



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2021

## Class of 1970 Enjoys 50-Year Reunion



Back row: Frank Fandel, Dave Snitgen, Sue Miller, Dale Kramer, Ken Schneider, Dave Fedewa, Dan Bengel. Middle row: Marilyn (Schrauben) Heilman, Diane (Gensterblum) Menold, Diane (Gross) Schlemmer, Sue (Stiffler) Vanlente, Ted Goodrich, Tom Kissane. Front row: Sharon (Simon) Seidel, Darlene (Vashaw) Schrauben, Julie (Schafer) Brennan, Debbie (Hengesbach) Wallace, Barb (Honsowitz) Bever, Sue (Morrison) Kemmerling.

### In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Class of 1970

We gather here, a class once more  
To reminiscence, like years before  
Upon the days and joys we knew  
Before our school-aged time was through.

Yet, as we meet, with memories near  
We think of those, always held dear -  
Our friends and classmates, passed away,  
Dwelling with God now, every day.\*

Mary Fran Schaffer 2018  
Virginia Zimmerman 2019  
Steve Nowak 2019  
Dennis Pohl 2020  
Kay Hartwig 2020  
Larry Blundy 2020

Each September since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted a wonderful celebration for the St. Pat's graduating classes who are celebrating their 50-year class reunion. The **Class of 1953** was the first class to graduate from St. Patrick High School, and the first to be honored at this party.

This year however, COVID 19 created a need to change the plans for the **Class of 1970** which saw the date for their 50-year reunion change on two occasions. At last, on Saturday, May 15, the third time was the charm, and the **Class of 1970** was able to gather for their 50-year reunion.

Classmates met at the school at 2:30 p.m. Principal Randy Hodge showed them around the school and talked about what has changed and what has stayed the same since they graduated. Mr. Hodge said, "These tours are the highlight of these annual reunions for me; I get to hear stories from guests about

their school years and they often enlighten me about the history of the school. Many of the grads had not been in the school since they graduated and were surprised by how much things had changed."

Though each classroom brought back memories from their high school years, the room that elicited the most talk and laughter was the science lab, which was the site of an unfortunate accident back in 1970 when three male members of the class attempted an unauthorized science experiment. Fortunately the explosion that occurred during that procedure didn't do any real damage, just singed some eyebrows and hair!

Following the tour of the school, the classmates attended the 4:30 Mass together then headed out to the Wagon Wheel where they were treated to a delicious prime rib and chicken dinner. The classmates had the opportunity to sit and socialize, and some

stayed long afterward to catch up and discuss their favorite memories of the good old days.

"I always enjoy this annual event," said Mr. Hodge. "It is a reminder that each person who enters our school has a story to tell, their own personal history. Hearing these stories and learning about these former students is a great reminder of what makes St. Patrick School such a special place."

*The Father Flohe Foundation was founded in 1988. Its primary function is to keep Catholic education available to the people of St. Patrick Parish and surrounding communities by funding some of the school expenses. The organization funds The Shamrock alumni newsletter, awards the annual Education Bell Award, and manages the endowment fund which helps to financially assist the school.*

\*Poem by Jill Eisnaugle, 2006

# Mail Call

Dear friends at St. Pat's,

I very much enjoy reading *The Shamrock* newsletter. I served as a deacon at St. Pat's from February of 1977 until my ordination in April of 1978, and the newsletter both keeps me informed of current events and brings back fond memories.

For example, you featured Stan Fedewa in the most recent issue. I remember Stan's family well. I recall very clearly the occasion of Marv and Janet's 25th wedding anniversary.

They were in the front pew with their children, and I recall acknowledging them and saying in these or very similar words: "Marvin and Janet Fedewa are here today celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary with their 14 children. We wish them many more....anniversaries, not children!"

Also, my mentor through my seminary years and the priest who preached at my first Mass at St. Pat's was Father Larry Hartwig. I knew his mother, Vera, whom you featured in a nice remembrance of her teaching career.

So, like I said, I enjoy the newsletter. Thank you!

That said, I am really writing to change my mailing address so that I can continue to receive the newsletter. I will be retiring (entering senior priest status) as of July 1 of this year.

I know the newsletter is free, but I am enclosing a small contribution to the cause.

**Father Steve Cron**



Lucas Pung was baptized by Deacon Steve Cron in February, 1977, shortly after the deacon arrived at St. Patrick Parish.

Dear Staff,

The Shamrock news always gives me some different news that I enjoy reading. I grew up in Portland and I attended St. Patrick's School. We knew almost all the students and had the Sisters of St. Joseph as teachers. I taught the 5th and 6th grade students for a while. Please use the updated address that I am enclosing. God bless you all.

**Sister Bernita Marie Gensterblum**

Shamrock staff,

Thank you for the Shamrock alumni news and everything in it. Great puzzle, great stories, a good paper to read!

**Ron Trierweiler, Class of 1946**

## JANE FINKBEINER RETIRES

Congratulations to Jane Finkbeiner, who retired this summer after 30+ years of service to St. Patrick School.

Jane began her employment at St. Pat's in 1990, initially working in the cafeteria and on the playground, watching over the students during lunch hours and recesses. She eventually joined the custodial crew who work so hard to keep our school and parish grounds looking good.

What will Jane do now? She spent most of the summer planning her son Brendan's August 28th wedding. She also spent lots of time with her kids and grandkids, traveling north to St. Ignace and the Mackinac Bridge with son Patrick and his family, and visiting son Derek and his family.

She said that retirement hadn't really sunk in yet, but she was prepared for the start of the school year to be hard. "I'll definitely miss all of the people," she said.

They'll miss her, too! Mrs. Cortney Smith said, "I'm going to miss Jane's attention to detail. She always noticed the little things that needed to be taken care of."



Jane was honored with a cake and celebration in the Parish Hall.

This fall she plans to relax—but not for long! She wants to do some updates on her house in the near future.

Thank you, Jane, for all of the time and energy that you put into our parish and school over the past 30 years.

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





# In the Spotlight

*The Marketing Subcommittee of the St. Patrick School Board began an effort last spring to reach out to alumni for information that could be posted on the St. Patrick Alumni and Friends Facebook page and in The Shamrock newsletter. The grads were asked about their lives after high school, their education, family life, hobbies, and thoughts about how their Catholic education affected them as adults. So far, three alumni have responded. If you have been contacted, or if you would like to make a recommendation, please send your suggestions to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.*

## Ken Cook (1985)

I am a 1985 graduate of St. Patrick High School. I graduated from MSU with a BA in MLM-Purchasing Management and from Grand Valley State University with an MBA.

I have been married to my wife Mary for 25 years and we have three kids, Logan (23), Leah (20), and Shane (17). All five of us have either graduated or are on their way to graduating from St. Patrick High School.

I really, really, really enjoy funny t-shirts and I have a good starter collection. My wife encourages me to purchase more of them. I also enjoy all types of music. Music gets me in a good mood and really gets my creative juices flowing. I also like to share music with others in a pseudo-disc jockey format. My specialty is creating disc jockey names that straddle the line of fiction and non-fiction.

My work career really started in fourth grade when my brother Bruce would take me with him after school to put in drain fields for Cook Brothers. Bruce did about 98% of the work to complete the job and he bought me a bottle of Mountain Dew every time we went out. This experience led to more duties, including stints on the rock crusher and more drain fields, basements and other jobs. I worked at Cook Brothers during the summers while in high school and college. It paid for my college tuition and I learned a lot of useful life lessons. My siblings Keith, Carol, Bruce, Dale and Diane are still some of the smartest people I know



and are still active at Cook Brothers. Although Judy, Lisa, Bill and Joe don't work for Cook Brothers they are pretty smart too! The smartest of all? Of course it's Mom!!

Sales was intriguing to me because of the opportunities to be out in the field and earn sales commissions beyond a base salary. I spent 14+ years in K-12 educational sales and enjoyed it. Recently a buyout opportunity became available and I decided to take it. I am now working on my next challenge and I am excited to see where it takes me. Mike Lehman says I am one step away from returning to the end of a Cook Brothers shovel, and I am ok with that. Why? Because a shovel is like a long-time friend, you can always lean on it—in good times and in bad.

One of the career accomplishments I am most proud of is finishing in 1st place nationally among 80+ sales consultants in 2019. This was awarded at the national sales meeting and it was truly a thrill knowing all of the great people and sales professionals that were there. I also feel very fulfilled and satisfied about the large literacy projects I have put together over the years in urban school districts. I am hoping that this increased the reading capabilities in young students and helped them develop.

At the core of all the fun, craziness, and hard work has been St. Patrick's. From first grade on, it gave me a solid foundation to build on. Experiences from academics, athletics, and building close friendships still bring value today. The traditions, the feeling of being the underdog in almost all aspects and the sheer friendliness of the people are all welcoming, positive, and motivational gifts. The high school at St. Patrick's and its experiences are very important also. The opportunity to have God in your presence during very formative years is crucial to your personal and spiritual development. It reaps rewards to

*(Continued on page 12)*



# 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 August 15, 2021.*

## BIRTHS

To **Nicole and Nick Simon** (2008) a daughter, Isla Rose, on May 6, 2021. She joins one brother, Eli (2).

To **Tyler and Katie Kramer** (both 2011), a son, Isaac Christopher, on July 21, 2021.

To **Alex** (2008) and **Rachel Schrauben** a son, Edison Ellis, on May 29, 2021.

To **Adam** (2001) and **Stacey Schrauben** a daughter, Allie Lynn, on July 23, 2021.

To **Jeffrey and Samantha (Hengesbach) Campbell** (both 2008), a daughter, Dylan Marie, on June 15, 2021. She joins sisters Peyton (6) and Baylee (3).

To **Emily (Bartlett, 2003) and Greg Boland** of Caledonia, MI, a son, William James, on March 23, 2021. He joins brother Leo (3) and sister Amelia (6).

To **Kristen (Schrauben, 2001) and Aaron Smith**, a daughter, Haidyn Ann, on January 22, 2021. She joins sisters Harper (8), Hadley (6), and Holland (3). She also shares a birthday with her Grandpa, Gene Schrauben.

To **Ross** (2002) and **Lacy Schneider**, a son, Boden Chance, on April 16, 2021. He joins brothers Noah (8), Oliver (7), Cian (5), and Alden (5).

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Lauren Graszler** and **Brett Simon** (2005) recently became engaged. A wedding date has not been set.

**Nick Coyne** (2016) and **Emily Miros** (2016) will be married on September 17, 2022.

## WEDDINGS

**Jill (Fox, 1996) Wolfe** and **Brad Beard** were married in Charlevoix, on June 26, 2021.

The following weddings took place at St. Patrick Church:

On May 1, 2021, **Eric Thelen** and **Samantha Parkhouse**.

On May 22, 2021, **Tyler Smith** and **Sarah Davis**.

On June 12, 2021, **Justin Hobner** and **Victoria Stiffler**.

On June 19, 2021, **Timothy Fischer** and **Jill Spitzley**.

On June 26, 2021, **Basil Beers** and **Lauren Bengel**.

On July 10, 2021, **Jacob Miller** and **Shelby Miller**.

On August 21, 2021, **Milo Root** and **Andrea Morren**.

On August 28, **David Simon** and **Laura Spohn**.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Jim and Carol (Webert) Wilcox** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 22, 2021. A celebration was held with family and friends.

**Richard and Janice (Stump) Manning**, both Class of 1959 graduates, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 8, 2021.

## GRADUATIONS

**Kara Shaw** (2019) graduated from Lansing Community College on August 2, 2021, with

a general education degree with a focus in business.

**Greg Doll** (2017) graduated from Ferris State with a degree in criminal justice.

**Allison Hodge** (2015) earned an MA Degree in speech language pathology.

**Blake Hodge** (2017) graduated from Ferris State University with a BS in HVACR Engineering Technology and Energy Management.

**Kelsey Schneider** (2017) graduated from WMU in December, 2020, with a BS and is now attending Baylor Medical College in Houston, TX, for her master's in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

**Cammi Schneider** (2016) graduated from Western Michigan University in May, 2021, with her MSE (Master's of Science and Engineering-accelerated). She is a chemical engineer working at Perrigo Manufacturing pharmaceuticals.

**John Schneider** (2020) got his welding certification in July of 2020, and is working as a welder/metal fabricator for Eagle Enterprise of Michigan.

**Joe Weller** graduated from WMU in December, 2020, with a degree in civil engineering and is currently employed by MDOT in their engineer development program.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Bill Koelzer** of San Clemente, CA, passed away on September 26, 2020. Friends and loved ones remember him as a witty, adventuresome businessman, writer, promoter, and traveler. Bill served in the Navy aboard the USS Oriskany, and was very dedicated to the military. He studied journalism in community college and at San Jose State University. Bill is survived by his wife Debbie; sister, Lynn Koelzer Bailey; and daughters, Jacqui and Shelly Koelzer. Donations can be made to The Marine Monument at Park Semper Fi, P.O. Box 456, San Clemente, CA 92674.

On December 15, 2020, **Ken Horvath** of Portland passed away at the age of 62. Ken grew up in Ohio and graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1976. Ken dedicated himself to golf, earning his PGM degree from Ferris State and PGA card. He was hired by Jack Breslin in 1984 to run Forest Akers Golf Courses at MSU. Ken was General Manager of Forest Akers for 24 years; during that time, Ken was also the Men's Golf Coach. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, John and Agnes Horvath; and sister-in-law Beth Horvath. He is survived by Christine, his wife of 34 years; his daughter Kendra and son



Matt; siblings, Agnes Marie (Jim) Gularek and John Horvath; in-laws Tom (Marie) Ciolek, Cathy Michealsen, Jim Ciolek, Bill (Donna) Ciolek, Jon (Nancy) Ciolek, Larry (Marie) Ciolek, and Mike (Jennifer) Ciolek; 25 nieces and nephews; and 19 grand-nieces and nephews. Honorary pallbearers are Justin Gularek, Dr. Jordan Gularek, Mike Hull, Vennie Gore, Dr. Tariq Abdelhamid, and Jack Ebling. Contributions may be made in Ken's memory to Michigan State University, Ferris State University, or the Portland Soccer Club, 9185 Shimano Dr., Portland, MI 48875.

**William (Bill) Paul Spedoske**, 70, of Portland, died Friday evening December 18, 2020, at peace in his home, surrounded by his wife and children. He was born in Big Rapids Michigan, the son of Dominic and Carolyn Spedoske both of whom preceded him in death. Bill served his country and was a Vietnam Veteran serving his tour of duty from 1970 – 1972. Surviving Bill is the love of his life and wife of 50 years, Sherry Lynn Baker; children, William (Paul) and wife, Christina; Troy Allen; daughter Shannon Lee Spedoske and former special son-in-law, Chris Teachout; brothers, Steve and wife, Linda, John and wife, LouAnn, and Robert and wife, Stacy; sisters Betty, Mary, Sally and husband Dennis, and sister-in-law Debra; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by brother, Michael Spedoske; sisters, Carol, Kathleen, and Patty Kay; brothers-in-law, Gerald Hoppes, Dave Smith, and Gary Kiter; father-in-law, John Baker; brother-in-law, David Charles (Charlie) Baker.

**David (Dave) George Huhn**, aged 79, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2021, at his home in Tempe, AZ, due to complications from COVID-19. Dave was born in Lansing, MI, on April 24, 1941, and grew up in Portland, MI. He graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1959. Dave's passion for language was subsequently channeled into a career spent serving and defending our country. This was done first in the Air Force, and then as a civilian for the National Security Agency; earning the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Dave was preceded in death by parents, Leonard and Rose Marie (Thelen) Huhn; older brother, Gary Huhn; brothers-in-law, Richard Egan and Fred Karasinski; and partner, Kitty McCormick. Dave is survived by children, Heidi (Tom) Johnson and David (Kelly) Huhn; four grandchildren; siblings Marcia (Roger) Roty, Linda Egan, Noreen Karasinski, and Denise (Tom) Hansen; as well as many other cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

**RoseMary (Fedewa) Pung**, age 87, of Portland passed away peacefully on January 25, 2021. She was born on March 10, 1933, in Riley Township, Michigan, the daughter

of Henry and Rose (Schrauben) Fedewa. Preceding RoseMary in death are her parents; beloved husband of 68 years, Thomas A. Pung; mother and father-in-law, Leon and Pauline (Gross) Pung, Sr.; brother, Gerald (Kate) Fedewa; sister, Germaine (Fred) May; and brothers-in-law, Donald Pung, Leon Pung, Jr., John Pung, and Anthony Hradecky. Surviving are her children, Steve (Kim) Pung, Diane (Brad) Sandborn, Mark (Sharon) Pung, and Lisa (Chris) Fedewa; siblings, Joe (Alice) Fedewa and Kathleen Bengel; Pung in-laws, Robert (Bernie) Pung, Barb (Dick) Trierweiler, Dorothy Pung, Ann (Jerry) Kloeckner, Joan Hradecky, Richard (Ann) Pung, Kathie Pung, and Ken (Carrie) Pung; 10 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Donations can be made to the Father Flohe Foundation at St. Patrick's Church or Hospice of Greater Lansing.

If you have information  
that you would like to have  
included in the next issue of The  
Shamrock, please send it to  
[shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com)

**George Leon Miller**, age 85, of Lyons, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away at home on January 28, 2021. He was born in Lyons, the son of George M. and Anna (Spitzley) Miller. George was a life-long farmer, worked construction, and drove a semi-truck for several years. Preceding George in death are his parents; 4 brothers; 3 sisters; and daughters, Kareen (Bill) Sage and Janice (Ted) Thelen. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Lois (Johnston) Miller; children, Patrick Miller, Marian Dyer, Timothy (Marcia) Miller, Charlie (Debbie) Miller, Gary Miller, and Sandy (Bob) Martin; 18 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; brother, Larry (Kathy) Miller; and sister, Florence Johnston. Contributions may be made to the Grand River Conservation Club or Ionia Area Hospice in memory of George.

**Dan Krieger** lost his long battle to cancer on April 13, 2021. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Russell and Esther (Huhn) Krieger. Dan was a 1968 graduate of Portland St. Patrick High School, Portland, MI and received a BSBA degree from Central Michigan University in 1972. He worked for the State of Michigan for 30 years and retired in 2002. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Lois (Raterink) Krieger; daughters, Danielle Krieger of Grand Rapids, MI and Kelly (Nick) Krieger-Perry of Ionia, MI; his brother, Lawrence (Marlene) Krieger of Ionia

and sister, Karen Krieger of Portland; two grandchildren; his nieces and nephews; and numerous cousins. Dan has requested that anyone who can, plant a tree in his memory. Or donations can be made in Dan's name to Lansing/Ionia Area Hospice.

**Julie Ann (Peake) West**, 62, of Lansing, loving wife, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away at her home on April 18, 2021. She was born in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Wilbur and Mary (Simon) Peake. Julie was a member of the Portland High School Class of 1976, and went on to become the valedictorian of her graduating class at Olivet College. Julie was an elementary teacher at St. Patrick Catholic School for a number of years and then went on to work at the Women's Shelter and Jackson Hewitt in Lansing. Preceding Julie in death are her parents, Wilbur and Mary Peake; sister, Cindy Peake; nephew, Justin Leyrer; and father-in-law, William West. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Doug West; sister, Betty (Michael) Leyrer; niece, Heather (Robert) Wiborn; nephew, Brandon (Emily) Leyrer; mother-in-law, Helen West; sister-in-law, Elaine Hess; and brother-in-law, Patrick (Tricia) West.

**William "Bill" John Schneider**, born in Portland, Michigan on April 21, 1935, the son of Leonard and Regina (Huhn) Schneider, passed away surrounded by his family on April 16, 2021. He served two years in the United States Army as a medic. He then went on to work for 37½ years at TRW in Portland and he also worked for the Detroit Tigers at their stadium in Lakeland, Florida. Bill also served for many years in the Portland VFW #4090 Honor Guard. He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Janice (Joe) Kavanagh; grandson, Ashton Peake; daughter-in-law, Camala Schneider; and son-in-law, Dr. Paul Kelly. He is survived by his wife of 64 wonderful years, Frances (Weber) Schneider; children, Cynthia (Matthew) McIntyre, Jean (Rick) Ward, William (Stephanie) Schneider, Pat (Brian) Brown, Connie (Richard) Lazarus, Mary (Lane) Carter, and Steven (Marilyn) Schneider; 21 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren, with 3 on the way; siblings, Elaine (Bob, deceased) Eck, Chuck (Doral) Schneider, Kathleen (Dan, deceased) Spitzley, and Dan (Mary Jo) Schneider.

**Joseph J. Schmitt**, age 77, of Portland, passed away on Friday, April 30, 2021. Joe was a member of St. Patrick Church. He was an accountant for many years and enjoyed fishing, and playing cards at the Senior Center. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Helen; an infant brother; brothers, Jerome Schmitt and Leon (Neva) Schmitt; sisters, Helen Krouse and Mary Ann (Terry) Allen. Surviving are his children, Ann Schmitt and James Schmitt; grandson, C.J.;

(continued on page 16)

## Welcome to St. Patrick School!

A warm welcome to the following new staff at St. Patrick School!

**Margaret Beson** is the new Academic Support Teacher. Margaret has a bachelor's degree and recently completed her teaching certification through Aquinas College. She is currently working on her master's degree in Education.



Margaret is married and has one stepson. As a family they enjoy attending church and being active in the church. "I am passionate about working with students and helping them achieve their goals," she said. "The best moment in education for me is when a student makes connections and builds their confidence in the skills we have been working on. Please know you will all be in my prayers and I ask that you pray for me as well."

grow academically, socially, as well as spiritually. I strive to be an inspiring and empowering force in children's lives so they are excited and motivated to learn. Together we will show grit and grace and we will truly let our faith shine!" Karen is married to Bryan and has three children who are enrolled at St. Patrick School.



**Bob White** is the new Physical Education teacher at St. Patrick School. He graduated from CMU with majors in PE and mathematics and received a master's from Western Michigan in athletic administration. He and his wife, Jessica, also own two businesses, a driver training school, and 4D Moments, which provides high definition



ultrasound pictures and videos for expectant mothers. Bob said, "We moved to Portland specifically for St. Patrick School. It was so important to us that we lived in a hotel for a month since we couldn't find a place to live yet (it was right after the tornado). Being able to work in the same building with my children is a huge blessing, I've never been happier in my career."



**Christine Rockey** is the new high school English teacher and will also oversee the media center for the elementary students. She has a BS in Business and English Education from Ferris State University, an MA in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University, an MA in Labor and Industrial Relations from MSU, and an Educational

Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Oakland University. Christine and her husband, David, have two children. "I am so excited to work at a place where I can not only act out my faith, but talk about it as well," she said.

**Karen Scheurer** is the new third-grade teacher. Karen graduated from CMU with both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Elementary Education; she has been teaching for 20 years. "I am beyond excited to join the St. Patrick School family," she said. "It is my passion to help students

**Teresa (Weller) Knoop** is the Lead Teacher for the new daycare program. Teresa and her husband Matt have been married for 15 years and have three children enrolled at St. Patrick School. She graduated from Lansing Community College with an associate's degree in Child Development and has been working with children for the last 19 years, either in child care or a preschool setting. "I am excited to start this new adventure working for St. Pats," she said. "I love working with young children and working at St. Pat's gives me the extra bonus of also sharing my faith and helping build the love for Jesus in the youngest of God's children."



**Kaitlyn Simmons** will be providing child care in the afternoons, in the Before/After Child Care Program. Kaitlyn graduated from Lakewood High School in 2011 and from Olivet College in 2016. She said, "I'm excited about starting a new journey, working here at St. Patrick School. The kids are great and the staff is very welcoming!"



## From the Athletic Director

I would like to thank everyone for all the help that made the 2020-21 school year a success. It was great to see the student athletes having fun and competing at a high level throughout the school year. They proved the value of educational athletics as they grew in their faith, excelled in the classroom, and competed at high levels in their respective sports all school year.

### New Coaches:

For the 2021-22 school year we would like to welcome some familiar faces in new roles:

- Nicole Easlick, long time St. Patrick volleyball coach and most recently our JV Volleyball Coach, has been hired as our new Varsity Volleyball Coach.
- Curtis Meyers who has led our JV Boys Basketball squads the past two seasons has been hired as our new Varsity Boys Basketball Coach.

Please welcome both Nicole and Curtis as they lead our teams this season.

### New football conference:

St. Patrick has joined the Central Michigan 8-Man Football Conference. The member schools are Portland St. Patrick, Merrill, Webberville, Fulton, and Vestaburg. Our Junior High football team will also play a conference schedule in 2021.

### Trap Team

A Fall Trap Season has been added in 2021, following a successful spring season. (See separate article on the trap team.)

### Athletic Association

Thank you to Andy Mosser, who has accepted the position as president of the St. Patrick Athletic Association. Parents are encouraged to attend Athletic Association

monthly meetings. It's a good way to see what goes on behind the scenes and to grasp the importance of our volunteers and fundraisers. If you attend four meetings during the school year, you will receive a free Family Athletic Pass for next year.

Thank you for all the work and donations that have been provided to the St. Patrick School and Athletic Association. Because of this generosity, we continue to be able to provide opportunities for our student athletes. Beginning this year, we are able to provide year-round strengthening and conditioning programs for all athletic teams at our new building on Father Flohe Field. This is made possible by the generous donations and efforts that we have been blessed with. Please keep them coming! Looking forward to seeing you this Fall!!! GO SHAMROCKS!!!

## St. Patrick School Trap Team

The newest team at St. Patrick School, the trap shooting team, which was launched in March 2021, did very well during their inaugural season, signing up 16 student athletes, 12 of whom were new to the sport. Coaches Craig Corbeil, Troy Smith, and Mike Bozung hope to attract more participants in the coming seasons. The trap seasons are fall and spring, with state and national competitions in June and July.

*(continued on page 14)*

*Open Now!*

## Little Shamrocks

### PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE

Daycare is available for 3 and 4 year old children, with your choice of 2, 3, or 5 days. You can choose to attend in the morning or afternoon.



St. Patrick Daycare is located in the lower level of the main school building, adjacent to the Preschool classroom.

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



WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!

**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.**



# alumni news

## Reunion Reports

The 40-year class reunion for the *Class of 1980* was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fear not! They changed it to a 41-year reunion which was held on June 18, 2021, at the home of Neil and Deb Miros. It's always amazing to see how friends can pick right back up where they left off! A great time was had by all!



The *Class of 2001* held their 20-year class reunion on June 19, 2021. Father Ryan Riley said the 4:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church, and classmates then had dinner at the home of Kristen and Aaron Smith. There was a small, but fierce attendance, and everyone had a great time.



### 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](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).



The *Class of 2011* held their 10-year reunion on July 17, 2021. Classmates met at ConfluxCity and enjoyed chatting and reminiscing over some drinks. Twelve out of the 20 classmates were in attendance.

## ATTENTION CLASS OF 1972

Members of the Class of 1972 should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion that will be held in your honor on September 17, 2022.

Additional information will be mailed.

## Upcoming Reunions

*Classes of 1985 and 1986* will hold a joint reunion on Friday, October 1, 2021 at the Portland Conservation Club, 7345 Lyons Road, Portland. For more information, contact Cathy Simon (517-526-4030) or Amy Smith (517-526-3236).

Several additional class reunions are being held in September and October. Reports and pictures will be printed in the spring issue of *The Shamrock*.





# 1981 Softball Team Brought Home First Shamrock State Championship!

*The following article is reprinted with permission, from the Reunion of Champs book, published in 2007.*



Front row: Joyce Gensterblum, Kaye Schrauben, Carmen Simon, Jane Rogers, Do-reen Schrauben, Sherri Fox, Renee Vallier, Barb Manning, Julie Schrauben. Back row: Dick Willemin (Head Coach), Rhonda Lehman, Lori Kissane, Laurie Hoppes, Brenda Schrauben, Ralph Willemin (Assistant Coach), Michelle Simon, Karen Kramer, Maureen Eddy, Lisa Cook, Tom Russman (Assistant Coach).

They had a lot of talent, a few lucky breaks, and a coach who believed in them to the depths of his heart. Combined, that was enough for a historic win, the first ever State Championship trophy for Portland St. Patrick School.

Coach Dick Willemin's Lady Shamrocks finished regular season play with a 20-2 record. It was the third consecutive year that St. Pat's won the league title. By the time the tournaments began, people from all over mid-Michigan were paying attention to the team and wondering, if this year, they had what it would take to go all the way.

Though the district games were lackluster by comparison, with weak competition, the rest of the tournament was high school softball at its best. The semi-final game against Pontiac Central was played at Bogue Flats in Portland before an estimated crowd of 1,000. The opposing coach remarked that she'd never seen so many people at a girl's softball game.

Pontiac Central's pitcher, Vicky Morrow, was considered to be one of the best in the state. The next year she would take her team to the Class C Championship and then move on to star as a pitcher at U of M. She truly was brilliant that day, but Shamrock pitcher, Jane Rogers, was just as strong. Jane had already shut down the opposing team's offense, and the Shamrock hitters had broken through with some hits, when in the eighth inning, a coaching error resulted in Miss Morrow being taken off the mound.

It was a bizarre turn of events, and the Shamrocks capitalized on it, winning the game by a final score of 3-2.

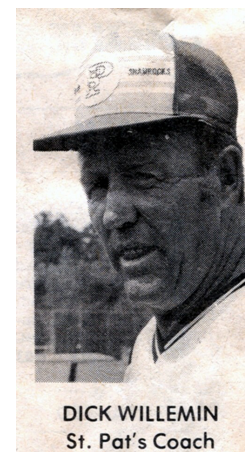
The following week the Shamrocks traveled to Ranney

Park in Lansing for the Class D State Final game against Wyoming Lee. The game was scheduled for Saturday, but because of rain, had to be delayed until Monday.

The Shamrocks went to the park that day feeling confident and ready to play like champs. Once again, Jane was pitching great, and in front of a devoted and enthusiastic horde of supporters, the Lady Shamrocks played a nearly flawless game. They won 3-2 to take the 1981 crown.

"Jane really rose up for those last games," said an obviously elated coach. "She may not have thrown as hard as some of the pitchers we faced, but she did something that only four pitchers in the entire state do each year. She won the last game."

"And all of the girls played errorless ball," he continued. "They looked like the State Champs they are."



DICK WILLEMIN  
St. Pat's Coach



First row: Joyce Gensterblum Werner, Sherri Fox Gensterblum, Kaye Schrauben Sandborn, Brenda Schrauben Smith. Second row: Michelle Simon Nakfoor, Laurie Leik Kinne, Karen Kramer Trierweiler, Julie Schrauben Moyer, Carmen Simon Wiggins, Jane Rogers Wheaton, Rhonda Lehman Goodrich. Third row: Tom Russman, Ralph Willemin. Two other teammates, Maureen Eddy Devota and Lisa Cook Barrone joined the group at the Wagon Wheel after the games.

On Thursday, May 20, 2021, the 1981 Softball Team was introduced and honored between the two varsity games of a softball double-header at Father Flohe Field. Afterwards the ladies met at the Wagon Wheel to reminisce and have some appetizers and drinks. They want to thank the Athletic Association for spearheading this event.

# SAINT PATRICK CHURCH RESTORATION

In 1926 construction of Saint Patrick Church began with a budget of \$80,000. That would be worth about \$1.2 to \$1.4 million in today's dollars. The dedication ceremony was held on June 27, 1927.

As we approach the centennial celebration of our church, it is showing its age and is in need of important restoration. During the past few months, Saint Patrick Parish has received sizable donations in excess of \$100,000 to be used towards restoring Saint Patrick Church.

Extensive improvements and repairs have already been completed using existing budget funds. Notably the tabernacle and the wood altar from the original Saint Patrick Church were returned to the sanctuary. Parishioner Tom Dailey, of Purus Masonry Restoration, has completed repairs to the foundation which includes patching the crumbling base blocks especially noticeable along Grand River Avenue and the south and east entrances. The cost of these repairs was below industry standards and additional repairs beyond the scope of the contract were also completed at no extra cost.

Plans are being developed by a subcommittee to the Plants and Grounds committee to provide advice on the first phase of the much needed restoration, which will focus on the sanctuary. Initial plans are to expand the sanctuary to its original configuration by moving the tabernacle against the back wall along with the arch and original crucifix and replacing the marble altar with an altar that better reflects the architecture of the church. The existing altar will be repurposed as a base for the restored statuary.

The carpeting will be removed to reveal the original decorative terrazzo floor in the sanctuary. St. Gerard parishioner, John Jared, of Concrete Resource has already agreed to restore

that frame the sanctuary.

As funds become available, additional restorations and improvements will be made. Initial plans are to install energy efficient windows to protect all the beautiful stained glass windows, improve lighting in the nave and add new chandeliers, restore the pews and install new kneelers, restore the terrazzo floor in the aisles, complete masonry work on the exterior and interior of the church, install insulation in the balcony ceiling, repair or replace the entrance doors, provide changing space and additional storage in the sacristy, and when needed replace the aging roof shingles.

Hopefully, with your prayers and stewardship, all this work can be accomplished prior to the centennial celebration of Saint Patrick Church in 2027.

No capital improvement fundraising drive will be initiated. However, donations to help fund these projects can be made through the regular Sunday collections in a separate envelope labeled "Church Restoration." Donations can also be mailed to Saint Patrick Parish, 140 Church St., Portland, MI, 48875. Thank you for your continued prayers and generous gifts.



The original tabernacle was restored and returned to the sanctuary and placed upon the original wood altar from the first Saint Patrick Church. The original crucifix has also been returned to the sanctuary.

the terrazzo for the cost of labor alone. He has offered to donate the use of his equipment and the diamond pads used to polish the floor.

Preliminary plans also include the construction of accessible confessionals. These will be located where the choir and musicians currently lead us in song. The choir and musicians will be moved into the chapel along with the piano and the organ which will be renovated to meet today's standards. Other restoration projects include improved lighting in the sanctuary and repairs to the masonry on the cast concrete arches

Donations can be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope clearly labeled CHURCH RESTORATION. Donations can also be mailed to St. Patrick Parish, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.

Donations can also be made through Online Giving. Go to [portlandstpats.com/church](http://portlandstpats.com/church), click on DONATE>GIVE NOW>MY DONATION ONE TIME>MISC.

Enter the amount of your donation and put Church Restoration in the comment box.







Clear safety glass now covers the stained glass windows in the Chapel (left) in place of the amber colored glass that covers the stained glass windows in the body of the church. The clear glass protects the windows from damage and also lets the stained glass designs show through when the church is lighted at night.



The current music area will be converted to an accessible confessional.



The crumbling foundation of the church was repaired this summer.



The carpeting in the sanctuary will be removed to reveal the original decorative terrazzo floor, shown above.



The side chapel in the church will eventually be home to the piano and organ. The choir and other musicians will be located here, as well.



A new baptismal font (above) has been placed in the narthex of the church where the original font (bottom) was located. The original font was damaged beyond repair and has been put into storage.

## IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS COMPLETED TO DATE

During the past two years, some improvements and necessary repairs to Saint Patrick Church have been accomplished using existing budget funds and donations. Additionally, some devotional and liturgical items have been purchased to enhance the liturgy of Mass.

- The original tabernacle was restored and returned to the sanctuary and placed upon the original wood altar from the first Saint Patrick Church.
- An arch was added behind the new altar to better reflect the gothic architecture of the church.
- The statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. Patrick were restored, as was the original crucifix.
- New candle stands, processional cross, sanctuary candle stand, and paschal candle stand were purchased.
- A new baptismal font was purchased and the font was placed in the narthex of the church, its original setting. The new font is better suited for current needs. The original baptismal font was damaged beyond repair and was put into storage.
- The granite baptismal font was removed and will be repurposed for later use.
- A handrail was installed to aid people entering and exiting the sanctuary.
- Roof valleys on the church were repaired to prevent further leaking and damage to the structure of the building. These roof repairs were completed last year.
- New energy efficient windows were installed in the chapel to protect the stained glass, to enhance their colors, and to keep the elements out.
- New energy efficient windows were installed in the sacristy to replace the windows that were outdated for their purpose. The glass from the old windows has been stored for future use.
- New cement work was done on the sidewalk, stairs, and pad on the east sacristy entrance.
- A new accessible entrance door was installed on the west side of church to replace the existing door due to corrosion of the aluminum.
- Work is currently being done to restore the crumbling foundation of the church.



## SPOTLIGHT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

I still feel the small school experience is the best. It allows you to get to know people on a much closer scale and develop skills for effective communication. The ability to communicate effectively on an interpersonal level and building relationships has always been very important in any successful career. At St. Patrick you are also surrounded by high achievers. Rubbing elbows with driven and focused achievers is always a great way to learn best practices.

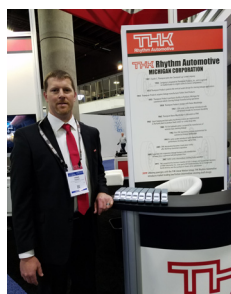
As my last child gets closer to graduation, it really freaks me out. I will desperately miss the activities and the relationships built with other parents. My brother Joe and I have vowed to be the next edition of Johnny Vallier and Dick Brown. We will road trip it to games, we will try to stay involved as much as we can, and we will continue to enjoy the great vibes that St. Patrick gives.....it's that good!

*Epilogue: Although a shovel will always be a lifelong chum, I have recently accepted a new position that combines my sales experience in K-12 and logistics. In this sales position I will be selling specialized student transportation in the K-12 space.*

### Craig Fedewa (1995)

**What field of study did you pursue after high school?** Western Michigan University, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Minor in Mathematics

**How did your career path lead to your current position?** After high school, I worked the summer college machine



operator program at TRW, here in Portland. Later in college, I worked a couple of internships at other companies. Upon graduation from college, I was hired by TRW as a Manufacturing Engineer. Since then, I have held a variety of positions within the company including Quality Engineer, Metrology Lab Supervisor, Senior Manufacturing Engineer, Maintenance Supervisor, and my current position Senior Product Engineer. I am also a Certified Quality Engineer and have been trained in Six Sigma Black Belt. In my time there, the company has gone through many changes. In 2015, our division of TRW was purchased by THK, our current parent company. Our plant has been designing and manufacturing steering linkage and suspension components in Portland, MI, since 1953. I'm also blessed to continue a tradition, as my father Gary and grandfather Marvin are both TRW retirees and graduates of St. Patrick School.

**What have been the most enjoyable experiences throughout your career?** I have enjoyed trying many new things. My Mechanical Engineering degree has been very versatile in that I have been able to experience many different roles within the company. Taking on new roles has helped me to become a more well-rounded engineer and provide value to the company. I enjoy working as a team.

**Are there any professional accomplishments you are proud of?** I am proud that I have been able to stay with the same company for 21 years. Someone staying with the same company has become rare in recent years. I have done this by trying new things and taking on new roles. I have been part of many successful teams throughout my career. A few years ago, outside of my day job, a friend and I were able to secure a patent for a snowmobile helmet light. Unfortunately, it was not commercially successful, but I am still

proud to have a patent with my name on it.

**How did your time at St. Patrick School prepare you for this path?** We were taught the value of hard work. Our teachers challenged us to be the best that we could be. I took some challenging classes, like AP Calculus, which prepared me for more challenges ahead. Our smaller class sizes created a family atmosphere. I was involved in athletics, which obviously teaches the value of team work and working together to achieve common goals.

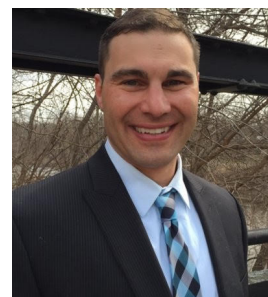
**Family/Hobbies?** My family includes my wife, Becca, and our two sons Connor and Benson. We enjoy camping, golfing, fishing, farming, and most outdoor activities.

### Jerry Simon (1993)

**What field of study did you pursue after high school?** BA in Business Administration, Marketing with a Communications concentration from CMU.

**How did your career path lead to your current position?** I had taken logistics classes at Central Michigan University, but at the time Logistics was a concentration, not a degree. Midway thru my junior year, it became a degree, so I had a decision to make, stay in school for another year or graduate sooner with a degree in Marketing/Communications.

I was fortunate to have a close friend working for a local Grand Rapids area logistics company, Foreway Transportation. He worked in-house at Bissell, the vacuum cleaner company. Two



years after graduation, he needed an assistant and since I had taken some logistics courses he was able to hire me.

I got my start on the operations side in the shipping department where we coordinated shipments and worked closely with many trucking and logistics companies. I learned a lot about Logistics in a short amount of time, I would not trade that experience for anything. At the time I never thought I would ever end up in sales.

The friend who got my foot in the door in the logistics world decided to hire me for his newly formed company, Red Cedar Logistics. I started off in operations, but with the departure of our sales rep, I was asked if I wanted to give sales a try. I was hesitant at first but picked up on it quickly, and it was not long before I knew it was what I wanted to do long-term.

A few years later, because of another professional relationship, I interviewed with Schneider National Inc., who was in need of a Michigan based sales rep.

I will never forget when I got the offer, I was on vacation in Florida at the same time Hurricane Jean hit. It made for a great vacation and an excitement for a new beginning.

Seventeen years later I am still at Schneider National, Inc., working as a Director of New Business Development. Schneider is one of the largest trucking companies operating in the U.S., you cannot go anywhere without seeing one of our bright orange trucks running the interstates.

Lessons Learned -- Don't ever burn a bridge; you never know who you will encounter late in life. Network as much as you can; get to know as many people as you can. There is no way I would have the job I do now without maintaining positive relationships. Enthusiasm, a smile and eye contact can go a long ways.

*Are there any professional accom-*

*plishments you are proud of?* I am most proud of being with the same company for almost 17 years. I have been fortunate to sell in a rich manufacturing part of the company. From the very start, I felt I always had to prove myself since I didn't have a lot of experience. My company took a chance on me and I wanted to make them feel they made a great decision in hiring me. I will usually joke around and say that I must be doing something right if they decided to keep me around for so long. I am very thankful for a great work ethic that began with my parents, Dave and Marlene Simon. My brothers and I were always taught to work hard, but we had the best examples and role models in our parents, so again, it just came natural.

*How did your time at St. Patrick School prepare you for this path?*

School, especially math, was sometimes challenging: There is no way I would have done as well as I did if it was not for the great teachers we had. I thrived in the smaller classroom environment that St Patrick's offered. With smaller classes, we had the privilege to work so much more closely with a teacher if you needed a little extra help. Having the ability to play multiple sports for St Patrick's also instilled in me a great sense of competitiveness that I still have today, from trying to be the best sales rep at my company to winning mountain bike races.

*Family/Hobbies?* I have been married 18 years to Amy (Reverman) Simon, we have two boys, Max (15) and Marco (9). We reside in Grand Haven and love living close to the big lake. Ironically, we are parishioners of another St Patrick's in Grand Haven, MI. We have a cabin a few miles from Crystal Mountain; it is my happy place, I love spending time with family up north. I have worked from home for almost 20 years, having a place to escape to helps keep the sanity in check!

## SCHOOL NEWS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

The state and national tournaments were both held at the Michigan Trap Shooting Association grounds in Mason, Michigan this year. Participants shot four 25-shot rounds for a total of 100 shots at moving clay targets.



Braden Bozung placed 29th out of 230 JV participants at the state tournament.

This year's state tournament participants from St. Patrick School were Daniel Huggler, Braden Bozung, Brett Boyd, Aaron Gillotte, and Kyle Edlund. Top scorers were Braden Bozung, who placed 29th out of 230 JV participants, and Kyle Edlund, who placed 88th out of 308 Varsity participants. Both Braden and Kyle shot a 25 straight perfect round at the state tournament.

National participants were Braden Bozung, Aaron Gillotte, and Kyle Edlund. Top shooters were Aaron Gillotte, who placed and Kyle Edlund, who placed 490th out of 1684 participants. The National Trap Tournament is capped, and only shooters who qualify are invited from throughout the nation, based upon their season average.







## New Faces in the Parish

**Brandy Holt** is the new **Director of Youth and Campus Ministry**. She is originally from the Clare/Gladwin area but moved to Grand Rapids for college, graduating from Aquinas with a major in Theology and a minor in Catholic Studies. Brandy knew from age 14 that she wanted to do ministry of some kind and converted to Catholicism during her senior year of high school.



"I am beyond grateful for the blessings I've received since coming home to the Catholic Church," she said. "I'm super excited to see how God's plans will unravel for both myself and the parish community, and I'm honored to be part of that! Thank you for welcoming me into your parish family, and I look forward to being here!"



**Julie (Schafer) Wight** is the new **Bookkeeper at St. Patrick Parish**. Julie and her husband, Zach, both graduated with the St. Patrick School's Class of 2005 and have three children, who all attend St. Patrick School. Julie has a bachelor's degree in Human Resources with a minor in Business Management from Baker College. She has most recently been a stay-at-home mom,

but when her youngest son started school, she decided to return to work. "It would take so many pages to tell you the whole story, but it was very clear that this opportunity to become St. Pat's bookkeeper was God's plan in His perfect timing," she said. "All I can say is that God is good and His plan is better. It has been over a month since I began this position, and I have already thoroughly enjoyed every minute."



**To all of our parishioners—Welcome back!!**  
**To all others--Come and join us**  
**as we celebrate the end of a very difficult year!**

### Join Us at Mass!

Saturday 4:30 pm  
 Sunday 7 am, 9 am, 11 am  
 Tuesday 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday 9:30 am  
 Thursday 9:30 am  
 Friday 8:00 am

### Come to Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 pm

### Spend Time at Adoration

Monday Noon-8 pm (in small Adoration Chapel)  
 First Friday of the month after 8 am Mass until 5 pm

### Contact Information

Rev. Michael J. Alber, Pastor  
 517-647-6505 x 412  
[frmichaelalber@portlandstpats.org](mailto:frmichaelalber@portlandstpats.org)  
 Facebook: [stpatsportland](https://www.facebook.com/stpatsportland)  
 Website: [portlandstpats.com](http://portlandstpats.com)

### Parish Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

# Portland St. Patrick Fall Festival

November 7, 2021

Because of COVID 19, the 61st Annual Fall Festival will have a different look for one more year.

- The date has again been moved into November.
- The dinner and raffle formats will be similar to 2020.
- There will be no Arts and Crafts Show, Kid Fest, 5K Run, or Euchre Tournament.

The **Fall Festival Dinner** will take place on Sunday, November 7, 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

The link to order dinners can be found at [www.freewebs.com/stpatsfallfestival](http://www.freewebs.com/stpatsfallfestival) (or use the QR code above). If you need help with online purchases or would like to place your order over the phone, please call Jill Scheurer at 517-944-4725.



The **Big Bucks Raffle** will be held on November 7, at 2:00 p.m. You can buy a ticket for \$100 with prizes of:

- First prize: \$5000 cash
- Second prize: \$1000 cash
- 3rd-6th prizes: \$500 cash

Buy your tickets online. Watch the website and St. Patrick School Facebook page for promotions that will increase your chances of winning! Raffle License #R61944

## 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 two years have 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 in 2020 and held as a virtual event in 2021. Income-generating sports were non-existent last year, along with the concession revenue. All in all, the Athletic Association is in 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 7, 2021, 2:00 pm, Parish Hall

**1st prize \$5000**  
**2nd prize \$1000**  
**3rd-6th prizes \$500**

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.

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

### Big Bucks Raffle

Name, Address, Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

brothers, Robert (Mary Ann) Schmitt and Reynold (Florence) Schmitt; sisters, Theresa Patterson and Germaine Schmitt; and many nieces and nephews.

**Sandra Kay Sanborn Hornby** passed away May 19, 2021, with her daughter, Renee, and son, Brian, at her side after a long fight with cancer. She was known as the church lady in Portland, helping older parishioners with their grocery shopping or taking them to doctor's appointments, offered rides to church, and served on the Finance Council. Sandy volunteered for years for religious education and helped as a sacristan. Sandy even served Meals on Wheels despite living with severe arthritis most of her life. Sandy is survived by her children, Renee and Brian (daughter-in-law Amy); two grandchildren; sister, Judy; and brothers Jim and Larry. Sandy was preceded in death by her parents Kenneth and Virginia Sanborn and siblings Joel, Joyce, and Bob. In lieu of flowers, Sandy asked for donations to be made to Jacob's Ladder Foundation, 5455 Goodwin Road, Lyons, MI 44851, in honor of her mother who lost Joel and Joyce at birth.

**Joanna Catherine Beard**, age 90, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, June 24, 2021. She was born on August 15, 1930, the daughter of Martin and Bertha (Feldpausch) Pline. Joanna was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. She is preceded in death by her loving and devoted husband of 52 years, Donald A. Beard. Surviving are her children, Annabelle (Dale) Huhn, Donald "Tex" (Rosemary) Beard, Terry Beard, Gary (Deb) Beard, Dan Beard, Bill (Laura) Beard, Chris (Karen) Beard, and Andy (Becky) Beard; 23 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren with two on the way. She was one of twelve children in the Pline family and is survived by seven brothers and sisters. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the family, Four Seasons Assisted Living or Heartland Hospice in memory of Joanna.

**Eugene Norman Maurer Sr.**, of Portland, passed away at his home surrounded by family on May 9, 2021. Gene was born in Laingsburg, MI, on June 29, 1932. He was formerly of Lansing and moved to Portland 48 years ago. Gene had a passion for well drilling and started his own company in 1953. He incorporated it into Maurer & Parks Well Drilling. After retirement from the company, he started Gene Maurer Well Service until he retired at the age of 85. Gene served in the National Guard from 1951-1953. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of almost 50 years, Charlotte; children Violet Maurer of Holt, Elaine (Phil) Hosler of

Cassopolis, Gail (Todd) Munday of Portland, Eugene Maurer Jr. of Pontiac and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings.

**Monica Bartlett**, was born May 18, 1933, and raised in Eagle, Michigan. Her parents were Anthony and Laura Feldpausch and there were ten children in the family. Her siblings include: Robert Feldpausch (deceased), Leon Feldpausch (deceased), Evelyn Hazen (deceased), Veronica Pennington (deceased), Jane Gross, Richard Feldpausch (deceased), Larry Feldpausch, Tony Feldpausch, and Carolee Smith. She was married to Arthur J. Bartlett for 59 years. Monica was a stay-at-home mom, she raised her 3 children Joe Bartlett, Lori Sweet, and Steve Bartlett. She battled lung cancer for nearly 14 years, she also had congestive heart failure. Instead of being depressed, sad or angry, she decided to live a positive and optimistic life, never worried about the little things. Monica is survived by her three children; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Donations can be sent to the American Cancer Society or McLaren Hospice of Lansing, Michigan.

**Cecilia R. Smith**, 98, of Portland, passed away peacefully with family at her side on Saturday, May 15, 2021, in Hastings, MI. Cecilia was born on February 26, 1923, in Pewamo, MI, the first of seven children born to Anthony and Anna (Esch) Cook. Cecilia was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; daughter, Annette Fetzer; siblings, Jane Wirth, Gladys Refsynder, Rosaline Schmitz, Joseph, Gerald, and Benedict Cook; sisters and brothers-in-law, Richard J. and Betty Smith, Matthew and Evelyn Kramer, Bernard and Harriet Pohl, Paul and Lucille Fedewa; brothers-in-law, Charles Wirth, Fredrick Schmitz, Richard Refsynder; sisters-in-law, Georgia Cook and Connie Cook. Surviving are her children, Agnes (William) Fedewa of Shelby Twp., Mary Ann (John) Augst of Sunfield, Loretta (Thomas) Schelter of East Lansing, and Ronald (Patricia) Smith of Grand Ledge; son-in-law, Thomas Fetzer of Portland; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; in-laws, Rhesa Cook and Susan Cook; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Portland St. Patrick's Fr. Flohe Foundation or the Ionia County Commission on Aging in memory of Cecilia R. Smith.

**Robert "Bob" D. Hoppes**, age 80, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. He was born on June 25, 1940, the son of Mathias and Helen (Barker) Hoppes. Bob was a member of St. Patrick Church and the K of C Council #2168. He was the co-founder (1983) and owner of Blundy-Hoppes Tire and Auto Clinic in Ionia and retired after many years there. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers-in-law, Ken Dorin and Charles Diamond. He is survived

by his wife of 58 years, Carmen; children, Gary (Barb) Hoppes, Jeff Hoppes, Jenny (Terry) Frewen, Brad (Kim) Hoppes and Brent (Mandie) Hoppes; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters, Barbara Diamond, Elaine Dorin, and Joan (Gerald) Blundy; special family friend, Marilyn Hackenbruch; and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

**Donna May Fedewa**, age 85, of Lyons, passed away on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Donna was a member of St. Patrick Church in Portland. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Clement; siblings, Gary "Bud" Randall and Jerry Randall; infant daughter, Brenda; daughter-in-law, Lorileen Fedewa; son-in-law, Chris Bush; cousin, Joann Fernholz and special friends, Pat Davis and Margaret Clements. Surviving are her children, Diane (Jack Clayton) Fedewa, Janeen Bush, Larry (Diane) Fedewa, Daniel Fedewa, Mary (Harvey Bridgeford) Greenhoe, Lynette (Richard) Marr, Mike (Linda) Fedewa and Holly (Shannon Heintzelman) Norris; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

**Michael John Piasecki** was born August 24, 1984, in Lansing, MI, and passed away June 30, 2021, at the age of 36. He was a Physician Assistant and enjoyed practicing medicine and caring for the underprivileged. Surviving are his parents, John and Judy (Fedewa) Piasecki; sister, Lynn Piasecki; grandfather, Albert Piasecki; numerous extended family and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Marvin and Janet Fedewa, and Mary Piasecki. Memorial contributions can be made to Care Free Medical & Dental Clinic, 1100 W. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48915

**Felix C. Hernandez, Jr.**, 91, of Portland, went to be with the Lord on Monday, July 26, 2021. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, the son of Felix and Maria Luisa (Castro) Hernandez, Sr. Felix was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and he served in the U.S. Army. Felix was employed at General Motors for 38 years until his retirement. Preceding Felix in death are his beloved wife of 53 years, Minerva "Minnie"; his parents; and several brothers and sisters. Left behind to cherish his memory are his children, Mary Jane (Ken) Hoppes of Portland, Sylvia (Tom) Moore of Riverview, Florida, and Felix (Patricia) Hernandez, III of Kentucky; two granddaughters; eight great-grandchildren; siblings, Roy (Sara) Hernandez, Virginia Luna, Carlos (Rose) Hernandez, Gloria (Dave) Borton; brother-in-law, Rafael Sandoval; and special friends, Laura and Barney Linebaugh and Judy Huhn. Contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice in memory of Felix.

**Gary Leon Miller**, age 61, of Portland,



passed away on Thursday, July 29, 2021. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, the son of Wilmer and Edna (Smith) Miller. Gary enjoyed hunting, fishing, and was an avid U of M fan. Preceding Gary in death are his parents; brothers, Ronald, David, and Joseph Miller; step-father, Art Fernholz; mother and father-in-law, Bernard and Eleanor McConnell; brothers-in-law, Larry Keilen, Shawn McConnell, and Steve Grosshans; and sisters-in-law, Elaine Miller and Theresa McConnell. Left to cherish Gary's memory are his loving wife of 42 years, Jean Miller; sons, Chad (Brandy) Miller, Corey Miller, and Kyle (Anna) Miller; eight grandchildren; siblings, Jim Miller, Peg Keilen, Alice (Rich) Bengel, Jerry (Elaine) Miller, Mary (Jack) Sandborn, Chuck (Toni) Miller, Kathy (David) Walker, Junior (Ann) Miller, and Joann (Matt) Anthony; brother-in-law, Darin McConnell; sisters-in-law, Patty (special friend, Randy) Davidson, Kathy (Randall) Ackerman, Anne Grosshans, and Colleen McConnell; and many, special nieces and nephews.

**Thomas Dean "Tom" Meitler, II**, 56, passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at Signature Health Care in Kinston, NC, after a lengthy illness. Tom was born in Lansing, Michigan, on May 24, 1965. He lived his dream serving as a crew chief with the United States Air Force. He protected his country and her allies proudly. Tom's valor and skill were recognized with numerous decorations. He retired after 20 years of service to his country as Master Sergeant. After his military career, Tom continued to work as a police officer, first in Rocky Mount and later with the Goldsboro Police Department. He retired from his police duties in May of 2020. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by many, including the following family members: his wife of 29 years, Annette Meitler; sons, Jacob Meitler and wife Burgandi, stationed in Germany and Nicholas Meitler (Kelly); and his beloved grandson, Arthur Meitler. He is

also survived by his parents, Thomas and Sandra Meitler; brother, Lee Meitler and wife Dawn; sisters, Heather Wilcox and husband Marc; and Jacquelyn Morris and husband Matt; father-in-law, Ronald Arnesen (Jennie); sisters-in-law and brothers-in law, Ronald and Carol Arnesen, Roger and Denise Arnesen, Katrina and Derek Rainey, Heather Russman, and Betsy and Ted Platte; and numerous nieces and nephews, whom he loved very much. He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Kitty Arnesen. The family suggests memorials be given in his memory to the Wounded Warrior Project or a charity of your choice.

**Rosalyn Regina Bengel**, age 85, of Westphalia, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Rosalyn was born in Portland, MI, on February 28, 1936. Rosalyn was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. She was a Lab Technician for the State of Michigan Department of Public Health until her retirement. She was inducted into the Herm Huhn Bowling Hall of Fame. Preceding Rosalyn in death are her husband, Thomas C. Bengel; sons, Charles Bengel and Timothy Bengel; parents, Victor and Mathilda Trierweiler; sisters, Eileen Burgoyne and Mary Ann Trierweiler; brother, Ken Trierweiler; and in-laws, Patty Trierweiler, Jean Trierweiler, Dale Stiffler, and Barry Sillman. Left behind to cherish her legacy are her children, Kris (Don) Ham, Teresa (Tony) Simon, and Lori (Gerry) Schomisch of Fowler and son, Pete (Kim) Bengel of Pewamo; daughter-in-law, Marie Bengel of Williamston; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Gladys Stiffler of Portland and Kay Sillman of Fowler; brothers, Pat Trierweiler of Portland, Roger (Sandy) Trierweiler of Portland, Charlie Trierweiler of Pewamo, and Vic (Donna) Trierweiler of Traverse City; and brother-in-law, Harv (Diana) Burgoyne of Fenwick.

# #shamrockpride

## WELCOME BACK!

We are very excited to welcome our students back to St. Patrick School. We also welcome all new students and their families to our St. Patrick School family.

Welcome New Students: Peyton Carr (12th grade), Joel Enz (9th grade), Hudson King (8th grade), Abryanah Lumbert (8th grade), Aislynn King (6th grade), Kinsley King (4th grade), Lawson Graszler (3rd grade), Isaac Pung (2nd grade), Tucker King (1st Grade), Silas Nichols (1st Grade) and Raelynn Phillips (1st Grade).

Welcome to our new kindergarten students: Felicity Austen, Swayzee Bonter, Eliyah Brinks, Theodore Caszatt, Wyatt Dixon, Emma Garcia, Atlas Graszler, Lennon Graszler, William Haskin, Eric Higbee, Elaina Holt, Eva King, Stetson King, Jason Kniffin, Cora Kreiner, Wyatt Leik, Averie Livingston, William Martin, Sylvia McCausey, Michaela McCormack, Harper Newman, Dominic O'Neill, Lane Pung, Allena Smith, Emmelyn Thelen, Grace VanSolkema, and David Vazquez.

We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a great school year!

# HOMECOMING

Family, Friends, Food & Fun!

## JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

Watch the school website  
for complete information!



[www.portlandstpats.com](http://www.portlandstpats.com) 17

## Get Your Spirit Wear and Uniform Tops

at our Online Store: <https://fabricatedcustoms.com/collections/st-patrick>

### SHOW YOUR SHAMROCK PRIDE!

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

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

# Upcoming EVENTS

50-Year Reunion Class of 1971 .....Sept 25, 2021  
 Homecoming/Tailgate Party .....October 9, 2021  
 Fall Festival Takeout Dinner .....November 7, 2021  
 Big Buck Raffle .....November 7, 2021  
 Veterans Day Recognition.....TBD  
 Grandparent's Day .....TBD  
 Catholic Schools Week .....Jan 30-Feb 5, 2022  
 Shamrock Auction .....April 30, 2022  
 Confirmation .....TBD  
 First Communion .....TBD  
 Summer Fest .....June 24-26, 2022  
 Class of 1972 50-Year Reunion September 17, 2021  
 Spring issue of *The Shamrock*..... Mid April  
 Deadline for submitting info.....March 15, 2022

## LOST SHEEP

Hey readers, we REALLY need some help locating these Lost Sheep. If you know where any of them are, please let us know. Send a text to 1-517-575-8000 with the updated information or contact us by any of the means listed at the right.



1961 John D. Pung	1990 John Huhtala
1968 Terry Morrison	1990 Michael Smith
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova	1991 Elaine Mauer
1974 Steve Jenkins	1992 Karen Smith Aldering
1975 Susan Thelen	1993 Darcy Hinds Vandecar
1975 Susan Schneider Wenstrom	1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom
1975 Patricia Cook Leppo	1995 Emily Batty
1977 Brian Jenkins	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1980 Angie Young	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa
1980 Patrick Ellis	2000 Jeff Pung
1981 Mike Binder	2001 Segrid Johnson
1982 Jeff Strang	2002 Andrew Stopczynski
1983 Steve Lehnert	2002 John Carter
1983 Rich Strang	2004 Don Vollman
1985 Scott Osmar	2004 Cara Monks
1989 Amy Wixon	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, go to [www.myparishapp.com](http://www.myparishapp.com). 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

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)

Information can also be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Shamrock Newsletter. To prevent errors, we require all information to be submitted in writing. Be sure to mark it ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS.

## The Shamrock Newsletter

*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.*

### Shamrock Editorial Staff

Sue (Stiffler) Van Lente ..... [suevanlente@gmail.com](mailto:suevanlente@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)





Finally, the Class of 1970 had their big reunion, sponsored by the Father Flohe Foundation. We are so happy for them! In honor of that great class, here are 23 words that pertain to their senior year--in school, in the community, and in the world. You know the way this game is played. Find the hidden phrase that is leftover after you have found all the words.

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

### ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 18 or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by November 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 \_\_\_\_\_

AGNEW  
BONFIRE  
BROOKS  
BUS  
CAMBODIA  
CHEERS

CONCORDE  
CREE MEE  
DOONESBURY  
FATHER FOX  
GYM  
IKES

JOPLIN  
KENT STATE  
LATIN  
NERF BALLS  
NIXON  
PINTO

SHARED TIME  
SISTER JOYCE  
SKIP DAY  
SLOPPY JOES  
YOKO ONO



The hidden phrase in the last issue was from Portland's own Clarence Budington Kelland. *My father didn't tell me how to live. He lived and let me watch him do it.* The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Janice Manning who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Janice!



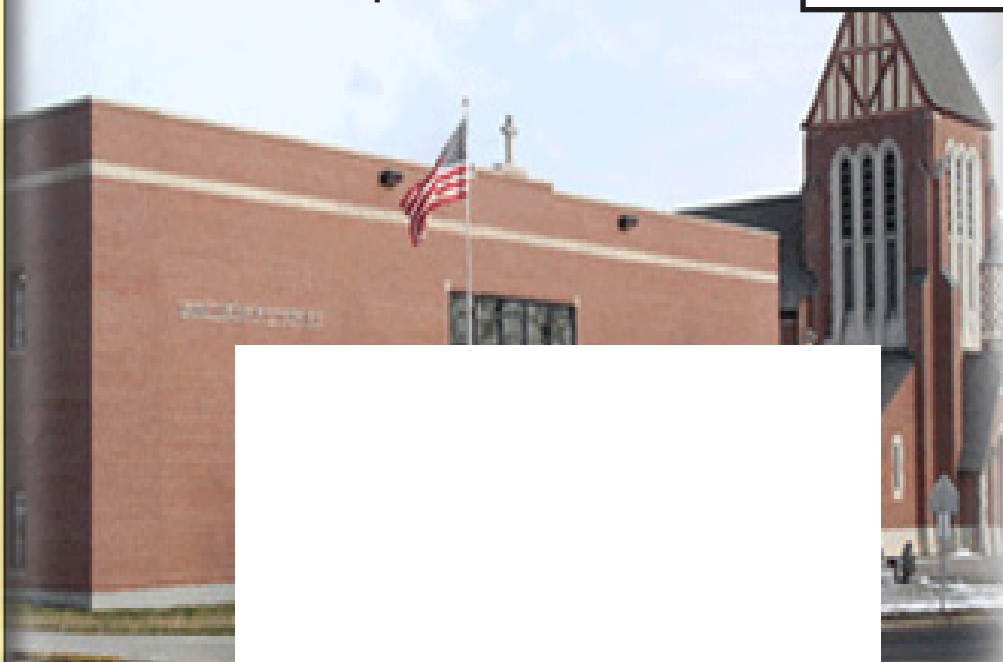
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SHAMROCK

Class of 1970 Reunion .....	1
Mail Call.....	2
Jane Finkbeiner Retires .....	2
Spotlights .....	3
What's Happening .....	4
New Faces at School.....	6
From the Athletic Director .....	6
Little Shamrocks Daycare .....	7
Reunion Information .....	8
1981 Softball Team.....	9
Church Renovations .....	10
New Faces at the Parish.....	14
Welcome Back!.....	14
Fall Festival .....	15
Upcoming Events .....	18
Lost Sheep.....	18
Contact Information .....	18
Word Search Puzzle.....	19

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

**Address Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Grand Rapids MI  
 Permit 1



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](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or [cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org](mailto:cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org)