

St. Patrick Catholic School
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portlandstpats.com

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YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT

Located in Portland, Michigan, St. Patrick Catholic School has been developing its students' minds, bodies, and spirits for over 110 years. Our school mission statement contains six powerful words that are a guide for life: We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

St. Patrick School is open to all families looking for a faith-based education for their children. For more information about our top-rated preschool through 12th grade academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs, please visit portlandstpats.com/school.

Establish a scholarship today! Your gift will ensure that a holistic Catholic education at St. Patrick School will be available to families for years to come. 100% of your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your financial advisor to determine which method of giving is most beneficial to you.



A Shamrock Legacy

Spring 2022 | A Development Newsletter for
Portland St. Patrick Catholic School

A NOTE FROM ST. PATRICK SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION & A NEW RAFFLE COMING IN 2023

As the 2021-22 school year ends, we are excited about all the great things that have been accomplished and what a wonderful year our students and staff had.

We appreciate all the financial support and prayers you have provided our school. With your help, we've made many updates to the church and school. Within this edition of A Shamrock Legacy, you'll find a column with a facilities update on all of our recent projects.

We have met the tuition needs of 97.5% of our students. Your support has also helped us put away some money for the future in the Former Pastors Scholarship Endowment Fund and the Father Flohe Foundation.

We continue to seek out new ways to meet the financial needs of our parish, school, and athletic programs. One way we will be helping fund these programs is through a new raffle that will begin in fall 2022. This new raffle will replace four other raffles. We will no longer have the weekly sports raffle, the Fall Festival raffle, the Parish Festival raffle, and the large Shamrock Auction raffle.

Instead, we will have one annual raffle where tickets will be sold for \$500 each. There will be four drawings that will take place throughout the year. There will be a monthly drawing for ten months with one \$500 winner per month. We will also have drawings at the Fall Festival in October or November, the Marriage Gala in February, the Shamrock Auction in April, and the Parish Festival in June. There will be cash prizes totaling \$11,250 at each one of these events. The breakdown of cash prizes at each drawing are as follows:

Fall Festival (Oct/Nov):	Marriage Gala (February):	Shamrock Auction (April):	Parish Festival (June):
• \$5,000 (1)	• \$5,000 (1)	• \$5,000 (1)	• \$5,000 (1)
• \$2,500 (1)	• \$2,500 (1)	• \$2,500 (1)	• \$2,500 (1)
• \$1,000 (1)	• \$1,000 (1)	• \$1,000 (1)	• \$1,000 (1)
• \$750 (1)	• \$750 (1)	• \$750 (1)	• \$750 (1)
• \$500 (2)	• \$500 (2)	• \$500 (2)	• \$500 (2)
• \$250 (4)	• \$250 (4)	• \$250 (4)	• \$250 (4)

It is important that everyone take part in this raffle. Raffle sales will begin immediately after Labor Day in the fall. Support of this raffle is essential as it will go a long way in funding our parish, school, and athletic budgets. Printed raffle tickets will be available for sale, and there will also be an option to purchase tickets online. If you have any questions about this new raffle, please contact Randy Hodge by calling the school at (517) 647-7551 or by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.



The Class of 2022 with Bishop Walkowiak and Fr. Mike

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Class of 2022
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HOLY THURSDAY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES FUNDRAISER

Each year, the St. Patrick Junior High School helps put together the Rice Bowls for St. Patrick Parish. This year was our 9th annual school-wide Rice Bowl Project. One of the suggested Catholic Relief Services activities is eating a conservative family meal and giving the saved portion to the project. We took this idea and did a school community Rice Bowl Project. Each year on Holy Thursday, we provide our students with hot dogs and chips for lunch, served by the staff and student council of St. Patrick School. In the spirit of Lent, we ask that a free-will donation be contributed to the large Rice Bowl created for the project. The recommended donation is what you would "normally spend" on your school lunch. This year, our hot dog fundraiser raised a record \$1,672.76 for Catholic Relief Services.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

The St. Pat's National Honor Society would like to thank all who donated blood at the recent blood drive. We collected 32 units which brings our total for the school year to 164 units of life-saving blood! While this is our last blood drive for the school year, we encourage you to find a blood drive near you by visiting redcrossblood.org or join us for our next drive on September 27th. Please save the dates for all our 2022-23 blood drives which are as follows:

- September 27, 2022
- November 22, 2022
- January 24, 2023
- March 21, 2023
- May 23, 2023

FUTURE SITE OF ATHLETIC FACILITY

St. Patrick School is looking to procure a site off-campus for an athletic facility that will include a football field, track, gymnasium, and softball and baseball fields. We have a committee actively looking for property and believe we have found a property that would be a good fit. We are looking for a donor or multiple donors to help purchase and secure this property for future use as our school grows. If you are interested in helping with this exciting opportunity for the school, please contact Mr. Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.



SCHOOL FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are always so appreciative of all our donors. Regardless of the size of the donation, each donor is considered generous in our eyes, and we are incredibly grateful. Here is what all of you have helped us to accomplish so far this year:

Donations for the Tuition Angels Fund for this year are \$21,526. Thanks to your generosity, we have met the tuition needs of all but three families this school year. We are now looking forward to ensuring we meet the tuition needs of all of our school families for the 2022-23 school year.

Donations for "Wherever Funds are Needed the Most" are \$23,093.09. These donations are placed in our school's general fund and ensure we can meet all operating expenses for the current school year. We fell just short of our budgeted amount of \$25,000 for the 2021-22 school year.

Donations for the Former Pastors Endowment Fund for 2021-22 are \$5,897.50, and the current account balance is \$112,267. Our goal is to get this fund to one million dollars as fast as possible.

The current balance of the Father Flohe Foundation fund is \$2,567,289 (effective June 3, 2022). Please note this total fluctuates daily based on the stock market.

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, the bathroom fund received donations totaling \$86,274.64; the Shamrock Auction Excellence Drive provided additional funds.

We do not have a current balance of donations at this time due to work being completed and the account being fluid. We hope to give a final update in the fall edition of The Shamrock Legacy.

Again, thank you again for your kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. We have been able to accomplish so many things recently due to all of you.

PTO & AUCTION UPDATES

PTO UPDATE

The St. Patrick School PTO has been very active and busy throughout the 2021-22 school year. Their most recent endeavor was to let our teaching staff know they are appreciated during Teacher Appreciation Week.

This year, the PTO worked hard, putting together a farmer's market theme for Teacher Appreciation Week. The week kicked off with an outstanding luncheon prepared by Mrs. Joan Tichvon. On Tuesday, students brought in fruits and vegetables for teachers. Wednesday's focus was on flowers and gardens, and the teachers were given flowers to take home and plant. On Thursday, the teachers were treated to snow cones, and the week wrapped up with breakfast on Friday. In addition to showering our teachers with gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week, our outstanding PTO also supports the teachers and students every year in various other ways:

- **Wish List** - \$3,000 spent on items requested by the teachers where they can "dream big" on things they could use in their classrooms or for teaching the students!
- **Teacher Fund Requests** - \$1,500 is budgeted annually to allow teachers to submit specific requests any time during the school year, which are then reviewed and voted on during monthly PTO meetings.
- **Welcome Back Gift Cards** - \$2,200 is budgeted to provide each teacher a gift card in August to help purchase items they may want to get their year started right!
- **Catholic Schools Week** - Funds are budgeted every year for this expense, and this year the PTO stocked the teacher's lounge with drinks and snacks!
- **Assemblies** - The PTO aims to sponsor at least one assembly every school year. Jim "Basketball" Jones was our sponsored speaker this year for grades K-5 in April!
- **Luncheons & Teacher/Principal Appreciation** - The PTO sponsors at least 3 teacher luncheons throughout the school year (which includes Teacher Appreciation Week), along with extra gifts and goodies!
- **Homecoming Tailgate** - The PTO, along with other valued supporters, sponsors this event every year to promote community and school spirit!

All the support to St. Pat's teachers and students mentioned above is made possible through participation in the many events and fundraisers held throughout every school year, including book fairs, uniform room sales, can/bottle drives, Color Run, events at The Wagon Wheel and The Port, and more! The PTO is very thankful for the generous involvement from the St. Pat's community!

The PTO is always looking for more members to take an active role. Any school parents who attend three or more meetings within a school year will be provided an out-of-dress code slip for their school-aged children.

If you are looking for more information about the St. Patrick School PTO, please contact the PTO Executive Committee at pto@portlandstpats.org.

2022 SHAMROCK AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

St. Patrick School was very excited to see our annual Shamrock Auction return as an in-person and virtual event on its 20th anniversary. This year's event took place on Friday, April 29, at the Knights Hall, with the theme being "A Night of Pure Imagination." All proceeds were split between the Athletic Association and the school general fund. To date, the Shamrock Auction has raised over \$1,250,000. This year, the event raised \$210,181.35.

In addition to the live auction were fun-filled raffles, an in-person and virtual 50/50 raffle, and the silent auction, where people at the event and home had the opportunity to bid on items. \$101,231.35 of the total raised will be split between the school and our athletic programs.

Our last live auction item of the night is called Fund the Excellence. Each year, the administration picks one area that we hope everyone will donate toward as we strive to keep up to date with items of importance for our school facility. Our Bathroom Remodel Fund was designated for our Fund the Excellence appeal this year. We are extremely thankful and appreciative to all who donated to this fund. This year's Fund the Excellence appeal raised an additional \$108,950.

The Shamrock Auction is an event that truly brings our school families, alumni, parishioners, and other school supporters together. It requires a lot of hard work and a huge commitment of time from many people. But it pays off significantly in the money it brings into the school and athletic programs and as a fantastic social event enjoyed by hundreds. Its success stems from a great volunteer committee and the dedication of parents, family, friends, alumni, and the support of many local businesses!

A HUGE thank you goes to our Shamrock Auction Committee, which is comprised of chairs Mike and Ann Kissane and Jason and Jennifer Chamberlain. The rest of the auction committee includes Kristen Smith, Chelsea Pung, Heather Davis, Amy Pung, Michelle Trierweiler, and Erin Martin, the school liaison to the committee. We also want to thank Chris Teachout at Sweet Caroline's for providing the roast beef and Joan Tichvon and crew for the rest of the food.

We look forward to seeing all of you either in person or remotely at next year's event.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022

On Sunday, May 22, St. Patrick School said goodbye to the Class of 2022 with a graduation Mass with Bishop David Walkowiak presiding. Following Mass, our 69th commencement was held in the school gymnasium. Highlights for the Class of 2022 include the following:

- 12 of the 25 students in the Class of 2022 are National Honor Society members.
- 14 out of 25 were recognized as CMAC Scholar-Athletes, meaning they had at least a 3.4 GPA and lettered in at least two sports, one of which was in their senior year.
- 21 out of the 25 plan to go on to some form of higher education, with four entering the workforce or taking up a skilled trade.
- Three have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their sports careers in college.
- 14 of the 25 are graduating with honors (3.79 GPA or higher), with nine having a GPA of 4.0 or higher and 18 having a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.
- They were offered \$556,375 in scholarships and accepted \$454,750 or an average of \$22,737.50 per graduate.

Valedictorian: Carly Scheurer

Salutatorian: Sarah Davlin

Class Officers:

President: Jamelyn Forist
Vice President: Cole Kinsman
Treasurer: Braxton Teachworth
Secretary: Kyle Edlund

National Honor Society Officers:

President: Bella Myers
Vice President: Sarah Davlin
Treasurer: Mara Schrauben
Secretary: Abby Weller

Class Song: Dream On, by Aerosmith

Class Bible Verse: Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at with all your heart..."

Class Flower: Azalea

Class Color: Hot Pink

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Each school year, every graduating senior completes a final, culminating project that provides them with the unique opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned and show the growth they have accomplished over their school careers at St. Patrick High School. It is one final opportunity to embrace a challenge toward the greater cultivation of mind and soul.

The Senior Capstone Project is a semester-long project to be completed as the requirements for a class. It involves researching, reporting, and presenting to staff, peers, mentors, and school parents.

Students may work individually, with a partner, or as a group. Each student or group may be assigned a St. Patrick School staff member who will serve as a mentor for the project or find a member of the community to supervise or work in conjunction with to complete their project.

Members of the senior class are asked to identify and research a contemporary issue and need in the school, parish, community, or Ionia County. The need should be based on a shortcoming in the area of Catholic Social Teaching or the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Once an issue or need is determined, students will brainstorm a project to help fill the need. Students then develop a plan for solving the problem to help resolve the issue at hand. The plan is then implemented and completed.

Students write a paper about their experiences. They also create a presentation explaining their project. The presentation must include the following:

1. Explanation and evidence of the need.
2. An explanation of the student's plans and how it was implemented.
3. Follow up on how the project went.
4. A visual aid.

There is no final exam for the Capstone course. The project is, in essence, the final exam of their career at St. Patrick High School.

FACILITIES & FINANCIAL UPDATE

Water Heaters:

The art and middle school science rooms have new water heaters. The old water heaters were not keeping up with the demand for hot water during the school day. Thank you to Mr. Luke Schrauben and Phantom Plumbing for installing these units.

Gym Lighting:

In the winter edition of The Shamrock Legacy, we mentioned that we replaced the lighting in the school gymnasium. We wanted to provide a cost breakdown for the new gym lights. Lites Plus supplied our lights at \$2,900.00 for 20 LED bulbs. D&E Electric's original quote for installation was \$1,760.00, and the actual cost was reduced to \$1,240.00. Therefore, our project's total cost was \$4,140.00 before we applied a rebate of \$2,000.00. With the rebate, the total cost of upgrading our gym lighting was \$2,140.00.

Bathroom Remodel:

The bathroom remodels for our facilities in the original part of the school remain on schedule. Work has already started for asbestos abatement. Unfortunately, the cost has increased significantly since we initially received a quote two years ago. Our projected total cost for remodeling the four restrooms, adding a teachers lounge and two staff restrooms, is now \$830,000. Construction will begin in full on Monday, June 13.

Classroom Renovations:

We will continue to renovate classrooms over the summer. Last year, rooms 104, 106, 107, 112, and 116 had carpeting, asbestos tiles, and the old chalkboards that contained asbestos removed. The old chalkboards were replaced with modern whiteboards, and the floors are now polished concrete. This summer, rooms 102, 103, 203, 204, and 205 will have the same work completed as a part of the bathroom remodel project. We will also have this work completed in rooms 100, 113, 200, and 218. The funding for the classroom remodels is coming from the Shamrock Auction Excellence Fund.

Phone System:

St. Patrick School contracted with Printing Essentials in Ionia for our new VoIP phone system. The phone system was installed in February at an approximate cost of \$10,000. Approximately \$19,000 was raised for the project. We will be seeking quotes to replace the outdated speaker system in the fall. The speaker system is connected to the phone system and shows its age now that the phones are updated.

Church Restoration:

No additional work is planned for the church at this time. We are waiting to complete the projects in the school before beginning any further church restoration.

School Gymnasium Entrance:

Work has been completed on the steps and landing entering into the gymnasium. The lower and upper steps were smoothed out, primed, and recoated by Purus Restoration. The landing between the steps was uneven, making it a trip and fall hazard. Moyer Construction removed the old concrete and replaced it with new concrete. The entrance to our school gymnasium now looks outstanding and, most importantly, is safe for all entering to watch an event.



Gym step renovation with Moyer Construction



Picnic tables donated to the school by Cole Kinsman, Braxton Teachworth, and Kyle Edlund as a part of their Capstone project

529 PLANS MAY BE USED FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION

On January 1, 2018, a new federal tax plan went into effect. One of the provisions of this tax plan was expanding the use of 529 Plans. Initially, a 529 Plan was set up as a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to encourage saving for future college costs. They are sponsored by states, state agencies, or educational institutions and are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, hence the name. Under the new tax laws, 529 Plans may now be used as a savings plan for private school tuition and college.

This is exciting news for those interested in sending their child to a private school. But how does a 529 Plan work?

- An account must be established for the benefit of an individual, and contributions may be made starting at birth and continued throughout the beneficiary's education.
- Multiple individuals may make contributions to one or more accounts without income restrictions on contributors or beneficiaries.
- Money inside the account may generally be invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, and other investments.
- As it grows, future income and growth inside the account are not federally taxed.
- Future withdrawals are generally free of federal taxes if used for qualified education expenses.
- Up to \$10,000 may be withdrawn annually for elementary or secondary education expenses.

Exactly what can these accounts be used for?

- If used for qualified education expenses, distributions from the account are federally tax-free.
- Qualified education expenses include tuition, books, supplies, tutoring, transportation, computers, and other costs.
- Qualified education expenses can occur at the elementary, secondary, or college level.

Please keep in mind that anyone can contribute to a 529 Plan. It doesn't matter if you are a parent, grandparent, godparent, aunt, or uncle. Anyone interested in helping to provide for a child's education may contribute.



St. Patrick School's varsity softball and baseball teams played in the Kris Popp "Strike Out Cancer" Memorial Tournament at Lake Leelanau. They helped raise more than \$1,000, which will be donated to the Lake Leelanau Cancer Foundation.



DOWNSIZE & DECLUTTER YOUR LIFE AND ESTATE

This winter, Michelle and I decided to declutter our life. We ordered a 20-yard dumpster (which ironically was purchased at the 2021 Shamrock Auction), and the purging of our house and material possessions was on. It was exhilarating to free up so much room and get rid of clutter. It is true what they say. "Less stuff, less stress, and less worry!"

Sometimes possessions outgrow their usefulness, or there simply isn't room for them. The space issue becomes even more critical if you're moving to a smaller home for your retirement years.

Whether you're decluttering, downsizing, or both, there are benefits to simplifying. Here are some easy ways to get started:

Reflect on what's important. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the sheer volume of items. Prioritize what has personal and financial value and weed out objects with little meaning or use. You can enlist a trusted friend to help; have them present to challenge you to articulate what really matters. If you haven't used it for one or two years, you probably will never use it.

Set a storage limit. Maybe it's ten bins or only things that can fit in a particular closet. Let the size of your home dictate the depth of items you can save. A helpful idea to remain clutter-free going forward, use the one-in, one-out approach. For any item you bring in, select a different thing to donate or get rid of.

Decide who can benefit most. Does another family member treasure your mother's heirloom jewelry more than you? Can a charity use clothing or furniture you no longer want? You'll feel good about being generous. Of course, there is always Facebook Marketplace or eBay to sell extra items at an affordable price to others who might not be able to afford the item brand new. Regardless of how you eliminate items, you'll free up space.

Rethink your living situation. If you're an empty nester, moving to a smaller home can be a money saver, reducing mortgage, insurance, taxes, and utility expenses. With lower bills, you may end up with more money for retirement and to share with others.

Remember to be good stewards of our planet. If you cannot sell it, donate to those in need or drop it off at your local Goodwill or secondhand store. If it has outlived its usefulness, try to recycle as much as possible.

You can also get your financial house in order. Remember to clean up your estate plan, too. Address life

changes such as:

Your family: births, deaths, or marriage changes, you may want to add or remove beneficiaries or adjust their estate shares.

Your property: events such as growth (or decline) in the value of your estate, buying or selling a home or being gifted property may require changes to the provisions in your will or updating the amount of insurance you have.

Your new location: your will should be updated if you move to a new state. Varying requirements for executing a will, state inheritance taxes, and probate laws may make revisions necessary. An estate planning attorney in your new state can offer assistance.

Your charitable interests: will your good work continue after your lifetime? Consider including a gift to St. Patrick School or Parish. St. Patrick School or Parish can be named a beneficiary of your retirement plan or a life insurance policy.

If, while considering what's most important to you, the mission of St. Patrick School comes to mind, we'd love to help. Contact Randy Hodge to discuss ways you can make a big difference or visit our estate planning website at <https://spsfoundation.mylegacygift.org/> for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER FEST

Friday and Saturday, June