



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2022

## Class of 1971 Enjoys 50-Year Reunion



Back row: Pat Goodman, Dave Fitzpatrick, Tom Brown, Gary Fedewa, Jeff Hoover, Russ Snitgen, Don Schneider, Steve Huhn Middle Row: Judy Fryover, Rosemary Beard, Jean Galey, Jean Snitgen, Bev Swink, Barbara Stump, Herb Schrauben, Steve Pung Front Row: Linda Huhn, Bonnie Watkins, Luanne Goodman, Sharon Schneider, Cindy Selden, Derry Hoppes, Stephanie Imgrund, Joanne Russman

### In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Class of 1971

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.\*

Paul Rademacher 2007  
Wayne Thelen 2012  
Jerry Goodrich 2016  
Bill Schrauben 2020

*\*Poem by Jill Eisnagle, 2006*

Each year since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted a 50-year reunion celebration for St. Patrick classes who have reached that special milestone. On Saturday, September 25, 2021, the Class of 1971 were the honored guests.

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."

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 dinner. "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. Hearing these stories and learning about these former students is a great reminder of what makes St. Patrick School such a special place."

The Class of 1971 were seniors when the Sisters of St. Joseph left the high school. Mr. Lou LaScala became the first lay principal that year.

Another noteworthy fact about this class is that eight of them married each other: Linda (Smith) and Steve Huhn, Marlene (Densmore) and Dave Simon, Sharon (Gensterblum) and Don Schneider, and Luanne (Holly) and Pat Goodman.

When asked about special memories of their high school days, one of the classmates replied, "We didn't do silly things. We followed the Class of 70, who were naughty. We were angels."

It was an evening of hugs, smiles, and heartwarming exchanges of stories. Everyone left the party feeling glad that they had been there to be part of it.

*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.*

# St. Patrick Teacher Wins Trip to Super Bowl

by Mary Cook

Disbelief and a bit of skepticism were going through my head last February when I received an email and voicemail that I had won an all expense paid trip to the 2022 Super Bowl in Los Angeles. I vaguely remembered the Red Cross offering this incentive for all donors in the month of January, but it was now the end of February and what were the odds that I would have won something like this? It seemed like during the pandemic there were many scams going on and I wanted to check this out before I contacted the person on the email.

I fished my Red Cross donor card from my wallet and called the number listed on my card to check to see if the email and voicemail were legit before I contacted the person who sent it. I was assured that yes, indeed I did win this trip. "Wow!" was my next thought. I could treat my husband Dale (1981) to a bucket list trip and also celebrate our anniversary.

Details about the trip had been up in the air through the summer and fall of 2021 as we worked through Covid, so we didn't know for sure if we were going until late December. Things were worked out and on February 11, 2022, we were on our way to LA. The weather the day we left was cold and snowy, so the sunny and 80+ degree weather was sure looking good.



We were able to see a few sights, but even if things sound close in LA, they really aren't. An eight-mile trip might take 45 minutes, and it seemed like every place we went required hopping on a highway. We did become quite good at navigating with Uber rides and patience. We had an awesome

time and enjoyed watching the Super Bowl and soaking up the beautiful California weather.



Although it was hard to leave the wonderful weather, it was soon time to get back to my first-grade Shamrocks.

I am truly blessed at having this once in a lifetime trip and being able to share it with my awesome husband. I would encourage anyone who has never donated blood before to try it. It is easy and doesn't hurt. So many people benefit from this gift. I have been donating since the late eighties when my youngest sister needed to have heart surgery, so we did a directed donation. I have continued to donate whenever I am able.

## St. Patrick Parish Invites You!

### Join Us for Mass

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am and 10:00 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 in Adoration

Monday and Wednesday Noon-8:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am-8:00 pm

In the Little Manger Adoration Chapel across the street from the Church Street entrance of the Church

### Contact Information

Rev. Michael J. Alber, Pastor

517-647-6505 x412

frmichaelalber@portlandstpats.org

Facebook: stpatsportland

Website: portlandstpats.com

### Parish Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm



# In the Spotlight

Shamrock alumni are making a difference all over the world. Their careers are diverse. The ways they came into those careers are, too. The values and traditions that they learned at St. Patrick School remain a foundation and continue to help them in their lives. Please enjoy reading about Adam Bartlett, Mick Hamberg, Kerry Walter, Leslie Weller, and Karen Little. If you would like to recommend an alum who can be spotlighted, please send your suggestions to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

## Adam Bartlett (2000)

Adam Bartlett graduated from St. Patrick School in 2000. His musical abilities were well-recognized while he was a student here, and it is no surprise that his career path has been music-oriented.

His interest and focus have always been spiritual music, and after receiving a BA in Music from Arizona State University, Adam sought out a mentorship of an elderly Benedictine Monk and Gregorian musicologist, Fr. Columbia Kelly OSB. He studied Gregorian chant and English chant composition for several years under Fr. Kelly's direction. He also studied the liturgy at the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein Seminary and taught there for a few years after graduation. "It is a joy to see that several of the young priests in the Grand Rapids Diocese were in my chant classes," he says.

Over the next decade, Adam continued dedicating himself to the authentic renewal of the liturgy in the Catholic Church, particularly the renewal of sacred music. His career journey led him to working as a music director and helped him identify the needs of parishes across the country.

In 2011 Adam published his first book entitled *Simple English Propers*, which became the launching pad for Illuminere Publications, which provided resources for parish music pro-

grams. Additional publications followed, including the *Lumen Christi Missal*, *Lumen Christi Hymnal*, and *Lumen Christi Simple Gradual*. After working closely with FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) in Denver for a few years, Adam built up a team that rebranded and expanded this publishing effort into what is now Source & Summit which has developed a digital platform for liturgy and music preparation for parishes as well as the *Source & Summit Missal*. "I never tire of helping Catholics discover the vast riches of the sacred liturgy and its musical heritage," he says.

Adam says that his time at St. Patrick School, which he attended from Kindergarten through graduation, was very influential for him in many ways. "I had some very good teachers who really cared deeply about me, my soul, and my vocation," he says. "I will never underestimate their impact on my life. Also, I have

come to appreciate the humility, simplicity, and stability that St. Patrick's offered, especially after being launched off into one of the largest universities in the country."

After nearly twenty years of raising his family in a mostly



Adam and Brindi Bartlett are parents to Anna Maria (15), Ivy (11), and Sawyer (15 months). The family recently relocated back to the Grand Rapids area to be closer to home.

(Continued on page 9)

# 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 **Joseph** (2004) and **Becky Simon** of Royal Oak, a daughter, Penelope Jane, on September 27, 2021. She joins sister, Abigail (2 1/2).

To **Correy** (1995) and **Melissa Selden** of Salt Lake City, Utah, a son, Nikolas Beck, on August 18, 2021. He joins one brother, Forrest (2).

To **Lance and Melissa (Pohl, 2011) Thelen**, a son, Levi Lance, on October 2, 2021. He joins one sister, Lydia (2).

To **Josh** (2012) and **Emma Schneider**, a son, Henry Andrew, on September 19, 2021.

To **Abby (Pearson, 2015) and Shane Ferris** of Ionia, a daughter, Adalyn Grace, on January 15, 2022.

To **Cristin (Stiffler, 2009) and Brandon Bigham**, a son, Beckett Lee, on September 26, 2021. He joins one brother, Emmett (2).

**Tom and Sue Kreiner** welcomed three new grandchildren in six weeks! To **Jordan and Tessa Osburn**, of Sunfield, a daughter, Avery Rose, on January 7, 2022. To **Dane and Kim Schafer**, a son, Nolan Jerome, on February 12, 2022. To **Chuck and Julia Bloomfield** of Grand Ledge, a daughter, Rachel Anne, on February 19, 2022. Rachel joins siblings, Elizabeth (14), James (12), Peter (10), Daniel (8), Rebekah (5), and Matthew (2).

To **Devin** (2012) and **Monika Ryan** of Middleville, a son, Torin Jude, on June 29, 2022.

To **Jessica (Sandborn, 2003) and Kyle Ferris**, a son, Emmett David, on January 6, 2022. He joins brother Evan (10) and sister Kylie (6).

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Graham Smith** (2017) and **Kenzie Hengesbach** from Westphalia will be married at St. Patrick Church on September 24, 2022.

**Craig Stiffler** (2004) and **Catherine Owens** from Calhoun, Louisiana, announce their engagement. No wedding date has been set.

**Johnathan Johnson** (2008) and **Kelsey Oberhausen** will be married on May 14, 2022.

## WEDDINGS

**Michael Platte** (1997) and **Jessica Kirby** were married on August 28, 2021.

The following weddings took place at St. Patrick Church:

**Luke Schrauben** (2012) and **Erika Brooks** on September 18, 2021.

**Nolan Vallier** and **Krista Maynard** on September 25, 2021.

**Joesph Weller** (2016) and **Cammi Schneider** (2016) on October 2, 2021.

**Kyle Helfrich** and **Kendall Scharuben** (2015) on November 20, 2021.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Dave** (1970) and **Jean (Kissane, 1971) Snitgen** will celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 15. The couple were married at Portland St. Patrick Church in 1972. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

**Dale and Linda (Wight) Bower** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 25, 2021. A celebration was held with their

children and grandchildren.

**Jean (Schrauben, 1971) and Mike Galey** celebrated their 50-year anniversary on January 4, 2022.

**Tom** (1970) and **Toni Kissane** celebrated their 50-year anniversary on January 25, 2022.

**Jerrod and Brenda (Snitgen, 1991) Leonard** will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on May 3, 2022. They have three children.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Dana Hengesbach** (2014) earned the rank of firefighter with Portland Fire Authority on September 14, 2021. Dana's brother, Firefighter Joshua Hengesbach pinned her with her badge.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Alice Jean Kelly**, age 88, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. She was born on March 6, 1933, the daughter of Leo and Philomena (Huhn) Hoppes. Alice is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dick in 1991; infant son, Ian; siblings, Virginia (Oscar) Townsend, Colleen (William) Trierweiler, Dick (Carol) Hoppes, Stanley (Joan) Hoppes, Leon (Geraldine) Hoppes, Jerry (Mary) Hoppes, and Jim (Sharon) Hoppes; and in-laws, Alice Hoppes and Dariel (Pearl) Heintzelman. She is survived by her children, Maureen (Harry) Farissier, Collin (Keli) Kelly, Kim (Kris) Shattuck and Laurie (Bob) Pung; 13 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; siblings, Joe Hoppes, Larry (Dee Dee) Hoppes, and Tom (Jill) Hoppes; and many nieces and nephews.

**Ronald Anthony Trierweiler**, age 90, of Westphalia, passed away on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. He was born on August 4, 1931, in Portland, the son of Peter and Gertrude (Feldpausch) Trierweiler. Surviving are his beloved wife of 61 years, Mary; children, Doug Trierweiler, Sheila (Chris) Paseka, and Sheri (Pete) Platte; 9 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren with one on the way; siblings, Ann Waldron and Diana (Harv) Burgoyne; in-laws, Alvin Schneider, Harold (Mary Lou) Schmitt, Anna Feldpausch, Martha (Ted) Williams, and Prima Trierweiler; many nieces and nephews; and special niece, Claire Trierweiler. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Thomas (Kathy) Trierweiler, and Harold (Vickie) Trierweiler; sister, Donna (Orville) Martin; in-laws, Dorothy Schneider, John (Mary) Schmitt, Hilary Feldpausch, and Jerome Fox.

**Jacklyn Ann Beard**, 67, of Lansing, Michigan, entered eternal slumber September 30, 2021. She is preceded in death by her father,



John (Jack) A. Beard, Jr. Jackie is survived by her mother, Phyllis Beard of Portland; two brothers, Michael (Carole) of Portland and Dennis of Grand Rapids. She was a doting aunt to three nieces, Pamela Gensterblum of Lansing, Jennifer (Leif) Dykstra of Chicago, Denise (Jason) Llamas of New York; one nephew, Darryl (Anna) of Illinois; three great nieces; and two great nephews. Ms. Beard leaves behind many friends, including close family friend Bill McMurray.

**Dean Edward Smith**, age 67, of Portland, passed away on October 9, 2021. Dean was born on January 15, 1954, to Milton and Doris (Mills) Smith. Preceding Dean in death are his parents; brothers, David and Dee Smith; sister, Patricia Smith; father and mother-in-law, Anthony and Norma Simon; and brother-in-law, Steven Simon. Dean is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Judy (Simon) Smith; daughters, Kelly (William) Foren and Lyndsy (Travis) Smith; two grandchildren; siblings, Barbara (Jeff) Wright of Alaska, Donald Smith of Portland, Dennis (Maggie) Smith of Massachusetts, and Yvonne (Jim) Rowe of Shelby; in-laws, Larry (Sandy) Simon, Kathy Lehman, Annette (Brian) Fedewa, Dennis (Gladys) Simon, Mary (John) Black, Anthony (Teresa) Simon, and Teresa (Dennis) Martin; many nieces and nephews; and Max. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

**Richard "Rick" Brandt Lazarus**, age 63, of Portland, MI, passed away on Sunday, October 24, 2021, surrounded by his family. He was born on November 4, 1957, the son of Brandt Lazarus and Jan (Brown) Livingston. Rick is preceded in death by his mother, Jan (Roy George, Sr.) Livingston; brother, Joe Lazarus; grandparents, Clifford and Mary Lazarus and Burton and Marian Brown; and father-in-law, William Schneider. Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Connie (Schneider) Lazarus; children, Corrie (Mark) Horton, Kristin (Matt) Vandecar, Travis (Meagan) Lazarus, and their chosen daughter, Edriana Fermin; seven grandchildren; father, Brandt (Merry) Lazarus; siblings, Dawn Fletcher, Mary Lazarus, Elizabeth (Edwin) Helms, and Laura (Mark) Davis; stepsiblings, Amy (Tim) Rumfield, Roy George (Karen) Livingston, Jr., Carl Eric Livingston, and Witt "Matt" Drewyor; mother-in-law, Frances Schneider; several Schneider in-laws; and many special nieces and nephews.

**Patrick Robert Hoppes**, age 60, of Portland, passed away peacefully with his family surrounding him on November 23, 2021. He was born on November 28, 1960, the son of Stanley and Joan (Weber) Hoppes. Preceding Pat in death are his parents; brother, Luke Hoppes; and sister, Denise Hoppes. He is survived by his wife, Dora Hoppes; son, Travis (Audrey) Hoppes; daughter, Heidi Hoppes; step-daughter, Marcella Salinas; four

grandchildren; siblings, Roxanne Burnham and Michael (Cindy) Hoppes; sister-in-law, Sandy Hoppes; and many special nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

**David Lawrence Keilen**, 61, of Portland, passed away on December 7, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on June 1, 1960, the son of Leon and Agnes (Koenigsknect) Keilen. Preceding Dave in death are his in-laws, Donald and Ruth Spitzley; brothers-in-law, Clarence and Clare Spitzley; and nephew, Adam Keilen. Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 38 years, Elaine Keilen; children, Grant (Tonya) Keilen, Ryan (Kourtney) Keilen, Ruth (Caleb) Beckett, and Kendra (Brandyn) Scutt; five grandchildren and one on the way; parents, Leon and Agnes Keilen; siblings, Marge (Bob) Varty, Richard (Joany) Keilen, Mary Lou Keilen, Judy Engman, Ann (Ray) Thelen, Ken (Ann) Keilen, Grace (Al) Wirth, John (Josie) Keilen, Bill (Kim) Keilen, Dale (LuAnn) Keilen, and Jenny (Dan) Pohl; Spitzley in-laws, Diane (Louis) Smith, Janice (Bruce) Fyan, Allen (Julie) Spitzley, Eugene (Gail) Spitzley, and Marilyn (Gary) Schneider; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Construction fund in honor of Dave's love for the trades.

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)

**Virginia Martha (Fedewa) Meyers** was born on September 30, 1927, in Lansing, MI, to Irma Fedewa Johnson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard; infant son, Bobby; son, Ron; and daughters, Maureen and Diane. Surviving are her children, Mike (Linda), Sue (George) Scarbrough, Gary (Bernie), Dave (Mike), Kevin (Teresa), and Dennis; daughter-in-law, Linda; special friends, Dave and Shannon; 20 grandchildren; and 30 great-grandchildren.

**Patrick Joseph Vashaw**, age 79, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on January 11, 2022. He was born in Lansing, on July 19, 1942, the son of Ralph and Phyllis Arlene (West) Vashaw. Preceding Pat in death are his parents; brothers, Jim (JoAnn) Vashaw and Jack Vashaw; mother and father-in-law, Norman and Edna Weber; in-laws, Wayne Schrauben, Dan English, Marvin Weber, and Arlene Weber; and niece, Kristin Czaika.

Surviving are his devoted wife of 54 years, Joan Vashaw; children, Robert (Carrie) Vashaw, Steve (Abigail) Vashaw, Brenda (Bill) Garner, and Vicki (Ryan) Krueger; nine grandchildren; one great-grandson; siblings, Val (Paul) Fisher, Darlene Schrauben, and Bonnie (Wally) Czaika; in-laws, Jane (Jerry) Goodman, Lee (Jane) Weber, Jerome Weber, Dan (Joyce) Weber, and Janice (Jim) Bollman; and many special nieces and nephews.

**Burton (Burt) G. Robson**, 83, of Portland, passed away at home, surrounded by his family, on January 18, 2022. Burt was born in Bath, MI, on May 14, 1938, the son of Byron and Arlene (Dryer) Robson. Burt is preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Dean and DeRua Weber; sister, Betsy Robson; brothers-in-law, Richard Hanna, Lance Clark, Tom Webert, and Robert Trimmer; and grandson, Chad Schneider. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sharon; children, Tim (Julie) Robson, Michele (Kirk) Hoppes, Melanie (Russ) Schneider, Stephanie (Bill) Schneider, Byron (Missy) Robson, and Sarah (Jason) Haigh; siblings, Shirley Hanna, Mary Clark, and George (Cynthia) Robson; in-laws, Carol (Jim) Wilcox, David (Melanee) Webert, and Janice Trimmer; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many friends he has made over the years.

**Kendall B. Sandborn**, age 86, of Portland, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2022. He was born on July 11, 1935, in Orange Township, to Riley and Anis (Benschoter) Sandborn. Preceding Kendall in death are his parents; daughter, Carol Schrauben; son-in-law, Phil May; siblings, Howard (Mary) Sandborn, Maxine (Paul) Volk, June (Robert) Higbee, Riley (Maxine) Sandborn, Louis (Mary) Sandborn, Joyce (Donald) Lyon, and Janet (Gerald) Gilbert. Surviving are his beloved wife of 63 years, Barbara (Coon) Sandborn; children, Dave Schrauben, Chris (Kaye) Sandborn, Denise (Mike) Ouendag, Joel (Robyn) Sandborn, Scott Sandborn, and Heidi May; 20 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Richard (Marcia) Sandborn, Bonnie (Marvin) Jameson, Gary Sandborn, Judy McCrumb, and Betty Russell. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Mother Teresa House, 308 N. Walnut Street, Lansing, MI 48933 in memory of Kendall.

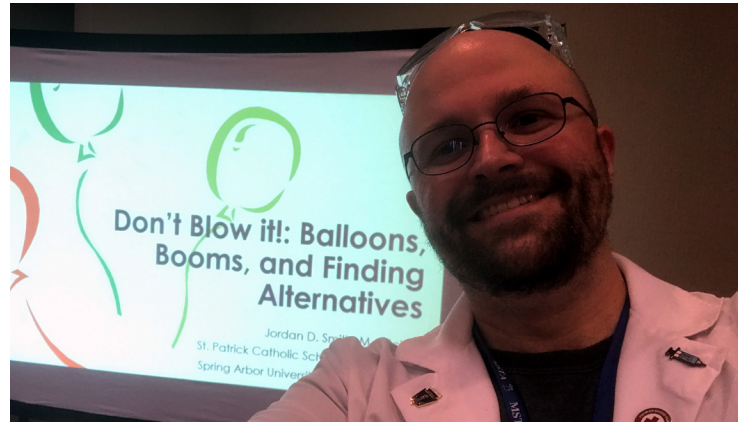
**Larry E. Brazee**, 81, of Grand Ledge, formerly of Portland, passed away on Thursday, January 6, 2022. He was born July 13, 1940, in Lansing, the son of Eugene and Dorothy (Below) Brazee. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Patricia; brother, Gerald Brazee; and sister-in-law, Ruth Brazee. Surviving are his children, Sheryl Brazee of Lansing and Scott (Buffi Conroe) Brazee of Grand Ledge; two grandchildren; brother,

*(continued on page 16)*





The Multi-age Kindergarten read *Duck For President* by Doreen Cronin for March is Reading Month. Each student in Mrs. Weems' class voted either for Farmer Brown or Duck. Here are the results!



High school science teacher Jordan Smith was a guest presenter at the Michigan Science Teachers Association convention in early March, sharing tips and tricks for using balloons to further science education.



The stands at the boys basketball game were filled with pink shirts on February 4, 2022, and over \$1100 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Seniors Mara Schrauben, Lydia Meredith, and Katelyn Russell organized the effort as their Capstone Project.



Former Shamrock football coach, Chris Schrauben, will be inducted into the Michigan Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Friday, June 24, 2022. Chris was the head coach at St. Patrick School for 16 years and took teams to the state finals three times, winning the championship in 1992.



On March 2, 2022, during a district game against Lansing Christian, St. Patrick senior, Lydia Meredith, became the first Lady Shamrock in school history to surpass 1000 points in girls basketball. Lydia also finished her career with over 400 steals. Lydia has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Saginaw Valley State University.



On January 27, 2022, the middle and high school students had the unique experience of watching a live ultrasound. Mrs. Jessica White showed how an ultrasound works, and explained what the students were seeing. Mrs. White reminded the students that every person has value and that we all need to protect the vulnerable, and ensure that all have the basic necessities.





More than 25 students from Portland St. Pat's participated in the March for Life in Washington DC on January 21, 2022. Seniors Peyton Carr, Maddy Kelly-Meyers, and Jamelyn Forist were lucky enough to run into well-known Catholic speaker, Father Mike Schmitz.



The Class of 2022 enjoyed a trip to the Boyne Mountain Resort in February. They enjoyed the slopes, the water park, hanging out at the pool, relaxing in the hot tub, and time in front of the fireplace.

## Little Shamrocks Preschool/Daycare

Preschool and Daycare is available for 3 and 4 year old children with your choice of 2, 3, or 5 day programs. You can choose to attend in the mornings or afternoons.



Little Shamrocks 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 these programs.



WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!

## PTO Efforts Support School

Thanks to successful fundraising efforts, the St. Patrick PTO has been able to support our teachers and students in big ways through the years! Their hard work helps with purchases that would otherwise come out of the school budget or the teachers' pockets.

**Wish List Fulfillment** - Wish List requests from teachers for the 2020/21 school year were 100% fulfilled! The PTO budgets \$3,000 annually for this expense, and they were able to honor every teacher's request! In addition, they provided gift cards to teachers who weren't sure what to ask for. They had fun delivering the items to the teachers. One PTO member said, "It was almost like being Santa on Christmas Eve!"

**High School Science Lab Tables** - In addition to fulfilling the Wish List, the PTO was also able to team up with the school and provide 50% financial support for the purchase of new lab tables for the science lab.

To learn more about St. Patrick PTO or to make a contribution to them, please contact them at [PTO@portlandstpats.org](mailto:PTO@portlandstpats.org).



Second graders enjoy the Wobble Stools that were purchased by the PTO.



Anna is the new facility dog at St. Pats. Anna comes from Canines for Change, a nonprofit organization in Grand Ledge. The school received Anna as part of a \$10,000 donation from Farm Bureau Insurance Jack & CJ Griffin Agencies. Read more about Anna in the *Shamrock Legacy*, which was mailed in March.

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



# alumni news

## Reunion Reports



Class of 1961

The *Class of 1961* met at the Wagon Wheel on September 10, 2021, to celebrate their 60-year reunion. Twelve members of the class, along with some spouses, enjoyed the get together.



Class of 1966

The *Class of 1966* met at the Wagon Wheel on Saturday, September 18, 2021. (A shout-out goes to the Wagon Wheel for a fantastic job! We loved the banquet room, the great food—Italian buffet—and excellent service.)

### 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.



Class of 1981

The *Class of 1981* held their 40-year class reunion on Saturday, September 11, 2021, with dinner and drinks on the outdoor deck at Fabiano's River House in Portland.



Class of 1985



Class of 1986

The *Classes of 1985 and 1986* held a joint reunion at the Portland Conservation Club on October 1, 2021. All agreed that it was a wonderful time, reminiscing and getting reacquainted with everyone in attendance. Classmates played corn hole and participated in a euchre tournament. The pandemic definitely had an effect on attendance, they hope that more will be able to attend the next reunion!

## Upcoming Reunions

The *Class of 1961* will meet at the Wagon Wheel on Friday, September 9, 2022, at noon. Contact Mary Ann Goodman for more information.

The *Class of 1967* should contact Linda Spedoske (linda.spedoske@gmail.com) or Jeanine Cross (517-626-7030) for more information.

The *Class of 1997* should watch your class Facebook page for information.

The *Class of 2007* should contact Heather Goodenough at (517) 862-2148 for more information.



# Kerry (Pung) Walter (1992)

Kerry graduated from St. Patrick School in 1992 and enrolled that fall at Central Michigan University. She remembers that for her first two years at CMU she didn't have a strong vision of what she wanted to do after college. Her call to her present career came from a brochure that she picked up off the floor at the end of her sophomore year.

"I was waiting in the hallway outside one of my classes my sophomore year and was looking at a Sociology brochure that happened to be laying on the floor. Listed on the back were jobs you could obtain with a Sociology degree. Juvenile Probation Officer was on the list. I made a decision right there in the hallway of Anspach Hall that this was what I was meant to do. I signed my major that following week."

She graduated from CMU with a Bachelor of Science degree, and got a job as a Juvenile Probation Officer in Gratiot County. She worked for three years and then enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at Grand Valley State University, with the intention of switching her career to School Social Work.

"I did a 1 1/2 year internship with Ionia Middle School as a school social worker, and while I loved being in the school and working with the kids, the teachers and the administrators, I knew that I belonged in the Court system," she said. "I graduated with my master's

degree and after six total years with Gratiot County, decided to apply for and was hired by Kent County as a Juvenile Probation Officer."

"The best part of my career has been the relationships that I have built over the years. "The letters, cards, emails, and texts that I've received from both parents and kids over the years after their probation was done that have thanked me for being a support at such a difficult time in their lives is what has kept me doing the same job for 25 years."



Kerry Walter and her three children, Tara (12), Trevor (14), and Taylor (15) live in Caledonia.

Kerry says that her time at St. Patrick School prepared her for this path by teaching her compassion and

perseverance. "The kids that I've worked with over the last 25 years really are not much different than the kids that do not end up in the criminal justice system," she says. "Their circumstances just carved out a different path for them. My time at St. Pat's taught me to be open to learning about other people's circumstances, open to listening to their stories, and working with them where they are, not where everyone else thinks they should be. Finally it taught me that if something is worth having, it is worth working for. And to continue to work hard once you achieve it."

After 25 years of casework, Kerry recently made a decision that it was time to do something different.

She is currently a supervisor for the Juvenile Court in Kent County. "I supervise the surveillance program, the tether program, the community service program, and the Court school program, along with having the responsibility of making sure these programs and the building are LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) compliant."

Kerry lives in Caledonia and has three children, Taylor (15), Trevor (14), and Tara (12). She stays busy with their sports schedules which include both school and travel teams.

"I love watching them play, and we have had the opportunity to see a lot of different states and towns in the travel that we do for tournaments," she said.

## ADAM BARTLETT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

urban environment in Phoenix, Chicago, and Denver), Adam and his wife, Brindi, decided to come back to the Grand Rapids Diocese in May of last year, and they now live in Alto, MI. "It has been

something of a homecoming for me and I'm glad to be back near where my journey began at St. Patrick's," he said. "Our girls attend Sacred Heart Classical Academy in Grand Rapids, and between managing their schedules and their baby brother, our lives are pretty busy, and very full. We are enjoying making and caring for our new home, exploring and cultivating our new 3-acre, largely

wooded property, reading, cooking, sledding (in the winter), swimming (in the summer), and keeping up with the friends and family we have scattered around the country. It is also wonderful to be a short jaunt away from Portland where much of my extended family still resides."

To read more about Adam's company, go to [sourceandsummit.com](http://sourceandsummit.com).

## Mick Hamberg (1999)

Mick graduated from St. Patrick School in 1999, and then studied Building Construction Management at Michigan State University where he received his bachelor's degree. "The CM degree is a mix of business and engineering, which suited me well," he said. "A degree in Construction meant I didn't have to sit in an office for 40 hours a week, and that was what I was looking for at the time."

After graduation from MSU, Mick accepted a job with an Engineering, Procurement and Construction company based in Minnesota. He said, "I worked for this company as a field engineer for a year and Project Manager for 5 years. They specialize in heavy industrial construction on projects nationwide. I worked on ethanol plants in Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Nebraska, and also on a coal fired power plant in Wyoming and a gas fired power plant in Texas."

From there Mick went to work for Dow Chemical in Midland as a Construction Manager, working on capital projects in Midland for three years and then moving to Minneapolis for a capital project that was supposed

to last 6-8 months. "We ended up living there for nearly four years," he said. "We really enjoyed the area."



Mick and Anastasia Hamberg and their family, Bethany (7), Evelyn (5), Luella (4), and William (2). The Hambergs are expecting a new baby in September.

In 2017 Mick and his family moved to Louisville, KY, where he serves as a Regional Construction Manager. He is currently working with a team of people spread out at plants across the

eastern half of the U.S.

Working with a diverse group of people has been both challenging and rewarding for Mick. Also, being able to travel and enjoy what each area has to offer has been fun. He was able to spend a year near the Big Horn Mountains, and was able to visit the Tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle while on a trip to Chennai, India.

Mick says that faith has become a more important part of his life recently. "It was always there, but it grew a lot stronger after I got married and started having kids. I'm most proud of the fact that I can have a great work life and still prioritize faith, marriage, kids, health, wealth, and work. My main goals now are to increase my faith, maintain a happy marriage, and raise kids who want to get into heaven and have a love of learning, while also maintaining my own health, and being productive at work. On a weekly basis I am proud we make it to church every Sunday and are raising our kids Catholic.

The Catholic Church and St. Pat's provided me with a good tradition and routine that I can find no matter where I land in the world."

## Leslie (Kolarik) Weller (1993)

Leslie graduated from St. Patrick School in 1993. Halfway through her high school career, life threw her a curveball.

"I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes the summer before my junior year," she said. "It was definitely a challenge but I had great support at school from faculty and my friends. I had to learn so much about food that I decided to pursue a career in dietetics after high school. I figured if I learned

all that for my self I should keep learning and try to help other people who were facing similar challenges."

Leslie enrolled at Central Michigan University to study Dietetics, the practical application in the prevention and treatment of disease.

"After earning my BS in Dietetics, I completed an internship and became a Registered Dietitian (RD) and started working for Sparrow Hospital as an inpatient dietician. After a short

time I was able to start focusing and working in Diabetes Education. This is the field that really led to becoming an RD. Having been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at 16 years old, I was able to obtain my certification as a Diabetes Educator (CDE). I have now been a CDE for about 22 years."

Leslie's current role is a Clinical Diabetes Specialist for an insulin pump company, Tandem Diabetes

*(Continued on page 11)*



# Karen (Smith) Little (1980)

*Anyone who knows Karen (Smith) Little knows that she is a vivacious personality! Quick-witted and outgoing, she tells her story in her own words.*

I graduated in 1980 from a class of 34 students—17 girls and 17 boys. No, we did not all marry each other but some did! Like many classes at St. Pats we were like a family and it was the best. After I graduated, I went to LCC and received a Liberal Arts degree but I really hadn't figured out what I wanted to be when I "grew up." My Dad gave me the best advice. "You like science and gory things, how about being a nurse?"

I laughed out loud because he was right! I applied for and was accepted into MSU's nursing program. I was a Spartan!

I graduated from MSU in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I started my nursing career at Ingham Medical Center (currently McLaren Greater Lansing) immediately after I

graduated. I worked on a cardiac step down unit for 20 years where we not only took care of patients after heart attacks and cardiac procedures, but also those with diabetes, strokes, cancer, and many other devastating diseases.

It was a very stressful floor but I loved it, especially being able to teach the patient and their families about their disease, their treatments, and

some coping strategies. I could also be there for them, especially when their family couldn't.

I have two kids, Cody and Alysia, and a stepson, Kwesi. I needed a change in hours to be able to go to their after-school activities, especially their sports, so in 2005 I transferred to the operating room and became a circulating RN. It was a game changer.

I could only talk to my patients for a few minutes before their surgery, and if you know me, I am a talker, so I only had a few minutes to entertain them before they went off to sleep for their surgery. Surgery is fast paced and very stressful but also never boring, and you feel like you make a difference in your patients' lives. It was a great career change.

I was asked to share some accomplishments in my career that I am proud of and I guess



Karen and her family at son Cody's wedding. Back row, Kym, Antonio, Natajha, Alysia, Sarah, Cody, Karen, Kwesi. Front row, Shamiya and Little Kwesi.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## LESLIE WELLER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Care. In this role she meets with both patients and health care providers to educate them on diabetes and current technology.

"The best part of my job/career is helping so many people with diabetes," Leslie said. "To help people live a healthy longer life gives me so much joy. Diabetes is challenging every day, so if I can make some days better for the patients, that is great."

Leslie said that she was well-prepared for the academic

challenges of college. The coursework and workload at SPS were similar to the expectations of college.

"I was not a top athlete in high

school, but I was able to participate in three sports and learn the importance of teamwork and time management," she said. "The relationships I built with team members and coaches have stayed with me throughout my life."

Leslie married her high school sweetheart, Jon Weller (1992). The couple has three children who are all St. Pat's graduates. Oldest son, Joe (2016) recently married his high school sweetheart, Cammi Schneider (2016); son Breton (2020) is a WMU graduate; and daughter Abigail will graduate from St. Pat's this year and will attend CMU.



Jon and Leslie Weller and their family at son Joe's wedding. Left to right: Breton, Abigail, Cammi and Joe, Leslie and Jon.



# St. Patrick Church

## Restoration

### UPDATE

by Ken Schneider

In the last issue of *The Shamrock*, the Church Restoration Project was introduced. This project aims to address many issues that have arisen due to the age of the building and to restore it to its historic beauty. As we approach the centennial celebration of our church in 2027, repairs continue to be made as the funds become available. The parish has received several large donations and bequests that have funded these efforts. Ken Schneider is a member of the Building and Grounds Committee, and he has provided the photos and information for this article. Thank you to all who have donated to this effort. If you would like to make a donation, see the box on page 14.

### Front Steps



Last fall, Tom Dailey, of Prius Masonry Restoration, replaced the deteriorated front steps on the Grand River Avenue entrance with new sandstone steps. The original steps were nearly one hundred years old and were damaged beyond repair due to decades of use and water infiltration caused by the freeze and thaw cycle.

The improved steps along with the foundation repair that Prius Masonry Restoration completed last summer have enhanced the exterior appearance while preserving the foundation for many years to come. These projects improve the appearance of the entrance and also make them much safer for our parishioners and visitors.

### Church Driveway

Last summer, the driveway between the church and school was widened by 18 inches. Ken Moyer, of Moyer Construction, completed this work at a discounted cost for our parish. This improvement provides extra space for people to walk beside cars, especially during funerals. This also helped to eliminate a tripping hazard between the driveway and lawn.





## Terrazzo Floors in Chapel and Sanctuary



In January, John Jared, of Concrete Resource, polished and restored the terrazzo floor in the chapel (above left). The floor in the chapel, while not as ornate as the terrazzo in the sanctuary, is still beautiful. All the aisles in the body of the church have the same pattern and will be restored after the sanctuary restoration is completed.

The carpet has also been removed from the first step of the sanctuary (above right). Eventually, all of the carpet will be removed and the terrazzo in the entire sanctuary will be restored. The floor of the entire sanctuary is the same pattern of red squares and circles inside a tile border. Marble chips necessary to repair cracks and other defects in the existing floor have been ordered.

One thing that has become evident as the original floors are uncovered is the thriftiness of the early church members. At the time of construction in the mid-1920's those resourceful and frugal members of St. Patrick Church used the expensive terrazzo only in the sanctuary and in the aisles of the church. The area under the pews was painted concrete.

*Mr. Jared, from Concrete Resource, is a member of St. Gerard Parish in Lansing and has donated the use of his supplies and equipment as well as his time spent on the project.*

### What is Terrazzo?

Terrazzo is a composite material, poured in place like concrete. It consists of chips of marble, quartz, granite, glass, or other suitable material, poured with a cementitious binder. The history of terrazzo can be traced back to 18th century Italy.

According to the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association website, terrazzo became the flooring of choice in the U.S. after World War I. Architects in the 1920s were the first to recognize the vast design potential of terrazzo.

The invention of the electric grinder in 1924 brought about a finer finish, greater speed and accuracy, and lowered costs, all contributing to the spread of terrazzo all over the U.S. Many of the country's most noteworthy buildings of the day were built with terrazzo.

Doyle and Dickerson Terrazzo says, "Terrazzo continues to excel in durability and low maintenance. In fact, terrazzo often lasts longer than the life of a building. Buildings built nearly 100 years ago still have terrazzo floors that remain in good condition. Many older buildings with terrazzo can restore the floor to its original brilliance at a fraction of the cost of replacing the finish."



The carpet has been removed from the first step of the sanctuary, revealing the beautiful terrazzo floor underneath. The original floors were covered up during previous remodeling of the church in the 1970's and 1990's.

*(Church Restoration continued on page 14)*

# CHURCH RESTORATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

There are plans to complete additional improvement projects this summer as funds become available. Tentative plans are to install protective clear glass panels over the beautiful stained glass windows in the nave of the church. These panels have already been installed over the windows in the chapel to replace the damaged amber windows. The new panels will provide better protection to the stained glass and save energy by reducing air infiltration in the existing drafty windows.

Preliminary plans are to place what remains of the original communion rail in front of the baptismal font in the vestibule. A replica communion rail will be built and installed between the sanctuary and the main body of the church. These improvements will help restore some of the original details and workmanship that give our church its character and beauty.

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, but 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 to Saint Patrick Parish.

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.



## SCHOOL BATHROOMS TO BE COMPLETELY REMODELED

Over the years, major repairs and improvements have been made to the school. Now, the bathrooms in the original 1950 portion of the school, which contain the original plumbing and fixtures, badly need improvement. Plans are underway to install all new plumbing, fixtures, floor and wall coverings; to lower the ceiling; and to install energy efficient lighting. The entire space will be brought up to current standards and codes. The electric panel on the second floor will also be replaced to be code compliant.

The new toilets, urinals, and flush valves will be replaced with water conserving types. Instead of individual sinks, a wash station will be installed with three faucets, and soap and towels dispensers in one integrated unit. The hand-washing units will also contain on demand water heaters which will provide immediate hot water while reducing operating costs. To ensure problems do not arise in the future, the underground sewer lines have already been scoped and lined.

In addition to the student bathrooms, new faculty bathrooms will be installed on the second floor.

In the 1950s and 60s, there was a separate restroom available for the Sisters of St. Joseph, adjacent to the second floor girls bathroom. In the 1970s after the Sisters had departed the high school, that area was converted to office space.

The space, currently Room 204, will be converted to a teacher prep area and lounge with direct access to the

faculty bathrooms.

These improvements are long overdue and will enhance the school experience for our students and faculty. They will also reduce operating costs and provide many years of service.

With your support, St. Patrick School will continue to provide a quality Catholic education for generations of new students.



The bathrooms on the first and second floors of the school, which were built in 1952, are set to receive a total replacement this year. The bathrooms contain the original fixtures which are 70 years old. A bathroom for the faculty will also be added.





## Come to the Shamrock Auction

### *A Night of Pure Imagination*

Friday, April 29, at the Knight's Hall, Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets for the IN PERSON event include delicious food, drinks, entertainment, live and silent auctions, raffles, and entry into the Shamrock Appreciation Raffle!

Can't make it that night? No problem! ONLINE ONLY participation is FREE.

Simply create an account at <http://www.bidpal.net/shamrockauction2022> for access to the silent auction, raffles, 50/50, and more!



***Auto-Owners***  
**INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

**THANK YOU to Marc Nichols Insurance**  
**\$5,000 Platinum Sponsor**

ST. PATRICK'S

**SU  
MM  
ER  
FE  
ST**

ALL WELCOME

## Summer Fest is back in 2022!

**June 24 & 25 (Friday and Saturday)**

*Always the Weekend After Father's Day!*

We are so excited to be able to offer Summer Fest again this year! The details are still unfolding but here is just some of what you can expect to see!

- Homemade Chicken Dinner Friday evening (formerly held on Sunday)
- Food trucks both Friday and Saturday
- Baseball tournament (8U-13U) all weekend!
- Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament
- Kids games and inflatables
- Entertainment tent with live music and beverages
- Volleyball tournament
- Raffle

Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities and registrations coming soon! We are looking forward to seeing our community together once again! *Questions? Contact Brandon Rockey at [rocke1bj@gmail.com](mailto:rocke1bj@gmail.com)!*

**[www.stpatssummerfest.com](http://www.stpatssummerfest.com)**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Fred (Lora Mae) Brazee; sister-in-law, Nancy Brazee; and several nieces and nephews.

**Most Reverend Robert J. Rose**, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, passed away on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the age of 92. He was born on February 28, 1930, the son of Urban and Maida Rose. He is predeceased by his parents and siblings, June Wittenbach and James Rose. He is survived by several nieces and nephews and their families. Memorial contributions may be made to the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan for either the Bishop's Fund for Catholic Education or the Diocesan Jubilee Justice Fund.

**David Michael Braley**, of Portland, passed away February 6, 2022, at the age of 60. He was born December 6, 1961, in Ionia, the son of Lyle and Judy (Pline) Braley. Preceding David in death are his grandparents. He is survived by his daughters, Crystal (Jacob) Shivilie and Alicia (Brian) Spier; four grandchildren; parents, Lyle and Judy Braley; siblings, William Braley, Irene Braley, Lisa (Lee) Ingraham; and Pat Braley; and aunt, Elaine Taylor.

**Barbara Ann (Cook) Davison**, age 69, of Portland, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2022. She was born in Lansing, Michigan, on July 29, 1952, the daughter of Thomas and Marie (Koenigsknecht) Cook, who preceded her in death. In addition to her parents, Barb is preceded in death by her in-laws, Frank and Nona Davison. She is survived by her loving husband of 28 years, Rick Davison; daughters, Lara (John) Hubbard and Adria (David) VanHorn; six grandchildren; sisters, Nancy (John) Costello, Donna (Jim) Clark, Diane (Tom) Hoban, Denise (Pete) Weeks, and Sharon Cook; brothers-in-law, Robert (Beverly) Davison and Tom (Vicki) Davison; and many nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life luncheon honoring Barb will be held

on June 6 at the Red Mill in Portland.

**Mekbul Jeffrey Seid Timmer**, 18, a much-adored son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend, left this life on March 6, 2022, after making the lives of everyone he met better. He was predeceased by his first loving mother, Zeyneba Tesfaye and his grandmother, Alemitu Kono. Mekbul will be profoundly and endlessly missed by his parents, Jeff and Mattie Timmer; his sisters, Maggie, Grace, and Mary and his brother Joe; his grandparents, Jerry Timmer, Madeline Beckley and Allan Kotwicki; several aunts, uncles, and cousins; special friends, Devann Hattis, Mengistu Abera, Kait Kmetz; and more people that loved him than number the stars. He is awaited eagerly in Heaven by his Ethiopian family and his much-loved grandma, Bethel Timmer.

**Lawrence Hyland**, age 72, of Portland passed away peacefully on March 9, 2022. Larry is survived by sister, Jackie Hyland Donlan of Lansing; niece, Renee (Andy) Jarvis of Holt; two great nieces; two great nephews; and special friends, Chopper and Jonda Schrauben. He is preceded in death by father, Vivian "Bud" Hyland and mother, Mary Hyland. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 3400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

**Mary Catherine (Smith) Schafer**, age 95, of Portland passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on March 14, 2022. She was born on December 6, 1926, to Leo and Antoinette (Fedewa) Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband of 69 years, Marvin Schafer; sons, Ronald, Larry, and Patrick (infant) Schafer; daughter, Marlene (Schafer) Walser; siblings, Carl (Rose) Smith, Delbert (Roselyn) Smith, James (Marilyn) Smith, Jerome Smith, Loretta (Alvin) Thelen, Joann (Ernie) Thelen, Viola (Francis) Fedewa, and Lucille (Gerald) Fedewa; in-laws, Clarence Schafer, Alvin Schafer, Stephen Schafer, Frederick (Catherine) Schafer, Donald Schafer, Esther

Schafer, Marie (infant) Schafer, Elfriede Schafer, Art Schafer, and Dorothy (Stanley) Trierweiler. Surviving are her loving children, Janice Glassmire, Julie (Thomas, Jr.) Brennan, Yvonne (Gary) Watkins, Marie (Nelson) Monroe, Steven (Marie) Schafer, and Deanna (Tad) Drake; son-in-law, Jeffrey Walser; many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren; in-laws, Irene Lischkge, Bertha Roggenbuck, Mildred Schafer, Rita Bashore, Justin Schafer, Marie Schafer, Pauline Schafer, Joyce Schafer-Davis, and Carlene Smith; and many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing, St. Patrick School, or the St. Patrick Athletic Association in memory of Mary.

**Joseph Anthony Pung, Sr.**, age 81, of Portland, passed away at his home on March 14, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 6, 1941, the son of Louis J. and Florence L. (Miller) Pung. Preceding Joe in death are his parents and brother, William Pung. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Jeanette (Thelen) Pung; children, Joe (Shelly) Pung, Jr., Timothy (Angela) Pung, Judy (Erich) Fleischer, Linda (Scott) Schrauben, and Amy (Todd) LaJoy; 12 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; siblings, Sr. Mary Pung CSJ, Lawrence (Ann Marie) Pung, Therese Pung, Paul (Linda) Pung, James (Sharon Ward) Pung, and Anthony (Dianne) Pung; many Thelen in-laws; and several nieces and nephews.

**Richard Lawrence Lawless**, age 93, of Portland, passed away on Sunday, March 20, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on December 1, 1928, on a farm in Portland, the son of Laura (Snitgen) and John Lawless. Dick is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Shirley (Stump) Lawless; children, Kaye (Ron) Bos, Dan (Denise) Lawless, Dave (Tammy) Lawless, and Nancy (Brian) Wohlscheid; 13 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletic Association in memory of Dick.

## KAREN LITTLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

the biggest one was being voted RN of the Year in 1991 which was pretty cool. I was involved in the formation of the Career Ladder (helped to get raises). I was a clinical instructor for MSU's leadership course, a preceptor for many new RNs, on the Pharmacy Committee and am currently Presi-

dent of our Unit Based Council and on our Professional Practice Committee. I was also asked many years ago to come back to St. Pats for Career Day and talk to students about nursing. I was honored to be asked and it was fun to be back.

I really feel that my time at St. Pats prepared me very well for my nursing career and life in general. I consider St. Pats to be my family, and now I have another family at McLaren Great-

er Lansing. My biggest accomplishment in life, however, is my own family—my kids, Cody, Alysia, and Kwesi; my daughters-in-law, Sarah and Kym; and my grandkids, little Kwesi, Natasha, Antonio, and Shimaya. I couldn't ask for anything more. It continues to be a great ride. Thanks for asking me to share my story. Love, Karen. Go Green! (St. Pats and MSU)





# TKIII Golf Outing Supports Academics and Athletics

Since 1998, the annual TKIII Golf Outing has been held in memory of SPS Alumni Tony Kolarik III. The outing, which was originally organized by Tony's friends, led by Chris Teachout, was eventually combined with the annual Shamrock golf outing and became a fund raiser for the St Pat's football team while remaining a day to remember Tony.

In the spring of 2018, as the 20th anniversary of Tony's passing approached, the Kolarik family decided to become more involved with the outing to honor the anniversary and make sure that the tradition that Chris Teachout started years prior continued.

The revival of this outing has made a significant financial impact on our SPS community, by raising about \$20,000 in the last 4 years alone. This has allowed the Kolarik family to create the TKIII Scholarship, a \$2,000 annual scholarship given to a St Patrick Senior who attends Central Michigan University (Tony's alma mater). They've also donated \$12,000 to the St Patrick Athletic Association.

The 2022 TKIII Golf Outing is scheduled for August 13 at Willow Wood Golf Club. It'll be a great event again this year. A day to remember Tony, a day to celebrate with the community, and a day to support both St Patrick athletics and the TKIII Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in sponsorship or registration, contact Leslie (Kolarik) Weller.

Email [jl\\_weller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jl_weller@sbcglobal.net) or text/call (517) 647-4977.



Neal and Anne (Kolarik) Hufnagel, Paul Kolarik, and Tony Kolarik II pose with their family flag at the 2018 TKIII Golf Outing.

## Annual St. Patrick School Open House Welcomes Visitors

After a two-year pause due to the Covid 19 pandemic, St. Patrick Catholic School was able to return to an in-person open house for 2022. The school was bustling with activity on Sunday, March 20, 2022, as dozens of families from Portland and the neighboring communities came to take a look at the school and to participate in the activities on hand.



Bob and Casey Lenneman and their family found the statue of Mary on the Scavenger Hunt.

Guests were given a sheet of paper when they registered that led them on a Scavenger Hunt through the school. Shamrock Student Ambassadors accompanied visitors while they toured the school and were able to answer questions, as well. Anna the new Facility Dog was there to greet and intermingle with the guests, too.

St. Patrick student volunteer and current high school junior, Cozette Brown, commented, "It's nice to know that so many kids and families are excited about the possibility of going to school at St. Pat's. I love it here and hope they will, too."



Mrs. Smith and Anna greet young guests during the 2022 Open House.

# Upcoming EVENTS

**Shamrock Auction ..... April 29, 2022**  
**First Communion ..... TBD**  
**Confirmation ..... May 2, 2022**  
**Graduation ..... May 22, 2022**  
**Summer Fest ..... June 24-25, 2022**  
**Class of 1972 50-Year Reunion Sept. 17, 2022**  
**Fall Festival..... TBD**  
**Fall issue of *The Shamrock*..... Mid October**  
**Deadline for submitting info ..August 31, 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.



1953 Roy Bauer	1985 Scott Osmar
1956 Harold Trierweiler	1989 Amy Wixon
1961 John D. Pung	1990 John Huhtala
1961 John D. Pung	1990 Violet Moore
1962 C. G. Luce	1991 Elaine Mauer
1963 Bonnie (Mleko) Luce	1993 Darcy Hinds Vandecar
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom
1968 Terry Morrison	1995 Emily Batty
1969 Patty Koenigsknecht	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa
1974 Steve Jenkins	1997 Marcus Schroeder
1975 Susan Thelen	1998 Melissa Thelen Carpenter
1975 Patricia Cook Leppo	2000 Jeff Pung
1977 Brian Jenkins	2001 Segrid Johnson
1980 Angie Young	2001 David Rademacher
1980 Patrick Ellis	2002 Andrew Stopczynski
1981 Mike Binder	2002 John Carter
1982 Jeff Strang	2002 Amanda Dovey
1983 Steve Lehnert	2004 Don Vollman
1983 Rich Strang	2004 Cara Monks
1984 John Thelen	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 (Stiffier) Vanlente.....[suevanlente@gmail.com](mailto:suevanlente@gmail.com)

Cindy (Stiffier) 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 ..... [annebenett67@gmail.com](mailto:annebenett67@gmail.com)

Connie (Fedewa) Vallier ..... [vallierbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vallierbc@sbcglobal.net)

Ken Schneider.....[kenandkaren76@gmail.com](mailto:kenandkaren76@gmail.com)





Last fall the Class of 1971 had their big reunion, sponsored by the Father Flohe Foundation. In honor of that great class, here are 25 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.

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

### ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by email, fax, or mail (see page 18) or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by May 1, 2022. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

AMTRAK  
 ARCHIE BUNKER  
 BEE GEES  
 BUSSING  
 CHER  
 DISNEY WORLD  
 EAGLES

ECLIPSE  
 FUN  
 GREEN  
 IMAGINE  
 IMPALA  
 JENNIFER  
 KISSINGER

LAY  
 LOVE STORY  
 MANSON  
 MICHAEL  
 NIXON  
 QUEEN  
 RIOTS

SOYUZ  
 SUPER DOME  
 VIETNAM  
 WEEBLES



The hidden phrase in the last issue was “*Blessed are those who can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.*” The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Yvonne Smith of Haslett, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Yvonne!

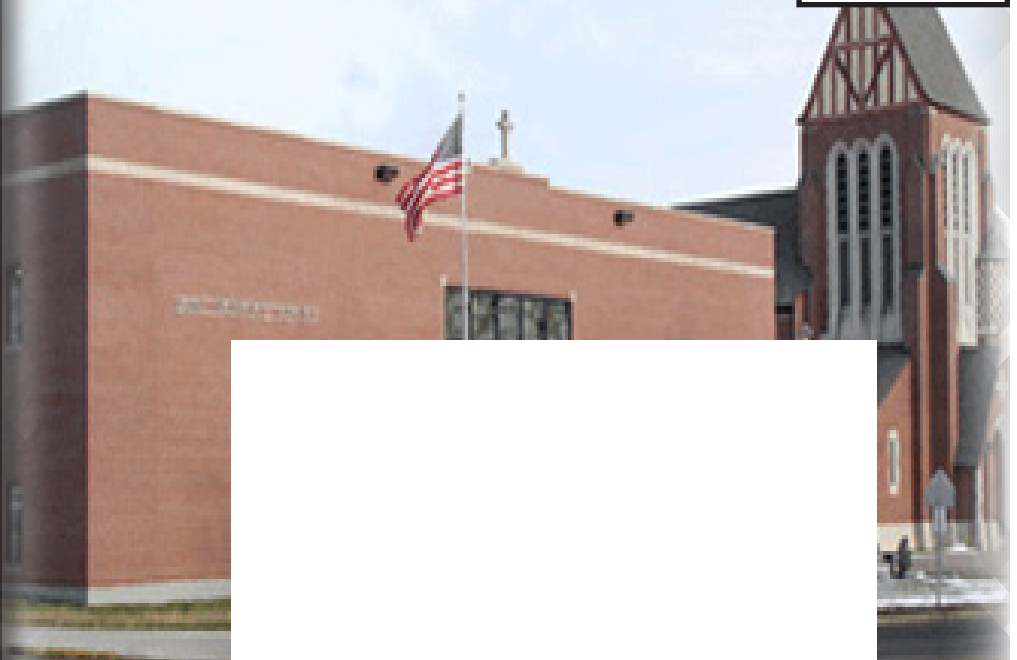
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SHAMROCK

Class of 1971 Reunion .....	1
Teacher Goes to Super Bowl .....	2
Spotlight on Adam Bartlett .....	3
What's Happening .....	4
School News .....	6
Little Shamrocks Daycare .....	7
Reunion Information .....	8
Spotlight on Kerry Walter .....	9
Spotlight on Mick Hamberg .....	10
Spotlight on Leslie Kolarik .....	10
Spotlight on Karen Little .....	11
Church Restoration .....	12
New School Bathrooms .....	14
Shamrock Auction .....	15
Summer Fest .....	15
TKIII Golf Outing .....	17
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



St. Patrick Catholic School has been educating the minds, bodies, and spirits of its students for over 110 years, and is open to all families who are looking for a faith-based education for their children. Our school mission statement contains six powerful words that are a guide for life: **We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!**



Call (517) 647-7551 or email [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or [cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org](mailto:cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org)