I also like hearing all the announcements in the morning.

Adelle M, 4th grade



St. Pats is fun. St Pats is good because it is Catholic.

Aiden T, 2nd grade

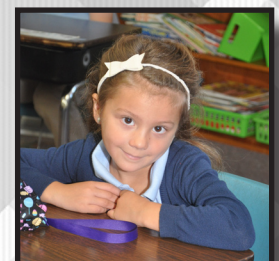
I LIKE THAT AT ST. PAT'S WE FEEL LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY.

Olivia Pung, 9th grade



I'm always excited to go see Mrs. Weems.

Ruby King - K



Online



SATURDAY, APRIL 24, BEGINS AT 6:00 PM

Shamrock Auction 2021: A Virtual Event

A Night to Celebrate the Strength of the Shamrocks

ALL ARE WELCOME! No entry fee will be charged!

**No matter where you are this year,
don't miss this night of fun!**

**Join us from your home or a friend's home;
in a small group or by yourself.**

All you need is internet access

to join our event and support St. Patrick School.

Online events include:

LIVE Auction

Silent Auction

Raffles

50/50

and more!



Raffle tickets are now available at
<http://bidpal.net/shamrockauction2021>



PROJECT HIGGS

If you are a science fiction aficionado, you will want to read *Project Higgs*, written by St. Patrick sophomore, Joshua Snitgen. Here's what Amazon has to say about the young author and his book:

"Joshua Snitgen is a student and science enthusiast from Portland, Michigan. He loves to explore the abstract, inner workings of our universe, and always looks for deeper meaning in the physical world. Joshua has been writing stories ever since he was in second grade. His first full-length novel, Project Higgs, takes readers on a journey into the multiverse—a place where everything that has ever happened is currently happening somewhere 'out there.' In addition to writing, Joshua also enjoys computer coding, playing piano, and studying business."

"Project Higgs was supposed to be the future. But instead of cutting through the fabric of space and time, it caused a mysterious explosion at the Baricone Intelligent Technologies facility that would change the life of Elias Lonsdale forever. With his parents missing in the accident and the memories of everyone around him seemingly erased, Elias finally visits the wreckage in search of clues to what went wrong. Here, a chance encounter with Dr. Johnston, the person responsible for Project Higgs, will send Elias on a journey into the multiverse in a desperate attempt to change the past."



The book is available from Amazon in paperback or as a Kindle download.

alumni news

Reunion Information

- At this time, the **Class of 1956** has no reunion plans.
- The **Class of 1961** will hold their 60-year reunion on Friday, September 10, 2021, at the Wagon Wheel. Contact Mary Ann Goodman for additional information.
- The **Class of 1966** will hold their 55-year reunion on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Wagon Wheel. Details are pending, but the date and location are firm. Contact Peggy Dishop for additional information.
- The **Class of 1971** will be guests of honor at their 50-year reunion, hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation on Saturday, September 25, 2021. See additional information on this page.
- The **Class of 1976** is working on having a reunion in the fall but at this time have no definite plans. Contact Sue Bosworth for additional information.
- The **Class of 1991** will hold their 30-year reunion in September at Jenny Brennan's house. A Facebook page was created for the last class reunion--Portland St. Patrick's Class of 1991-- and it will be updated as soon as the details are available. Classmates are urged to join the group.
- The **Class of 2001** will hold their 20-year reunion on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Specific details will be ready soon, so classmates are urged to put the date on the calendar. Contact Kristen (Schrauben) Smith for more information.
- The **Class of 2006** will hold their 15-year reunion on Saturday, September 25, 2021, at Kelsey Rockey's house. A Facebook invitation has been created and sent to those who have Facebook. Additional details will follow.
- The **Class of 2011** will hold their 10-year reunion on Saturday, July 17, 2021. Details will be mailed this summer. Contact Richelle Vallier for additional information.
- No information is available for the **Classes of 1981, 1986, 1996, or 2016.**

Reunion Report

The **Class of 1970** held a mini-reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the home of Sue Vanlente. Because of COVID-19, the turnout was small, but the group had a great time, feasting on a dinner reminiscent of their old hot lunch days---sloppy joes, hot dogs, potato chips, donuts, Pepsi, and chocolate milk. The class looks forward to their Father Flohe Foundation-sponsored 50-year reunion which has been rescheduled for May 15, 2021.



Reminder to Reunion Organizers

Because of the coronavirus, most reunions in the last year were cancelled. If your class decides to have a belated-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 a report and picture to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.



ATTENTION CLASSES OF 1970 AND 1971

Because of the coronavirus, and after much rescheduling, the Father Flohe Foundation has set dates for two 50-year reunions this year.

- The reunion for the **Class of 1970** will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021. Classmates should meet at the Parish Hall at 3:00 pm for a tour of the school. The side chapel has been reserved for seating for those who wish to attend the 4:30 Mass. A prime rib dinner will follow at 6:00 pm at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room.
- The reunion for the **Class of 1971** will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Invitations and additional information will be mailed this summer.

1999 Grad Pioneers New Health Care Program

In the mid-February issue of *HealthBeat*, a newsletter provided by Spectrum Health, a new program was publicized. The program is a collaboration between Mel Trotter and several major health care providers in the West Michigan area; it removes barriers to medical care for those who are lost to the medical community.



St. Patrick alumna Beth Makowski, DO (1999), who is a section chief with the Spectrum Health Medical Group hospitalist team, was instrumental in establishing the program. Beth volunteers at the newly-formed Community Partners Medical Clinic in partnership with medical students from Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, where she teaches internal medicine. "The goal is to remove barriers to medical care for those who are lost to the medical community," said Beth. "We try to reengage and redevelop relationships to help folks get the care that they need. We see patients there in the clinic, but then we

also, for some patients, try to establish them with a primary care physician out in the community."

Beth graduated from MSU in 2003 with a BA in physiology, and from the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2007. She completed her residency at Metro Hospital in Grand Rapids in 2010 and completed a 3-year fellowship in cardiology at University of Michigan in 2012.

In addition to her volunteer work at the clinic, Beth also volunteers with Doctors Without Borders, a group of physicians who travel abroad to treat disadvantaged patients. She is also spearheading an effort to take medical care to the streets so that the homeless can receive services.

Beth and her husband Bill live in Ada. They have a son, Jack.



Beth Makowski with her husband, Bill Shell, and son, Jack.

Update: Net Ministries Veronica White

Veronica White (2020) is serving on an evangelization team with NET Ministries. These are excerpts from a letter she sent in February.

Last semester, my team reached young people in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Michigan. This semester is a completely different story! We are now a partly virtual retreat team, one of four. We started with training in Minnesota in January, and from there we traveled to Colorado, where we did a few in-person retreats. Our final destination (where we are now) was a retreat center in Wrightwood, CA, which is up in the mountains.

We've been here at this retreat center for more than a week now, doing virtual retreats! To be honest, I didn't

really expect to enjoy them much, because I'd much rather be in person, but I have fallen in love with this ministry. I also had a pride check, realizing that I was limiting God to in-person ministry, when in reality God has no limits

Through virtual retreats, we are able to reach young people in places that are shut down, places that we can't reach with in-person ministry. Some of these youth are still shut in their homes, unable to do much of anything, and their relationship with God is struggling because of that. They think that God has abandoned them.

Many of these young people have lost hope. But that's where we come in. We show them our joy; show them that it's okay not to be perfect; show them that they can pray anywhere, even in their bedrooms. We show them that God has no limits. One of my favorite parts is when I get to see one youth change throughout the retreat. Often at the beginning they are withdrawn, quiet, or paying no attention. But as time goes on we grab their attention and get to witness a change in them!

Please keep us all in your prayers, and know that you are in ours!

SHAMROCK FOOTBALL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Unfortunately, another mandated shutdown brought high school football to a halt again, and for several weeks, the chances of completing the state tournament were unknown. When the decision was finally made to finish the season, teams were given a few weeks to resume their conditioning and get ready for the last two weeks of tournaments. Unfortunately for the Shamrocks, health challenges made them lose one of their most important players during the off-time. In the semi-final game, they hosted the hard

hitting Kinde North Huron Warriors. Despite losing two of their starting running backs to injuries on the frozen ground, the Shamrocks were able to hold on and earn their ticket to the state final game, winning 34-12.

The Shamrocks' opponent in the state final game was the perennial powerhouse North Central Jets. The Jets had only given up 60 points in the entire season and had dominated every single opponent. The Shamrocks were battered and missing three of their most important players. When your team only began with 16 players, you cannot afford to lose that many and still be able to win at the highest level. Nobody told that to the Sham-

rocks, and they came out and gave the Jets everything they could handle for four quarters of fantastic high-flying football, losing 70-48. The Shamrock team worked hard and had some fantastic contributions from underclassmen but were unable to stop the high-powered Jet offense.



NOTE FROM AN OFFICIAL

This note, from an MHSAA official, was sent to St. Patrick School after the semifinal game against Kinde North Huron.

"I would like to express my admiration to St Pat's coaching staff and players. With 3:38 left in the game, and on the Kinde North Huron the five-yard line, and having the lead of 34-12, head coach Pat Rossman had his team take a knee for four consecutive downs, working the clock to 0:43. On the change of position Kinde North Huron did the same.

This type of sportsmanship is a reflection of the values of the coaching staff, players, and St Patrick football program."

Despite falling short in the finals, the Shamrocks coaches, players, and fans were proud of the effort that the small team gave and their success on the field. The St. Patrick football team played with class and sportsmanship and were also an exceptional football team, hanging with the best team in the state for the whole game. The North Central fans were thrilled with the game and happy to get good competition from a worthy opponent.

Show Your Shamrock Pride!

Visit our School and Spirit Wear online store

fabricatedcustoms.com/collections/st-patrick



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

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

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



Summer Fest 2021 has been cancelled, due to uncertainties associated with COVID-19.

An online raffle, similar to Fall Festival and Shamrock Auction will be held. Please watch the Summer Fest website and the school and parish Facebook pages. Information will be posted there as it becomes available. See you in 2022!

www.stpatsummerfest.com

Memories of a Country School Teacher at St. Patrick's



In the 1960s St. Patrick's welcomed an unusual new first grade teacher who would begin working with the Sisters of St. Joseph. She and many of the Sisters became close friends delivering a high-quality and student-centered education. Even today, her former students speak of Vera (Lawless) Hartwig with gratitude, respect, and clarity of memory that

suggest she was very special in their early lives.

Vera was educated by leaving her Peck Lake Road family home and living with a family relative to attend a teacher college called Ionia County Normal. It prepared young, mostly women to become professional educators. She later received her B.A. from Western Michigan University.

In March of 1962, with two young children at home, Vera lost her husband, suddenly and unexpectedly. Life changed. She completed the school year and returned the following fall to continue her classroom duties. She always said that what made that possible was the remarkable love, support, and physical help from the good Sisters of St. Joseph, including the principal. Sister Marlene was especially helpful. She would get Vera's room ready in

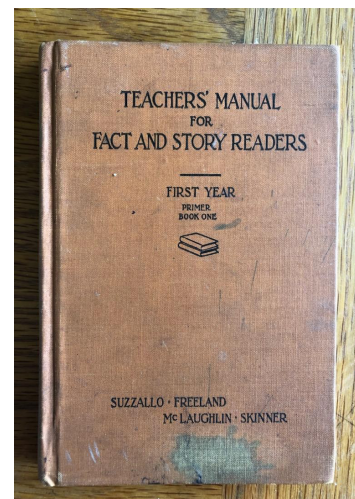
the mornings and assist her with many tasks---during the days and even in the evenings. In return, Vera would keep Sister Marlene and the other Sisters supplied with fresh apple pies. A loving exchange.

To make ends meet, Vera worked summers with the Ionia Intermediate Schools helping children with special learning issues. She quietly, without compensation, also helped some of her St. Pat's students with learning issues, evenings and on Saturdays.

This memory, and Vera's contribution to St. Patrick School, is one of many remarkable stories about the special nature of St. Pat's. May we continue to remember and encourage the chemistry that created those moments and such moments today. May we continue to recognize the value of educators with religious vocations and from all walks of life who dedicate their time and talents to our young children. These are a few of the things that make St. Patrick such a special place.

Vera Hartwig and the Sisters of St. Joseph are one chapter in a book that continues to be written.

A special fund at St. Patrick School from the Hartwig family will be established in Vera's memory for children with challenges in learning.



A teacher's manual that was used by Mrs. Hartwig.

ST. PAT'S NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

to the U.S. I became very close to the Catholic Church in my home city. Despite the centuries that separate Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox there always has been a living memory among the faithful that those two churches always have been and really are just one Church! Two parts of the same heart!

So, here I am: one small cell of the same tissue of the same heart, trying to humbly set a precedent of an unconditional acceptance and obedience in love - baptized Orthodox and a practicing Catholic in communion with my Catholic brothers and sisters, praying to God to lead me and guide me through the journey of my life and faith and to serve His people with music!



CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2021

33% GPA 4.0 or higher

71% GPA 3.7 or higher

83% GPA 3.5 or higher

ACT Class Average 22.1

(National average 20.7)

Additional stats, and college scholarships will be announced soon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

siblings, Ron (Jackie) Kramer, Mary (Dave) Campbell, Barb Cena, Bill Kramer, Becky (Ted) Droste and Wendy Fox; several brothers and sisters-in-law in the Weller family; many nieces, nephews and special friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Backpacks for Bellies P.O. Box 524; Portland, MI 48875 or PAN Foundation (PANFOUNDATION.ORG), P.O. Box 76408, Baltimore, MD 21275-6408 in memory of Anita.

Brenda Louise Pintal, age 77, died on November 8, 2020. She was born on June 26, 1943, in Detroit, MI. The only daughter of Willis and Treva Bartski, she was a strong woman, independent, intelligent, and adventurous. She was first in a long line of "Bartski" women, with three daughters, seven granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, and another great-granddaughter on the way. One streak-breaking great-grandson is expected early next year. Brenda was a skilled and passionate nurse, earning her nursing license at the age of 21 from Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing. That was an event filled year as she met and (quickly) married her husband, William (Bill) Pintal, D.O. at 21, after a six-month courtship. Brenda is survived by her husband, Bill, her daughters, Kristin Carlson and Monique (Scott) Carpenter; seven granddaughters; three great-granddaughters; brothers David (Karen) and Robert Bartski. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willis and Treva Bartski, and daughter, Kelly.

Gertrude Ann Sondag, age 85, of Portland, went to be with her Heavenly Father on November 21, 2020, with her family surrounding her. She was born in Westphalia, MI, on September 29, 1935, the daughter of Charles and Theresa (Bohr) Fedewa. She was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Gert loved the Detroit Tigers, no matter what the circumstances. She also enjoyed watching MSU Basketball. However, her favorite sporting events to watch were whenever her grandchildren were playing. Preceding Gert in death are her parents; beloved husband of nearly 62 years, Gerald Sondag; sister, Mary (Joe) Pohl; and in-laws, Robert (Rita) Sondag, Rita (Tom) Mason, and Leon "Pete" (Alice) Sondag. She is survived by her children, Kathy (Doug) Stedman, Dave (Lisa) Sondag, Dan (Donna) Sondag, Mike (Stacie) Sondag, and Kim (Nick) Weller; nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother-in-law, Jim (Marsha) Sondag; and several nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Catholic School or St. Patrick Athletic Association in honor of Gertrude.

William (Bill) Joseph Pintal, age 86, died on November 24, 2020. He was the first child of William A. and Anne M. Pintal, born in Detroit, June 22, 1934. Transplants as a result of the great depression, the young family soon returned to their beloved roots in the Upper Peninsula. Bill had an innate affinity for teaching that eventually brought him to MSU where he earned a B.S. in Education/Biology. He started his career teaching at

St. Joseph High School in Escanaba. He enlisted in the army and served in Korea from 1957 to 1958, where he fell in love with the Korean people and their culture. While overseas, he volunteered to teach English as a second language and forged many lifetime friendships. He returned to MSU and completed a Master's of Science in Botany, and transitioned to teaching at Mary Grove College, Schoolcraft College, and University of Detroit. There, he was introduced to his lifelong love, Brenda Bartski. They married after a short courtship. He physically left us on November 24, 2020, to reunite with his wife, Brenda, and youngest daughter, Kelly; brother, Bob; his mother and father; and his beloved dogs, Missy and Kimchi. He is mourned by his daughters, Kristin Carlson and Monique (Scott) Carpenter, seven granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; and a lifetime of beloved students and dear friends.

William Garnet Clark, age 77, of Portland, passed away surrounded by his family on December 2, 2020. He was born on December 22, 1942, in Lansing, the son of Garnet and Helen (Ekert) Clark. Bill was a devoted member of St. Patrick Church and K of C Council #2168. He served in the U.S. Army (1964-1967) in Germany working in weaponry and on tanks. He faithfully worked at the bus garage in Portland for 30 years. Bill loved his Catholic faith and family more than anything. He spent time serving at St. Patrick's and was very devoted to his family. He also enjoyed fishing and taking care of his lawn. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Lawrence Clark; and in-laws, Rosie Reed, Jayne Simmons, Billy Shinaver and Danny Shinaver. Surviving are his beloved wife of 53 years, Judy; children, Richard and Lynette Clark, Shannon Clark, and Sandra and Andrew Fedewa; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; siblings, Sandra and Wayne Smith, Judy and Wally Peacock, Penny and Jim Hyland, John and Liz Clark, and Gladys Clark; in-laws, Jerry Shinaver, Ron and Carol Shinaver, Terry and Marilyn Shinaver, Jim and Nancy Shinaver, Steve and Lisa Shinaver, Mary and Tom Dryzga, Don and Wendy Pohl, Pauline Holton, Kathy Guilford, Joy and Victor Cardenas, Jean Shinaver, and Ken Simmons; and many special nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. A dear memorial would also be prayers, a rosary, divine mercy chaplet, or offer a Mass as requested by Bill before his passing.

Leo Christian Frazee, age 69, of Portland, passed away December 14, 2020. He was born in Belding, MI on January 29, 1951, the son of Ernest and Katherine Frazee. Leo was dedicated to helping others and he made many friends over the years. He enjoyed camping and spending time with his family. Leo was an antique dealer and was dedicated to preserving local history, being a lifetime member of Portland Historical Society. He faithfully served as a firefighter and paramedic for 35 years. Preceding Leo in death are his parents. Leo is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Debra (Blue) Frazee; sons, James Frazee, Robert (Samantha) Frazee, David (Michal) Frazee; five grandchildren; siblings, Gerald (Tammy) Frazee, Ronald (Delores) Frazee, and Linda (Jim) Barnes; former daughters-in-law, Kelly Frazee and Robyn Aikin; sisters-in-law, Pamela Blue, Diana

(Kenneth) Whitmore, and Sandra (Ron) Kenyon; and several nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to Portland Area Historical Society or Portland Ambulance Department in honor of Leo.

Michael Peter Huhn, age 74, of Portland went to be with the Lord on January 18, 2021. Michael was born in Eagle, the son of Clarence and Rosemary (Snitgen) Huhn. Michael was a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus #2168. He retired from General Motors after 37 years of devoted service. Michael was a licensed pilot who loved flying, and he also enjoyed golfing. Preceding him in death are his parents; sister, Joan (Keith) Hosey; and brother-in-law, Jerry Tabor. Surviving Michael are his loving wife of 55 years, Jayne Huhn; children, Jean (Dan) Tiesman, Michael W. (Deanna) Huhn, Lori Huhn, and David (Michelle) Huhn; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Ray (Marian) Huhn, Kathleen Tabor, Mary (John) Russman, Vicki (Al) Jenks, and Neil (Gloria) Huhn.

Sr. Lucy Schneider, age 86, went home to God on February 21, 2021. Sister Lucy taught 4th grade at Portland St. Pat's in the early 70s. She also taught at St. Joe's in St. Johns and eventually was principal at St. Gerard's in Lansing. She is survived by her sisters Marie Theis, Doris (Dale) Westrick, Agnes Schneider, OP; brother James (Judy) Schneider; and several nieces, nephews, dear friends, and Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Elaine Joyce Alber, age 95, of Grand Rapids, mother of Father Mike Alber, was called to be with her Lord and Savior on March 9, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50+ years, Thomas; her daughters, Janice and Kathleen; her five sisters; several brothers and sisters-in-law. She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Thomas, Jeff, Mary, Lori (James) Zickuhr, Fr. Michael; 9 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Elaine was a faith-filled woman with a servant's heart. She worked for K-Mart, Inc. for more than 20 years. She made sure that each of the kids and grandchildren received a Christmas card with a stick of gum and a dollar bill. She had a quick wit and a heart of gold. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, bowling, sewing, golf, and cooking for her family. Her true joy was being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make memorial contributions to Emmanuel Hospice.

Cynthia "Cyndy" Marie Knoop, age 63, lost her battle with cancer on March 10, 2021. COVID was her final struggle. She was born on May 10, 1957, the daughter of Richard and Rosemary (Smith) Simon. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Cyndy enjoyed tending to her flowers in the summer, cross stitching and a good party, often entertaining others at their river property. She loved her family and was very devoted to her husband, sons, and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister-in-law, Judy Fedewa; and brothers-in-law, Dan Blemaster and Henry Knoop. Surviving are her

husband, John; sons, Eric (Christina) Knoop, Matt (Teresa) Knoop, Rick (Danika) Knoop, and David (Jessica Edwards) Knoop; seven grandchildren; siblings, Judy (Tom) Fryover, Jim (Martha) Simon, Char (Al) Fedewa, Dennis (Marilyn) Simon, Susan Blemaster, Gloria (Jeff) Badder, and Andy (Cheryl) Simon; in-laws, Catherine (Ray) Rowell, Ann Marie (Larry) Pung, Ray (Connie) Fedewa, Doni Knoop, Rita (Wayne) Thelen, and Dennis Knoop; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Cyndy.

Dianne Elizabeth Russman, age 50, of Portland, went to Heaven to be with the Lord on March 15, 2021. She was born on

December 28, 1970, the daughter of James and Lynda (Sandborn) Russman. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a proud graduate of St. Patrick High School Class of 1989. She enjoyed scrapbooking, showing her horses (4-H), and an occasional trip to the casino. Dianne loved going on cruises and trips with her niece and nephews who meant the world to her. The world was a brighter place with Dianne in it, and she will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Dianne is preceded in death by her grandparents and aunt, Marie DeBaldo. Surviving are her parents, Jim and Lynda Russman; brother, Dan Russman; sister, Deb (Mike) Coyne; niece, Katie Coyne; nephews, Nick and Tyler Coyne; several special first cousins; her cruise buddies, and

her scrapbooking group. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletic Association.

Miles Joseph Thelen was delivered into this world on March 15, 2021, having already been called home to Jesus a few days earlier. Miles is loved and missed by his parents, Aaron and Becky Thelen; sisters, Emmelyn and Nora; and his entire family. Though he was with us for such a short amount of time, he left his footprints all over our hearts. He is safe in the arms of Jesus, and that brings an immense amount of peace. Miles received a beautiful funeral service at St. Patrick Church on March 18, and was laid to rest in the Jacob's Ladder Columbarium in the Portland City Cemetery. (See article below.)



Pat and Carolyn Heckman were thrilled to be expecting a baby. Their hearts filled with love, hope and dreams for their child. Then came the devastating news that their unborn son had passed away. Jacob Daniel Heckman was born on January 17, 2019, at 19 weeks gestation. The loss was devastating, but faith and the support of friends and family helped Pat and Carolyn find meaning in Jacob's brief life.

"When miscarriages and stillbirths happen, hospitals provide good medical information," said Carolyn. "but, they are woefully unprepared to provide help beyond that. Thankfully, a good friend of ours, who is in the funeral industry, told us that we did not have to turn our baby over to the hospital, but that we could name him, have a funeral service for him, and bury him."

Carolyn said that having that knowledge and the control of what would happen to their son brought them great comfort and helped them immensely in the healing process. Shortly after Jacob's funeral the Heckmans realized that most families who had experienced similar losses were never given that kind of information or any choice at all. Pat and Carolyn began working on a plan to change that for local families.

Jacob's Ladder Foundation was formed in the fall of 2019 to provide practical help to families in our community who are impacted by miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss.

"Losing your baby is one of the most difficult experiences a family will ever suffer," said Carolyn. "During this time of shock and sadness, it can be difficult for you to know how to move forward. It is normal to grieve for your child, even if your child has died early in the womb. You may want to bury your child. You might just need to talk with someone who has lost a baby, who will walk with you through this process."

That is what Jacob's Ladder will do:

- Prepare you to know what to expect, from a parent's point

of view.

- Listen to your story. Your baby's life has meaning and value.
- Provide a coffin and burial place, at no cost, in Portland City Cemetery for your child. Your child will rest in an individual niche alongside other babies within a columbarium reserved for this purpose. Cremated remains may also be interred.
- Memorialize your baby with a name plaque, even if you have no remains to bury or your loss was long ago.

The 7000-pound marble columbarium arrived on January 15, 2021, two days before Jacob Heckman's second birthday. It was set on a concrete foundation east of section H1 of the Portland City Cemetery.

If you get a chance, stop by the Portland City Cemetery and see the columbarium. Imagine the local families who will benefit from it.

If you lost a baby and would like to have him/her remembered, contact Carolyn Heckman at 734-368-6446. The back of the columbarium is blank, and will be used to engrave the names of those little ones, no matter how long ago they died.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, donations can be mailed to Jacob's Ladder Foundation, 5455 Goodwin Road, Lyons, MI 48851. Jacob's Ladder Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization (501c3). Fundraising efforts had to be suspended because of Covid 19, but will be ongoing so that all of the costs described above can be covered.



The columbarium is located in Portland City Cemetery east of section H1. It is designed to hold the remains of more than 275 babies. A huge thank you goes out to Bob and Casey Lenneman who donated time and materials to pour the concrete foundation upon which the columbarium sets.

Upcoming EVENTS

Shamrock AuctionApril 24, 2021
 First Communion May 2 and 9, 2021
 Class of 1970 50-Year Reunion.....May 15, 2021
 Confirmation May 23 and 26, 2021
 Summer Fest (Virtual Event)Cancelled for 2021
 Class of 1971 50-Year ReunionSept. 25, 2021
 Fall FestivalTBD
 Fall issue of *The Shamrock*Mid October
 Deadline for submitting info.....August 31, 2021

LOST SHEEP

The post office is still returning 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 with up-to-date information, even if they haven't moved. Thank you!



1961 John D. Pung	1992 Karen (Smith) Aldering
1961 Barbara (Strong) Struble	1993 Darcy (Hinds) Vandecar
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova	1994 Theresa (Schoenherr) Fensom
1974 Steve Jenkins	1995 Emily Batty
1975 Susan Thelen	1996 Shaun Lehman
1977 Brian Jenkins	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1980 Angie Young	1997 Jenny (Chamberlain) Barbosa
1980 Patrick Ellis	2000 Jeff Pung
1981 Mike Binder	2000 Kristina Brown
1982 Jeff Strang	2001 Segrid Johnson
1983 Steve Lehnert	2002 Andrew Stopczynski
1985 Scott Osmar	2002 John Carter
1989 Amy Wixon	2004 Don Vollman
1990 John Huhtala	2004 Cara Monks
1990 Michael Smith	2005 Tony Fedewa
1991 Elaine Mauer	

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
 Parish website: 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. 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
 Website: 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.

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There are so many good things happening at St. Patrick School! The words in this puzzle barely scratch the surface! Find the twenty-five words that are hidden below, and the words left over will spell out a quote by one of Portland's famous sons, Clarence Budington Kelland.

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

ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 19, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by June 1, 2021. 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 _____

ATHLETICS
BIG ROCKS
CLUBS
DAYCARE
DRESS CODE
FAITH
FAMILY

FATHER MIKE
GOD
JESUS
LITTLE ROCKS
LOVE
MASS
PARENTS

PRAYER
PRESCHOOL
PTO
SCHOLARSHIPS
SCRIP
SMALL CLASSES
SPIRIT

STAFF
STATE CHAMPS
STUDENTS
TEST SCORES



The hidden phrase in the last issue was a reminder of what we can do to maintain sanity and serenity during trying times. ***No one can drive us crazy unless we give them the keys.*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was William Fedewa of Shelby Township, who received \$50 for his efforts. Congratulations, Bill!

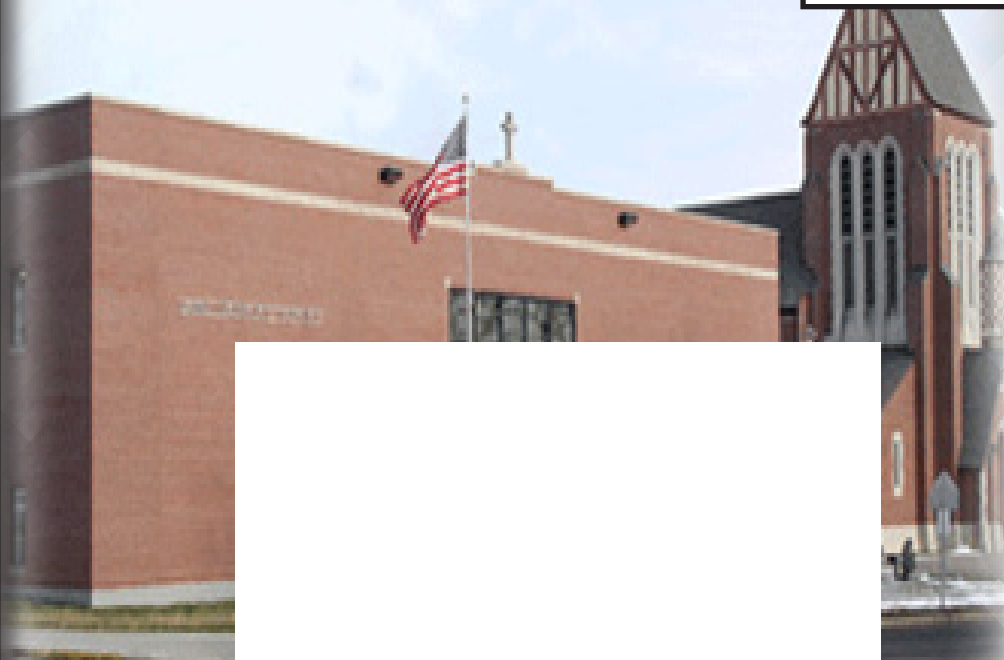
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St. Patrick Parish School
140 Church Street
Portland, MI 48875

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We want to welcome all of the new families who have enrolled their children at St. Pat's! We also want to invite everyone else to call Mr. Hodge or Mrs. Smith and talk to them about sending your child(ren) to St. Patrick School. Scholarships are available to help you make Catholic education a reality!



Call (517) 647-7551 or email randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org