



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2022

## Class of 1972 Enjoys 50-Year Reunion



Back row: Mike Owen, Jerry Bozung, Roxy Wilkins, Jeff Gilbert, Jane Oehman, Kathy Pitch, Larry Kramer, Chris Brown, Gary Meyers, Bill Russman, Denny Simon. Middle row: Nadine Foley, Sherry Fandel, Sandy Huhn, Jean Meyers, Ann Ham, Al Schrauben, Jay Schneider. Front row: Peg Marks, Sharon Hoffman, Denise Anderton, Linda Armstrong, Linda Hadfield, Rhonda Schrauben, Roxie Burnham, Mary Ann Augst.

### In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Class of 1972

*Ronald Schafer  
Kenneth Brown*

We think about you always,  
We talk about you still.  
You have never been forgotten,  
And you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts  
And there you will remain,  
To walk and guide us through our lives,  
Until we meet again.

The Class of 1972 were guests of honor at the 50-year reunion sponsored by the Father Flohe Foundation on September 10, 2022. There were 39 graduates in the class; 37 are still living; and 26 attended the reunion.

As usual, the classmates took a tour of the school in the afternoon and attended the 4:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church before assembling at the Wagon Wheel for a delicious prime rib dinner.

Classmates spent an incredible evening mingling and reminiscing. One class member said, "Fifty years and a pandemic make you appreciate the times you can still share with people

who have touched your life!"

Some of the memories shared by the group are a reminder that schools in the 1970's were a bit different than they are today!

One man remembered that Father Malewitz was their religion teacher and he sat on the desk in the front of the class and chain-smoked the entire hour.

Another memory was their junior year when the baseball team went to the state finals. It was the first year for the MHSAA to sponsor a baseball tournament, and it drew a huge crowd. Spectators were allowed to bring their own beer into the stadium.

Al Schrauben was the pitcher and the Shamrocks lost to Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart.

Other memories included their senior trip on a train, no girls sports except cheerleading, tomfoolery that included hanging a classmate by his beltloops in the coat closet, and the delicious sloppy joes that were served weekly in the cafeteria.

*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.*



# Mail Call

Hello Shamrock staff!

I always enjoy reading *The Shamrock* when it arrives at my house. Thank you for all your work pulling this together. I especially appreciate the updates since I live out of state and it is nice to read about so many familiar families. Thanks again for the updates!

*Catherine (Manning) Heft  
Class of 1990*

## Address Updates Needed

Amy Smith in the Parish Office and Janet Pung in the School Office work hard to keep thousands of addresses in the database up-to-date. Despite the hours of time that they spend on this task, the post office still sends back a lot of mail that can't be delivered. There are a few things you can do to help them out:

1. Parents: When your children graduate from high school, they are set up in our parish database with their own accounts. Their addresses remain the same as yours because we assume that they won't have their own permanent address for a few years. When they do establish their own homes, please contact Amy and let her know their new addresses.

2. All graduates and parishioners: If you move, please let us know of your new address.

3. Snowbirds: If your mail is being forwarded by the post office, you do not need to give us the temporary address, unless you will be gone longer than 12 months.

Thanks for your help!



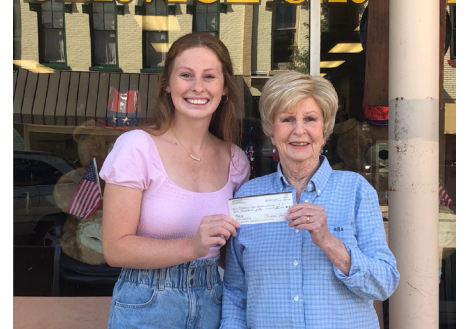
Correction: In the spring issue of *The Shamrock*, an accomplishment was misreported. Lydia Meredith was the first girls basketball player to score 1000 points AND have over 400 steals in her Shamrock career. Karen (Kramer) Trierweiler was the first Lady Shamrock to score 1000 points. The editors apologize for the error.

## 2022 Grad Donates to PASG

Earlier this year, Jamelyn Forist (Class of 2022) was presented with The Graham Smith Lifelong Learner Scholarship.

This scholarship was selected by the St. Patrick High School staff members who were directed to select a graduating student who exemplified excellence in assisting their peers within the Catholic faith as well as making outstanding efforts throughout their time at St. Patrick School. In receiving the scholarship, Jamelyn was instructed to donate a portion of the money to a charity of her choice.

On August 22, 2022, Jamelyn presented a check to the Portland Senior Center (PASG) to help offset some of their day-to-day costs.



Jamelyn Forist presents a check to Ruth Gillis from the PASG.

Jamelyn chose this organization

because she sees the benefits that they offer the community, especially to her great grandmother who is an active participant within the organization.

## 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 Kathy (Schrauben) Hermelyn, Kelsey Schneider, and Morgan Thelen! If you would like to recommend an alum who can be spotlighted, please send your suggestions to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

## Kathy (Schrauben) Hermelyn (1975)

My career as a flight attendant with United Airlines started in January, 1979, at the age of 21. I became interested in this occupation when our high school typing teacher, Mrs. Jenkins, gave us an assignment to research a topic and write about it. I decided to do my report on the career of a Flight Attendant. Reporting on this made me realize that I wanted to pursue this for my own career.

I had never flown before, so didn't even know if I would like to fly. But, at the age of 18, I finally took my first flight which was to Florida. My sister Ann and I flew down to visit good friends of our parents, Jim and Pauline Nowak. On that first flight I remember turning to Ann and telling her that this is what I wanted to do! I would have to be patient and wait three more years, since the minimum age was 21.

I worked for an insurance company, then for the State of Michigan, and I was finally 21 and able to apply to many different airlines.

United interviewed and accepted me into their 5 ½ week training program in Chicago. Upon graduation from there, I was based and flew out of Chicago O'Hare for my first year. I transferred to Los Angeles in May of 1980 and lived in Marina del Rey, CA. I was furloughed in September of 1981, when then President Ronald Reagan, fired the striking air traffic controllers. I found a job working for a real estate investment company, where I worked until April of 1983. I received my recall notice from United and was recalled to Denver. I flew out of Denver for the next three years and

then finally got my transfer back to Los Angeles.

I met my husband, Edmund, during my layoff. He was raised in Santa Monica, CA. His family moved there from British Guyana, when he was 11 years old. We married in 1984 and have two sons, Mark and Ryan. We moved to Portland in 1989 to raise our boys.



My career and flying have changed quite a bit since 1979! The biggest change and most memorable moment for me would have to be Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. I was working a flight from London to Chicago on that day, and we were about 1 1/2hrs. from landing in Chicago. Our captain had gotten a message that there had been an airplane that hit the World Trade Center but we didn't have any other details. They wanted the airplanes that were in the air to land immediately. We were sent to land in Toronto, Canada.

We landed and waited on the tarmac for more information, not knowing how long we would be there. I had my flip phone and called my husband, Edmund, to let him know that I would be home later than I had thought. That is when I found out the unbelievable had taken place. Four airplanes had been taken down by terrorists and used as weapons to kill thousands of people. It didn't take long to overload the cell phone service. So calls were becoming difficult. We sat out in the holding area of the airport for a few hours and finally got a gate and

*Continued on page 15*

# 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 **Shane and Grace (Pearson 2015) Ferris**, a daughter, Adalyn Grace, on January 15, 2022.

**Brian** (2000) and **Erin Theis** of Dewitt, adopted a son, Joshua Kristoffer (2), from the Philippines on February 3, 2022.

To **Ben** (2008) and **Megan Brown**, a son Jackson Thomas, on April 26, 2022. He joins one brother, Knox (2).

To **Kyle** (2007) and **Amanda Lay**, a daughter, Ada Lynn, on June 8, 2020. She joins one brother, Benson (2 1/2).

To **Jim and Sarah (Hodge, 2010) Mason** a son, Joshua James, on August 2, 2022.

To **Craig Stiffler** (2004) and **Catherine Owens** of Calhoun, LA, a son, Craig James (C.J.) on August 24, 2022. He joins brother, Brantley (5) and sister, Gracelyn (1).

## BAPTISMS

*The following baptisms took place at St. Patrick Church between March and August, 2022:*

**Nolan Jerome Schafer**, son of Dane and Kimberly Schafer of Lansing

**Natalie Grace Cote** and **Jack Michael Cote**, children of Michael and Christina Cote

**Gavin Gage Groothuis**, son of Jason and Michelle Groothuis

**Kendell Ann Longanbach**, daughter of Jacob and Natalia Longanbach of Lake Odessa

**Penelope Mae Miller**, daughter of Jacob and Shelby Miller of Springfield, Tennessee

**Theo Alexander Thelen**, son of Ted and Karen Thelen

**Palmer Marie Gentile**, daughter of Tory Gentile and Victoria Beard

**Allie James Stephenson**, daughter of Tyler Stephenson and Lilly Pung

**Beckett Lee Bigham**, son of Brandon and Cristin Bigham

**Isabelle Sue Mason**, daughter of Everett and Megan Mason

**Declan James Parkhouse**, son of Dustin and Jocelyn Parkhouse

**Cameron Grace Thelen**, daughter of Eric and Samantha Thelen

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Allison Hodge** (2015) and **Jason Vismara** will be married July 22, 2023.

## WEDDINGS

**Sophia White** (2021) and **Kristian Gauss** were married on May 21, 2022, at St. John Paul II Parish in Cedar Springs. The couple reside in Ionia.

**Nick Shattuck** (2009) and **Emily Rice** of Kalamazoo, were married on September 10, 2022, at Shanahan Barn in Charlevoix.

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

**Ralph Wight** and **Katherine Guthrie** on March 12, 2022.

**Brett Simon** and **Lauren Graszler** on March 19, 2022.

**Jeffrey Clark** and **Kaitlyn Kwiecinski** on June 11, 2022.

**Brayton Lehman** and **Bailey Schneider** on July 30, 2022.

**Anatoliy Vlasenko** and **Kellie Shattuck** of Portland, Oregon, on August 19, 2022.

**Jared Krausz** and **Amanda Pung** on August 20, 2022.

**Nick Coyne** and **Emily Miros** on September 17, 2022.

**Graham Smith** and **Kenzie Hengesbach** on September 24, 2022.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Dennis** (1968) and **Ann Schneider** celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 27, 2022. They have three children and five grandchildren.

**Mike** (1966) and **Toots Weller** celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 22, 2022. Their children rented a 7-bedroom house in Cassopolis and 26 members of the Weller family celebrated together. In addition, the three Weller daughters, Jackie, Andrea, and Theresa plus three granddaughters, honored their mom/grandma by getting matching tattoos of a stick figure---the same stick figure that Toots always draws on every card she sends.



**Steve** (1966) and **Betty Goodman** celebrated their 50th Anniversary on September 9, 2022.

**Donald** (1964) and **Kathleen Chamberlain** (1969) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a luncheon attended by family and friends. They were married September 23, 1972.

**Ken** (1959) and **Donna (Hahn, 1961) Schrauben** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2022.

## GRADUATIONS

**Emily Miros** (2016) graduated from Wayne State University in May 2022, with a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies. She is currently working at Lansing Urgent Care.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Sister Adele Donovan, CSJ** died on April 7, 2022. She was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, on May 23, 1919, the daughter of Patrick and Gertrude (Curley) Donovan. She was a member of St. Philip Neri Parish in Detroit, at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, on February 11, 1935. Adele received the name Sister Adele at her reception on August 26, 1935. She pronounced first vows on August 24, 1937, and final vows on August 24, 1940. For forty-six years she taught and served as principal in many schools of the Congregation including St. Patrick in Portland.

**Marcia Ann (Minich) Schelter** of Mulliken, passed away April 16, 2022, at the age of 84. She was born in Lansing, MI, on November 12, 1937, the daughter of Ernest and Thelma (Graham) Minich. Marcia was a graduate of St. Mary's Catholic School in Lansing. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and affiliated with St. Michael Catholic Church in Grand Ledge. Marcia is survived by her children, Gwendolyn Schelter of Mulliken, Joseph Schelter of Mulliken, Susan (William) Marshall of Gaylord, Julie (Randy) Hazel of Perry, and Kathryn Rice of Lake Odessa; 16 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; 6 great-great grandchildren; siblings, Marilyn (Jerry) Palmer, Chris (Tim McCoy) Ferris, and William (Beth) Minich. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frederick; sons, David, Stephen, and Andrew Schelter; and brothers, Robert and Michael Minich. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or St. Michael Catholic Church.

**Shirley Ann Burns**, age 86, of Dimondale, Michigan, passed away on Monday, April 18, 2022. Shirley was born September 27, 1935, in Lansing, Michigan, to Rex and Freda Bennett. She graduated from Portland St. Patrick High School in 1953, and married the love of her life, John Burns, on October 22, 1955. Shirley worked as an administrative assistant in the food division of the State of Michigan's Department of Agriculture. Shirley is preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Linda; and son, Charles. Shirley is survived by her husband, John Burns; daughters, Dana (Royce) Wolverson, and Leanne (Dean) Hengesbach; son, Dan (Danette) Burns; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, David (Jeanie), Tony (Judy), and Bruce (Noel) Bennett; and sisters, Mary (Ken) Kapustka and Jeanine (Calvin) Cross. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter.

**Derek Michael Finkbeiner**, age 39, born on February 6, 1983, in Lansing, Michigan, died on Monday, April 18, 2022. Derek was a

loving and devoted father. He enjoyed making people laugh. Derek is preceded in death by his grandparents, Dolores A. and Francis W. Thelen, Charlotte P. and Rodney W. Finkbeiner, and Kent Buffenbarger; uncles, Gary A. Finkbeiner and Geoffrey E. Cross; also, a special friend, Tyler Hamel. Derek is survived by his wife, Jessica Buffenbarger; children, Andrew Buffenbarger, Alyssa Buffenbarger, Ava Finkbeiner, and Axton Finkbeiner; also surviving are his mother, Jane Finkbeiner; father, Larry (Peggy) Finkbeiner; mother-in-law, Carol (Mike) Schneckengerger; brothers, Patrick (Alison) Finkbeiner and Brendan (Amy) Finkbeiner; half-sister, Danica Shier; step-brothers, Curtis (Jennifer) Brinks and Chad (Delaine) Brinks; step-sister, Lisa Brinks; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jane Finkbeiner, 210 Quarterline Street, Portland, MI 48875 for Derek's children.

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)

**Gerald Earl Schrauben**, age 86, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on April 22, 2022. Jerry was born, the son of Herman and Bertha (Trierweiler) Schrauben, on December 24, 1935. He was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council #2168. Jerry is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Mary Lynn Schrauben; sisters, Bernice Fitzmaurice and Janet Sutherland; and brother, Herman Schrauben, Jr. Left on this earth to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 64 years, Rita Schrauben; children, Carol (Terry) Thelen, Betty (Eddie) Fields, Robert (Kimberly) Schrauben, Joan (Steve) Goerge, and Jerry (JoEllen) Schrauben; 9 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; brothers, Kenneth (Donna) Schrauben, Roy (Carolyn) Schrauben, and Michael (Bobbi) Schrauben; sisters-in-law, Carole Schrauben and Bernie (Bob) Pung; special friend, Bud Ward; and many special nieces and nephews. For those wishing, contributions may be made to St. Patrick School or Sparrow Home Hospice in memory of Jerry.

**Steven Lee Spitzley**, age 80, of Portland, passed away on Sunday, April 17, 2022. He was born on April 10, 1942, the son of Edward and Marcella (Rademacher)

Spitzley. Steve was a member of St. Mary's Church in Westphalia and St. Patrick Church in Portland. Steve retired from General Motors after 42 years of service and was a member of the Michigan National Guard for six years. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Edward (Eileen) Spitzley, Daniel Spitzley, Larry Spitzley, Marlene (Jerome) Bauer, Mary Lou (Thomas) Weber, and Annette Bierstetel; in-laws, Clover Spitzley, Marilyn Freeman, Delores (Walt) Saxton; and former wife, Sandra Patrick. Surviving is his wife of 28 years, Georgia Darling (Swanson) Spitzley; children, Kurt (Michelle) Spitzley, Kim Keeler, Katrina Hawley, Karen Barker (fiance Mark Smith), Kris (Kendra) Spitzley; stepdaughters, Sheila (Curtis) Flynn, Robin (Scott) Pline and Brenda (Mike) Charles; 17 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; siblings, Kathy (Don) Hengesbach and LeRoy Spitzley; in-laws, Blanche Spitzley, Leon Bierstetel, Viola (Terry) Green, Emma Dobson and Hazel Wortley; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Senior Center (PSAG) or Parkinson's Foundation in memory of Steve Spitzley.

**Diane Marie Bengel**, age 72, of Houston, Texas passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2022. Diane was born August 10, 1949.

**Kathleen Ann Russman**, age 68, of Portland, loving wife, mother, and grandmother passed away on Saturday, June 4, 2022. She was born on July 14, 1953, the daughter of Elgin and Mable (Koelzer) Smith. Kathy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a 1971 graduate of St. Patrick School. She worked for many years at T.R.W. and for several years at Joe's Auto Body, both in Portland. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Elaine Miller; brother, Kenneth Smith; in-laws, Leo and Isabel Russman; sister-in-law, Marie DeBaldo; brother-in-law, Jerry Scheurer; niece, Dianne Russman; and nephew, Tim Chamberlain. Surviving are her loving husband of 44 years, Thomas Russman; children, Mike Russman, Angie (Bill) Witt, and Leah (Matt) Anthony; three grandchildren; siblings, Steve (Deborah) Smith, Doug (Connie) Smith, Annette (John) Pohl, and Darrel Smith; sister-in-law, Marie Smith; brother-in-law, Jim Miller; in-laws, Joe (Peggy) Russman, John (Mary) Russman, Jim (Lynda) Russman, Fritz (Ann) Russman, Janie Scheurer, and Kathie (Don) Chamberlain; and many nieces and nephews.

**Joseph "Little Joe" Hoppes** was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a longstanding member of the "Buck Barn", but above all he was a fisherman. Joe lived by the phrase, "I'd rather be fishing." Joe is already dearly missed and will forever be loved and remembered. His jovial and childlike spirit lives on through his

*(continued on page 16)*

## What Does Anna Do?



Our school facility dog Anna received her certification after passing her exam with her handler, Mrs. Smith. Anna became an official facility dog on June 29, 2022. Anna joins us at school every day! If you are curious about all the things a facility dog does at school, please read her resume below!

- Anna will attend some of the fall sporting events this fall.
- Anna attends meetings.
- Anna assists students in regulation of their emotions. Students practice problem solving and deep breathing techniques to regulate emotions and return to class.
- Anna greets new families and current families to the building.
- Anna helps students with separation anxiety enter the building and get settled in.
- Anna gives students and staff confidence.
- Anna reduces anxiety.
- Anna comforts those experiencing grief.
- Anna motivates students to be productive.
- Anna takes part in school spirit wear days.
- Anna aids in building rapport, trust, and relationships with students and staff.
- Anna models positive behavior and how to interact in a positive way.
- Anna gives confidence to those publicly speaking.
- Anna is an all-around morale booster.

- Anna participates in reading interventions and other areas of academic support.
- Anna plays sensory games with those who have a sensory diet or occupational services.
- Anna calms students during meltdowns.
- Anna distracts students from negative behavior and engages them in a positive focus.
- Anna bonds quickly with students allowing the student to feel an instant companion.
- Anna's presence automatically lowers blood pressure and anxiety.
- Anna is a great listener and gives no judgment.
- Anna connects students to other peers to build relationships.
- Students make cards, letters, etc for Anna.
- Students welcome Anna and she continues to teach them acceptance of others' differences.

As you can see, her resume is quite impressive. It will only continue to grow and grow!

## Capturing Kids' Hearts

Teachers and students are experiencing a new curriculum called *Capturing Kids' Hearts* to kick off the 2022-2023 school year. Teachers and staff attended training in August where they received support of expert coaches. The process is focused on a relationship-driven culture and connectedness between students and teachers. These first two weeks of school have been focused on building a classroom social contract and building meaningful connections.

*Capturing Kids' Hearts* focuses on what the student needs. Students have ownership and feel a sense of comfort and belonging in their learning environment. "If we invest in helping educators learn to model positive behaviors, we will see the exponential results in the lives of students." - *Capturing Kids' Hearts*. Throughout the month of September we will learn about, practice and grow knowledge of empathy.



# Welcome New Staff

Welcome to our new staff members:

- Ms. Mary Wernet - School Counselor
- Mrs. Kaylyn Livingston - Academic Support Teacher Assistant
- Mr. James Tavadze - Music/Choir

# New Mega Raffle!

St. Patrick Parish and School continue to look for ways to meet their financial needs. The new **Shamrock Mega Raffle** will do this by replacing four smaller raffles and increasing the raffle prizes that are paid out.

The Sports Raffle, the Fall Festival Raffle, the Summerfest Raffle, and the Shamrock Auction Raffle have all been replaced by the **Mega Raffle**. You can **buy one ticket, one time per year**, and be entered into **16 drawings with 132 cash prizes!** More than \$50,000 will be given away over the course of one year! After each drawing the winners' names will be put back into the raffle, making them eligible to win more than once.

### Drawing dates:

October 15, 2022

February 11, 2022

April 21, 2023

June 25, 2023

Plus, the last Friday of each month\*

### Prizes at each big drawing:

1st \$5000 4th \$750

2nd \$2500 5th-6th \$500

3rd \$1000 7th-10th \$250

\*Last Friday drawings will give away \$500 each month.



Tickets cost \$500 each, and the goal is to sell 1000 tickets. Tickets can be purchased online, from any school family, or at the Parish Office. Proceeds will help support our parish, school, and athletic programs. Drawings will be held on the dates listed above, at St. Patrick School, 122 West Street, Portland, MI 48875. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Hodge at 517-647-7551 or [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).



To purchase your tickets online, go to <https://one.bidpal.net/megaraffle/welcome> or scan the QR code above.

# Alumna Earns Award

Congratulations to SPS alumna Ashley Kliever (Ingram, 2002) who was awarded the IM SAFE CAC Champions For Children Community Member of the Year. Ashley is the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative Coordinator (MYOI) for Ionia and Montcalm Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), a role that she has been in for several years. Ashley not only works with youth and young adults in foster care, but she also serves on several committees throughout the community, including ICAN and We Care for Kids Council. She helps organize community events, as well as providing resources to her clients, colleagues, and community members, including facilitating training groups, such as the DHHS' Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings. Ashley is passionate about her work and always presents positively in the community. After learning more about Alfred's Care Closet, she recently donated several items for clients. She is a strong advocate for children and families in the communities, and is so deserving of this recognition.

Ashley's supervisor is also a St. Patrick alumni, Linda Schrauben (Pung, 1991), who Ashley thanked for always having her back, supporting her out-of-the-box ways to try to connect with the youth she works with, and for always answering her texts and calls after hours.

Congratulations Ashley and Linda!



## ATTENTION CLASS OF 1973

Members of the Class of 1973 should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion that will be held in your honor on September 9, 2023.

Additional information will be mailed.

# alumni news

## Reunion Reports



The Class of 1976 gathered at Eagle Inn in September 2021 for their 45-year reunion.



The Class of 2017 got together for their five-year reunion in August 2022. Although rain ruined the kayaking part of the day, it still turned out great with dinner, drinks, catching up, and reminiscing about memories from high school. We learned that three people who were at the reunion got engaged recently; congratulations to Graham Smith, Matthew Jandernoa, and Aaron Pratt! We also welcomed back home our farthest traveler, Kelsey Schneider, from Ohio. Thank you to everyone that came out, we can't wait for the 10-year class reunion!



The Class of 1997 held a small reunion on Friday, August 5, 2022. Classmates met at the Nuthouse in Lansing for dinner, then headed over to the ballpark for a Lugnuts game. Even though it was a small group, everyone had a great time catching up. Classmates might have another reunion this fall if there is enough interest.



The Class of 2012 met at the Wagon Wheel, on Saturday, August 20, 2021, to celebrate their 10-year reunion. Twenty out of twenty-five members of the class, along with spouses, were in attendance to socialize and reminisce!



The Class of 1991 held their 30-year class reunion in September 2021 at Jenny Brennan's house. Twelve classmates were in attendance.





## Upcoming Reunions

- The **Class of 1967** will hold their 55-year reunion on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., at the Wagon Wheel. Contact Linda Spedoske at 517-927-6429 for additional information.

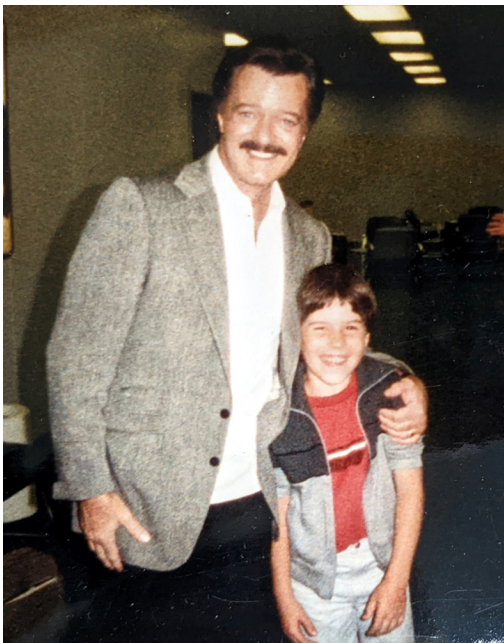
- The **Class of 1970** will hold their annual reunion on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., at Tom Kissane's house. A light meal will be provided; classmates should bring their own beverages. Weather permitting, there will be a bonfire afterwards. For information call Sue Vanlente 517-575-8000.

- The **Class of 1977** will hold their 45-year reunion on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., on Fabiano's deck. There is no need to RSVP. Contact Denise Weeks for information.

- The **Class of 1982** will hold their 40-year reunion on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Classmates will meet for Mass at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at the Wagon Wheel. Contact Mike Wilcox for additional information.

- The **Class of 2002** will hold their 20-year reunion on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at ConfluxCity. Contact Ashley Kliewer for additional information.

## Brush With Fame



The Class of 1995 was on an elementary school field trip to the Grand Rapids airport when they ran into celebrity Robert Goulet. Correy Selden was fortunate enough to have his picture taken with the star. What does Correy remember about this occasion? Mr. Goulet had bad breath!

## April Climbs Mountains to Inspire Others

*April is the daughter of St. Pat's grad, Luke Pung (1995). They live in Southend, England, 45 miles east of London. The following article was printed in the Southend Echo, June 7, 2022, and is reprinted with permission.)*



An inspirational teenager with Down Syndrome who was told she might never walk has climbed the highest peaks in every country in the British Isles.

April Pung from Southend, has conquered Snowdon, Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pike, Carrauntoohil, and Slieve Donard along with her family in a bid to inspire others.

The 14-year old was diagnosed with Down Syndrome at birth, and within 12 hours her parents were told about a life-threatening heart defect. April was in heart failure from birth and was incredibly frail for the first year of her life, including being told it was unlikely she would ever walk unaided.

But April has defied expert opinion, and alongside mum Kate Williams, 38, and brother Draigen Pung, 12, has climbed the highest peaks in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Mum Kate said, "We didn't know anything about her condition until she was born, but we always wanted just two things for her, which were to be able to build relationships with others and to have freedom.

"She struggles very much still with hyper-mobility which means on rocky terrain, she struggled to hold her balance.

"I had to offer her support up some of the mountains, but she is the one who has taken every step.

"April has a really strong personality and is very deter-

*(continued on page 17)*

# Camp Covenant Hills

For five years in the mid-1990's, the sixth-grade students from St. Pat's attended Camp Covenant Hills in Otisville, MI, a two-hour drive from Portland. Teachers Pam Nickelson and Carol Janiczek wanted to give their students an experience that would help them develop leadership and problem-solving skills.

Students and chaperones went for three days, usually leaving on Wednesday and returning home on Friday evening. The camp provided food, lodging, and staff to run various activities. Students stayed in cabins with bunk beds; there were two chaperones for each cabin.



Doug Gross uses binoculars to find the birds that he has learned about.

Each day began with devotions in the chapel, which included prayers, scripture readings, and a few songs



The Class of 2003, with their teachers and chaperones at Camp Covenant Hills.

before everyone headed to breakfast where they also received their schedules for the day.

The team-building activities were entertaining for the teachers and chaperones to observe. They watched as the camp staff gave the students tasks and the conditions to make the tasks successful. For example, the students would be on one side of an imaginary river, with tape on the floor showing the shores. They would have to get their entire team across the river, while abiding by the rules of the game. Pam Nickelson remembers, "They could use magic boots, but the same person could only wear them once. And they could only have so many trips across before the boots wouldn't work anymore."

The students came up with many additional ways of crossing that river! They carried each other across; they swung on a rope; they made human bridges, and in the course of the event, they discovered team-building skills that they didn't know they had.

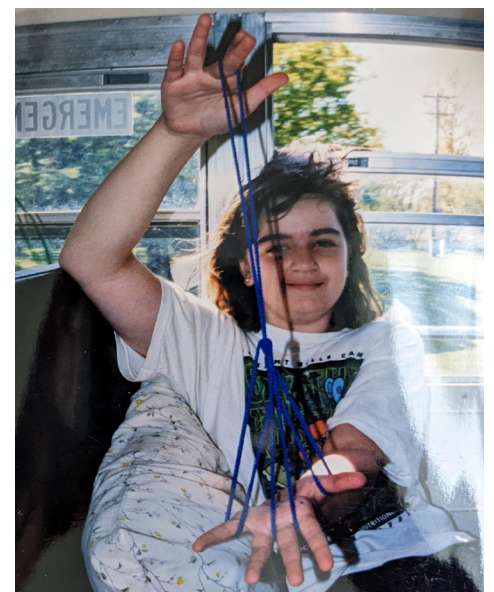
Pam said, "Another task was to

navigate a wire course that wound through several trees, getting everyone on the team to the other side in a certain time. There was also one where the kids stood on a tarp and they had to turn the tarp completely over while the whole group was standing on it, without anyone stepping off."

Additional activities included candle making,

arts and crafts, and many others. The students would get to keep whatever they made. One camp staff member instructed them about birds and then took them on a hike to see how many birds they could see and identify. There was also canoeing and beach volleyball.

At night, there were presentations



Jackie Schneider practices making designs from loops of string.

in the cafeteria. One man brought in string loops and taught the kids how to make different shapes with them. Another brought in birds of prey and taught the kids all about them and told them how they were rehabilitated. There was even a square dance.

Probably the most memorable event was the high-confidence course, a series of ropes and logs and wires that the kids would navigate above the ground. The staff made sure that each student was properly harnessed and equipped with helmets. Noth-



Students, Kara Gross, Julie Schafer, Mary Chamberlain, and Danielle Schneider, were treated to a lesson about rehabilitating birds of prey.

ing was left to chance. About 10 feet off the ground, the kids would make their way around this course being instructed by the camp staff. Many stu-

dents were apprehensive, but the staff coaxed them through each step. At the end, the students would ride a zip line back to the ground where the teachers would be waiting and the whole team would cheer for the students. It was very cool to see a normally shy child achieve this.

Pam says, "I remember marveling how the students really used leadership skills. You could see them working out ideas and presenting them to the rest of the group. Nothing was criticized. Most of the ideas were tried. We did the camp trip for about five years. And each time, it was a wonderful experience. It was safe. It was fun. It was educational. The students and teachers and chaperones all had good bonding experiences. When we got back to school, many of them had made new friends.

"My memory is not what it once was. I can't remember if we did fund raising to come up with the fees or if the parents just paid. I remember my own satisfaction the year that I tried the high ropes course."



Teacher, Mrs. Nickelson, showed great courage when she tried the high ropes course.

The return trip home was always pretty quiet, as the students were exhausted. But they came back knowing how to work together, knowing how to problem solve, and with a new respect for one another.

*Thank you to Pam Nickelson for providing the photos and the information for this story. Thank you to Ross Schneider and Ashley Kliever for helping identify the students in the pictures. Watch the Alumni Facebook page for more photos from the Camp Covenant Hills trips.*

## Camp Wolverine

A few years before the Camp Covenant Hills trips began, St. Pat's students were treated to a different experience at Camp Wolverine, in Wolverine, Michigan, just south of the Mackinac Bridge. Students and chaperones shared memories of that trip!

One student who thinks he was in fifth or sixth grade remembers that the girls got to stay in the main house but the boys had to trek "at least a mile" through the snowy woods to their cabins. He remembers a group of three boys getting lost in the woods

and the others having to organize a search party to find them.

Chaperone Pat Weller says, "I remember that trip; it was extremely cold and I wasn't prepared for how much time we were going to be outside. Larry Lehman drove his pickup loaded with the kids' baggage. Ken Smith and I drove the busses. Scott Grace was a teacher and chaperoned too. I think Todd's class were fifth graders and the others were in sixth grade."

A few practical jokes made the trip memorable, including one that Pat remembers well. He says, "I went into

where the showers were and threw a cup of cold water on Larry Lehman and then I turned and handed the cup to one of the boys and walked out of the room. Larry came out of the shower and he was mad and started yelling at the boy. So I had to go back in and fess up that I was the one that did it and then Larry calmed down and wasn't mad anymore."

Did you go to Camp Wolverine? If you have stories, memories, or pictures, send them to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).





# St. Patrick Church

## Restoration

### UPDATE

*by Ken Schneider*

The Church Restoration Project continues. 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 2026, 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 13

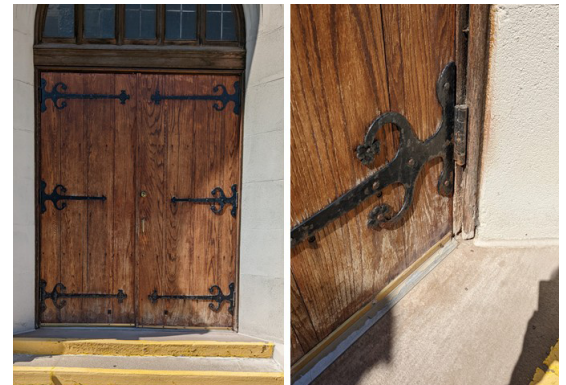
### Stained Glass Windows



As reported in the spring issue of the Shamrock, protective glass panels will be installed on the remaining stained glass windows to match the panels previously installed over the stained glass in the chapel. During a recent rainstorm, water was discovered to be leaking through the windows above the baptismal font in the vestibule. Water has also leaked thru the windows in the balcony during wind-driven rain. The protective glass panels will help seal the windows to increase energy efficiency as well as enhance the light through the beautiful stained glass.

### Exterior Doors

Repairs have been made to help stabilize the exterior doors of the church, especially the doors leading into the vestibule from Church Street. The door jamb is likely to be damaged beyond repair so new doors are being considered to replace the 100 year old doors. Weather stripping has been installed to increase energy efficiency.



## Roof and Turret



The roof of the church shows evidence of hail damage. The aluminum flashing is also loose.

The church roof, installed in the 1990's, has been inspected and there is evidence of damage from the May 10 hail storm that damaged numerous roofs in the area. Additional damage could have been caused by the 2015 tornado. If you look at the eave on the steeple above the Grand River Avenue entrance, you can see loose aluminum flashing. There is also evidence of long term leakage around the chimney with water stained interior wood and occasional pieces of loose mortar found on the sanctuary floor. Additional evidence of water infiltration problems can be seen in the turret leading up to the balcony. There are large areas of the spiral stairwell walls that have a white chalky substance called effervescence, a slow chemical process caused as rain water reacts with salts in the mortar leaving behind the white substance as the interior surface dries. Some interior bricks are spalling, which means that the bricks are flaking and crumbling. The mortar joints have also deteriorated in areas and will need to be removed and replaced in a process called tuck pointing.



Effervescence can be seen on the bricks inside the turret which houses the spiral staircase that leads to the balcony. This indicates long-term water infiltration.

## Other Planned Restoration

Progressive AE, the company that designed the school bathroom remodel, will be contracted to help design the church restoration. Preliminary plans are to remove the floor joists, plywood deck, and carpeting in the sanctuary and restore the intricate terrazzo floor that was covered over in the 1980's remodel. A new altar will be installed to better reflect the architecture of our church. The existing granite altar will be used to construct bases for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph statues. A replica of the original communion rail will be installed as well.

The restoration plan also includes a new handicap accessible confessional to be constructed in the alcove where the choir currently sings; converting the existing confessional space into a dressing room for the priests with additional storage for vestments; and remodeling the chapel to serve as a music room. Plans are also being made to restore the organ before it is moved into the new music room.

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.



As previously reported in the Shamrock, no capital improvement campaign is being planned at this time. To date, only minimal donations have been made towards the church restoration projects. So, additional funds will be needed to complete all the necessary repairs and improvements. Donations can also be placed in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked "Church Restoration." With your continued prayers and support, all restoration work and improvements can be completed prior the centennial anniversary of St. Patrick Church in 2026. Thank you!



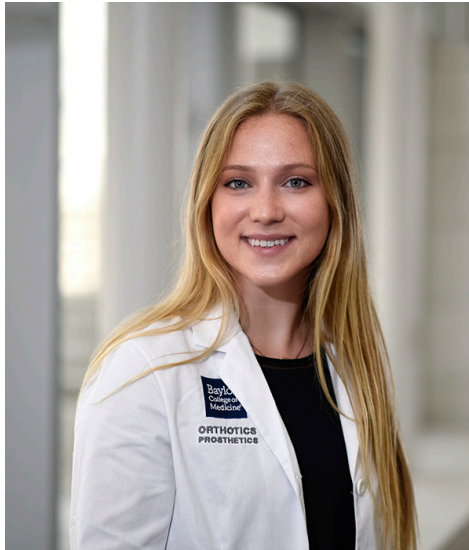
# Kelsey Schneider (2017)

I graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2017. I spent a long time researching the perfect job for myself, but some of the most crucial information I needed was what I like to do. I had several pathways open to me, but I had trouble narrowing it down. Through the process of working on an undergraduate degree, and about six part time jobs, I learned more about what I was looking for in a career.

In 2020, I received a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and in 2021 I began a Prosthetic and Orthotic master's program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. I am currently working through my residency and am on my way to becoming a CPO (Certified Prosthetist Orthotist).

If you've never heard of a CPO, you're not alone. Most people don't learn about this field until they need us.

A CPO is an allied health professional who specializes in orthotic and prosthetic devices. CPOs are trained to assess a patient's condition, recommend a device, fit the patient, and make any necessary modifications. These devices can be anything from artificial limbs to a back brace worn for scoliosis.



Kelsey Schneider is the daughter of Keith and Shayla Schneider. She attended St. Patrick School from Kindergarten through graduation in 2017.

I love this job because it incorporates several of my interests. I wanted to work in the health field, have regular hours, and do something that allows me to remain active, be creative, and problem solve.

Most of my patients will need a device throughout their lifetime, which allows me to develop close relationships as I provide ongoing care. During a workday, I might evaluate patients for a device, take a cast or 3D scan of a patient's residual limb, build or fabricate an artificial limb, or make any number of modifications to a patient's current device. I can work to solve new problems and create new solutions for existing problems.

In my time as a Resident I will learn even more as I will do five clinical rotations in different cities before taking my board exams.

There have been ups and downs throughout this entire process. Some days I'm thrilled to be doing work that allows people to regain their mobility and other days it's frustrating to still be learning as a resident.

Through the good and the bad of finding my future career, however, I have been grounded by my values that were formed as a student at St. Patrick School.

# Morgan Thelen (2008)

I am a 2008 graduate of St. Patrick School. I earned my undergraduate degree at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids (2012) and my Doctorate of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Detroit Mercy (2016). Aside from my schooling, I have lived in Portland my entire life.

I spent all 21 years of my schooling at Catholic institutions. Some people will point out the great financial undertaking, but I don't regret a single moment. All levels of education, St. Patrick in particular, gave me the opportunity to grow in my faith, and to use it to impact



Morgan Thelen, DDS, recently joined Dr. Mike Mauren, DDS, and his staff at Dentistry by Design in Portland.

my corner of the world. It is amazing that such a small school draws such strong support from generations of families and newcomers alike. It is for this reason and countless others that I am indebted to my parents for the sacrifices they made to put me in a position to be the person I am today.

If I had a nickel for every time I told someone I was a dentist and they responded, "Gross. I hate the dentist," I'd be rich enough to actually quit dentistry. As far back as I can remember, I have wanted to be a dentist. I still have the Kindergarten questionnaire and the original dentist Barbie, circa 1996,

to prove it. Honestly, it wasn't until I actually began dental school that I realized why.

Following my second year, I had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to Haiti with the George Stines Foundation. Haiti, a nation where 55% of the population practices Roman Catholicism, is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. To say they lack access to dental care, is an understatement. After only a little more than a week, the importance of a healthy, pain-free smile, finally resonated. To help the Haitians smile, I discovered, was the exact opportunity to use my privilege and Catholic values. I returned again the following year, and will hopefully have the opportunity to return in the future.

Following dental school, I envisioned myself practicing in Portland. I did initially return to Portland to work, but always felt a calling to serve those most in need, a notion that no doubt was ingrained from all of those years of Catholic teachings. I worked for a local nonprofit for nearly five years, serving those that would not have otherwise had care. It opened my eyes to disparities in health care. I encourage anyone in the medical field to spend time working in public health. I've seen how basic dental care, can give new life to people.

Recently, I felt that I had grown as a clinician and person as much as I possibly could with that particular organization. The exact day that I was planning on signing a contract with a new dental office across the state, I received a phone call from Dr. Mike Mauren, owner of Portland Dentistry by Design. He is the epitome of what it means to serve your community, and I could not turn down the opportunity to learn and serve beside him.

Dr. Mauren says, "I always knew that the day would come when I needed to hire an associate, and I had a picture in my mind of what I wanted that person to be.

"I wanted someone who was born and raised in this community; someone who lives in this community; and someone who is invested in this community.

"I was fortunate to find Dr. Morgan Thelen, who checks all three boxes. We are very excited to have her join our team."

Dr. Morgan began her new partnership on August 22, 2022.

were able to go through customs and deplane. That's when reality hit and we saw the news reports on the television.

We were in Toronto until Thursday, Sept.13. They released us to finally continue our journey to Chicago. My flight was the first flight allowed to land at Chicago O'Hare. It had been a sterile airport since Tuesday, Sept. 11. I later found out that we were escorted in by military fighter planes to make sure we didn't deviate from our flight path.

I was looking out the window when we were pulling into our gate. I could see United employees waving U.S. flags and cheering us. I couldn't control my emotions or the tears that were streaming down my face. I will never forget. I rented a car and drove home. I needed to be home and with my family.

My job as a flight attendant was the perfect job for me when the boys were in school. My schedule was a bit flexible, so I would fly on the weekends and I would be home during the week so that I was able to go to their school events. I would fly three-day domestic trips, flying about 12 days a month. People would always ask me if I worked part time! That always made me smile! Our schedules aren't like a 40-hour week. We don't start getting paid until our airplane leaves the gate from one city and arrives at the gate at the next city. That is flight time for us. Our duty days can be scheduled up to 14 hours. So, we do have long days.

I didn't get qualified for international flying until the boys were a bit older, because I didn't want to be that far away when they were young. My first international trip was to London. I figured I wouldn't have any communication problems because they spoke English. Well, their English was not quite like that of the U.S. and it was a challenge!

Most of the international flying I do now are three-day trips. Our layovers are usually about 24 hours, so, we have time to go out and explore a bit. I've been to some amazing cities. Eating bread, cheese and drinking wine sitting under the Eiffel Tower. Going to mass at Notre Dame in Paris. Walking up the Great Wall in China. Seeing the Taj Mahal in India. So many things to see in Rome. The Vatican, Colosseum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel, Roman Forum, etc. So many wonderful places. I can't name them all! I feel so very fortunate to have had these experiences. All on my layovers!

I've met some amazing people and made some great new friendships. There is a reason why there are about 1,000 flight attendants that are senior to me. Some with over 50 years. This career is a tough one to give up.

# #shamrockpride

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

children and grandchildren who will continue his legacy and continue to share stories of his life with others. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Sharon Hoppes; and infant brother, James. He is survived by his wife, Marian; sons, Jeremy Hoppes, Grant (Nicole) Hoppes, Jim (Cameron) Hoppes; daughter, Catie Hoppes; and four grandchildren. Joe also held a special place in his heart for the two foster grandchildren that Jim and Cameron have had for the past year. Also surviving are his siblings, Toni (Chuck) Miller, Craig Hoppes, Bonnie (Bob) Rockey, Michelle (Dave) Nurenborg, Kirk (Michele) Hoppes, Vic Hoppes, Becky (Scott) Hodge, and Kris (Dan) Platte; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Joann Rita (Schrauben) Sandborn** passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, May 4, 2022, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. Her last moments were spent with Randy, her husband of 48 years, and daughter, Brienne "Breezy" Sandborn. Joanie had just celebrated her 70th birthday. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Irene (Weiland) Schrauben; mother and father-in-law, Bud and Diane Sandborn; brother, Wayne Schrauben; sister-in-law, Anne Schrauben; and brother-in-law, Jack Zimmerman. Joanie graduated from St. Patrick Catholic School in 1970, and she was, in her words, part of a very memorable and wild class. Joanie will be remembered as the life of the party, always encouraging those around her to let loose and have a good time. She took every opportunity to dance and have fun. Although Alzheimer's changed a lot about Joanie, she never lost her sass or contagious giggle. She still had her spark until the very end. In addition to her husband and daughter, Joanie is survived by siblings, Marlene (David) Lefke, Diane Zimmerman, Germaine (Dan) Hinds, and Leon Schrauben; sisters and brothers-in-law, Darlene Schrauben, Carol (Chuck) McLeod, Kevin (Debbie) Sandborn, Marianne (Jeff) Stephenson, and Dave Sandborn; as well as several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to McLaren Hospice or Portland area schools.

**David George Bennett** of Delta Twp., MI, passed away peacefully at home on June 9, 2022. He was born in Hubbardston, MI, on September 18, 1934, son of Rex and Freda (Cusack) Bennett. David worked as a delivery driver for Wonder Bread and other companies for over 45 years. He enjoyed traveling, drawing, watching and playing baseball. David is survived by his loving wife of 66 years Jean (Keefer) Bennett; children,

Brenda (John) Saenz, Kevin (Gabrielle) Bennett, Amy (Joe) Rice, and Kristin (Daniel) Ball; nine grandchildren; siblings Mary (Ken) Kapustka, Tony (Judy) Bennett, Bruce (Noel) Bennett, Jeanine (Calvin) Cross, and brother-in-law John Burns. He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Shirley Burns. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in loving memory of David Bennett to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

**Darlene Sharon Royce**, age 84, of Grand Ledge, our loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother went to be with the Lord on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Darlene was born in Remus, Michigan, on March 24, 1938, the daughter of Carl and Mildred (Esch) Bidstrup. She was preceded in death by her first husband, David Lehnert; babies, Christopher and JoAnn; her parents; brother, Marvin; and daughter-in-law, Kathy Lehnert. Surviving are her husband, Richard Royce; children: Craig (Lisa) Lehnert, Brad Lehnert and Steve (Nan) Lehnert; seven grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. Darlene was a member of St. Michael Church in Grand Ledge, a Befriender minister and a parish volunteer. She enjoyed her family, reading, and traveling.

**Gallard "Gary" Goodman**, age 71, of Portland, passed away July 2, 2022. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, the son of Richard A. and Betty Lou (Hyland) Goodman. Gary was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He enjoyed reading books, doing puzzles, playing golf, and a good game of cards. He was very handy and had a great sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Preceding Gary in death are his parents. He is survived by his siblings, Steve (Betty) Goodman, Cindy (Dave) Gronner, Tony (Sandy) Goodman, and Becky (Tim) Wellman; and several aunts, nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Portland Senior Center in honor of Gary.

**Danny "Dan" Ray Smith**, 71, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Born in Portland, Michigan, on March 28, 1951, Dan was the third of eleven children to Marjorie and Joseph Smith. He attended Saint Patrick Catholic School as well as Portland Public Schools and would later settle down in the same town where he grew up. Dan was first married to Deborah (Almy) and had his first three daughters, Laura, Barb, and Donna. Dan went on to marry the love of his life, Roxane (Vogel) and fathered two more daughters, Sarah and Shannon, as well as raising their son, Scott. Dan was preceded in death by his parents; two sons-in-law, Brad Busch and Lyle "Butch" Chick; niece, Stacy Smith; and his favorite dog, Daisy. Surviving him are his wife, Roxane

(Vogel) Smith; children: Laura (Smith) and Jim Stiles, Barb Smith, Scott Smith, Donna (Smith) Busch, Sarah Smith, Shannon Smith (Ken Harrell); 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by siblings, Carol (Smith) and Terry Kellogg, Mike Smith, Judy (Smith) and Bill Reid, Rick Smith, Jerry Smith, Dennis and Ann Smith, Vicki Smith (Greg Swartner), Colleen (Smith) and Sam Yim, Steve and Lynda Smith, Scott Smith; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Patrick Anthony Trierweiler**, of Portland, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on July 24, 2022, at the age of 91. He was born to Victor and Mathilda (Feldpausch) Trierweiler on March 14, 1931. Pat showcased his baseball talents, playing AAA baseball for the New York Yankees and was later inducted into the Portland High School Hall of Fame. Preceding Pat in death are his parents; wife, Patty Trierweiler; grandson, Hartlee Lucas; siblings, Eileen Burgoyne, Mary Ann Trierweiler, Rosalyn (Thomas) Bengel, and Ken Trierweiler; and in-laws, Jean Trierweiler, Dale Stiffler, and Barry Sillman. Surviving are his children, Tony (Karen) Trierweiler, Pam (Ernie) Luna, Mike Trierweiler, Rick (Deb) Trierweiler, and Chris (Jamie) Trierweiler; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; siblings, Gladys Stiffler, Kay Sillman, Roger (Sandy) Trierweiler, Charlie Trierweiler, and Vic (Donna) Trierweiler; brother-in-law, Harv (Diana) Burgoyne; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Ionia/Lansing Area Hospice in memory of Pat.

**Patricia Bozung Sherbernau** of Lansing passed away of natural causes on July 25, 2022. She is survived by siblings Margaret, Dick, Jerry, Betty, Chris, and Laurie and several nieces and nephews.

**Michael George Fritch**, age 78, passed away on Friday, July 29, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on October 5, 1943, the son of George and Dorothy (Miller) Fritch. Michael enjoyed fishing, RC cars and airplanes, gardening, nature, and being outdoors. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Tom Fritch; brothers-in-law, Frank Winter and Leon Smith; father-in-law, Alip Winter; and mother-in-law, Gisela Winter. Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Irma; children, Brenda (Shawn) McBryde, Doug (Sarena) Fritch, and Mark (JoAnn) Fritch; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren; siblings, Sandra Smith, Nancy (Norbert) Ney, twin sister, Patricia (Edward) Martin, Eileen (Dave) Johnson, and Mary (Mike) Timmer; sisters-in-law, Beth Fritch, Rita Fuchs, and Irene (Fred) Mader; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Lansing in memory of Mike.



**Francis Chamberlain**, a kind, gentle man, died in the company of his family on August 3, 2022. He was known as Frank, but also answered to Francie. Frank, 84, was born on April 4, 1938, in Portland, MI, the son of George and Odelia (Huhn) Chamberlain. Following high school graduation from St. Patrick in Portland, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. On March 11, 1967, Frank married Janice Jenkins, the couple would spend the next 55 years in a loving relationship and creating lasting memories. Frank was a very smart man, he loved books and reading and staying up to date with current events and politics. With his knowledge he was very good at Trivial Pursuit and everyone wanted him as a partner. Frank is survived by his wife, Janice; siblings, Patricia (James) Glossi, Thomas Chamberlain, Donald (Kathleen) Chamberlain, Michael (Rita) Chamberlain; brother-in-law, William Jenkins; and numerous extended family members and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Evelyn Sias; sisters-in-law, Dianne Chamberlain, Nancy (John) Spurgeon, and Cheryl Jenkins. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the VFW National Home for Children, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory c/o Michigan Audubon, or the City Rescue Mission of Lansing.

**Ethel Grace Lowery** of Portland, Michigan, passed away Sunday, August 7, 2022, at Regency at Lansing West, after a long bout of cancer. Ethel was born on August 16, 1937. She worked as a clerk for the United States Post Office for 25 years. She was a member of the Eastern Stars, loved to play Bingo and slot machines, traveling to many of the state's casinos with her companion, Don. She liked to crochet and do jigsaw puzzles. She will be missed by all those who loved her. She is survived by her children, Terry (Jill) Lowery, Lora (Dan) Stuart, Jane (John) Sawyers, and Ellen (Eric) Truax; eight grandkids; three great-grandkids; one sister; and her loving friend, Don Nurenberg.

**Beverly Ann (Sandborn) Fedewa**, passed away on August 14, 2022, after a long, blessed life. She was preceded in death by her best friend and husband, Vern Fedewa, and by their son, Chuck Fedewa. Bev was born on March 4, 1932, to George and Norma (Atwell) Sandborn. In addition to Vern and Chuck, Bev was preceded in death by her parents; Vern's parents, Adam and Elisabeth Fedewa; son-in-law, Larry Albaugh; siblings, Bill Sandborn, Bud (Diane) Sandborn, Jackie (Billy) Whitfield, Janean (John) West, Norma Kay (Carroll) Hill, Mary Sandborn, Gary Sandborn, and Chuck (Kathy) Sandborn; and in-laws, Bill (Vivian) Fedewa, Jim Haas, and John Hansen. She is survived by her brothers, Steve (Gerry) Sandborn and Jim (Brenda) Sandborn; and by her in-laws, Patty Sandborn, Ellie Sandborn, Jeri Gardner, Nancy (Jerry) Meade, and Mary

Beth Hansen. Bev was cherished, and will be dearly missed, by her children, Stef and Richard Imgrund, Mike and Linda Fedewa, Sharon Albaugh, Anne and Ed Schmidt, Patti and Joe Kreke, and Jennifer and Bill Schick; 22 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren. The family thanks Kelly Grys, Keristin Hetherington, Courtney Shafer, and the entire staff at Country Living and Ionia Area Hospice, for their friendship and care for Bev. If desired, memorial contributions can be made to St. Patrick's Father Flohe Fund, the Portland (MI) District Library, or a library of your choice.

**Robert A. "Bud" Hansen**, age 80, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2022. He was born on December 1, 1941, the son of Arthur and Marion (Steiner) Hansen. Bud enjoyed flower gardening and spending time with his grandchildren. He was known for his sense of humor and quick wit. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Michael; and sister, Jacquelyn. He is survived by his wife of 50 plus years, Joyce (Montry) Hansen; daughter, Judi (Duane) Schafer; sons, Chris Hansen and Mark Hansen; four granddaughters; two great grandsons; and brothers, Max Hansen and Arthur Hansen.

**Frank P. Sanchez, Jr.**, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away surrounded by his family on August 18, 2022, at the age of 87. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, to Francisco and Nicolaza (Perez) Sanchez. Frank met the love of his life, his sweetheart, Patricia (Roach) and they were lucky enough to celebrate 67 years together. Frank was faithful to God and was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland for many years. Preceding Frank in death are his parents; daughter, Susan Elizabeth Sanchez; siblings, John (Lucinda) Sanchez, Art (Mary) Sanchez, Al (Theresa) Sanchez, Ernestine (John) Cantu, and Connie Garcia; and brother-in-law, Pat Cadena. Left on earth to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Patricia Sanchez; children, Joni Sanchez, Frank (Sally) Sanchez, Mark Sanchez, Andrea (Randy) Pung, and Amy (Ted) Lindenbusch; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; sister, Ane Cadena; brother-in-law, Henry Garcia; and many members of his extended family. For those wishing, please consider donations to the American Heart Association in honor of Frank.

**Jane B. (Pohl) Honsowitz**, of Portland, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away on August 31, 2022. Jane was born on April 18, 1951, the daughter of Leon and Frances (Schueller) Pohl. She was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland for many years. Jane brought joy into every room she entered---she was full of life. Preceding Jane

in death are her parents; beloved husband of 40 years, Mike Honsowitz; sisters, Barbara (Art) Clark, Linda Chickering, and Nancy Ann Pohl; and sister-in-law, Sheila Pohl. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Michelle (Randy) Hodge, Todd (Wendy) Honsowitz, Ryan (Sarah) Honsowitz, Scott (Keelie) Honsowitz, and April Nickols; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren plus one on the way; siblings, David Pohl, Diane (Bob) Redick, Deb (Doug) Schneider, Steve Pohl (special friend, Dixie); brother-in-law, George Chickering; very special friend, Brad Fedewa; and many nieces and nephews.

## PLEASE NOTIFY US OF DEATHS

If your friend or loved one passes away and the funeral is held anywhere except Portland, please send a notice to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com) or contact Amy Smith at (517) 647-6505.

This applies to former students, former teachers, or anyone who was part of St. Patrick Parish in the past.

## APRIL CLIMBS MOUNTAINS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

mined, She also wants to inspire others.

"She loves the achievement she has completed and just feels so proud of herself and how far she has come."

April completed her first climb up Snowden back in 2017, when she was just nine years old, before then tackling Ben Nevis and Scarfell Pike in 2021. Once she had completed three, she knew she wanted to push to complete all five, and finished her final climb up Slieve Donard last week.

Kate says her daughter acts as an inspiration to her and the rest of the family.

She added, "I could not be prouder of the beautiful young lady that my daughter has become.

"So strong spirited and with such energy and zest for life. She inspires me every day and reminds me not to live within my own limitations."

# Upcoming EVENTS

Homecoming .....September 24, 2022  
 Fall Festival .....October 15, 2022  
 Veterans Day Recognition .....November 11, 2022  
 Catholic Schools Week ..... Jan 29-Feb 4, 2023  
 Shamrock Auction ..... April 21, 2023  
 First Communion..... TBD  
 Confirmation..... TBD  
 Grandparents Day ..... TBD  
 Graduation ..... May 21, 2023  
 Summer Fest ..... June 23-24, 2022  
 Class of 1973 50-Year Reunion ..... Sept. 9, 2023  
 Fall Festival 2023 ..... TBD  
 Spring issue of *The Shamrock* ..... Mid April, 2023  
 Deadline for submitting info..... March 15, 2023

## LOST SHEEP

Are any of your friends or family members on this Lost Sheep list? 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 Rita (Bauer) Cummings	1989 Amy Wixon
1961 John D. Pung	1991 Elaine Mauer
1962 C. G. Luce	1993 Darcy Hinds Vandecar
1963 Bonnie (Mleko) Luce	1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom
1965 Steve O'Leary	1995 Emily Batty
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1969 Patty Koenigs knecht	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa
1970 Tom Schneider	1997 Marcus Schroeder
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova	1997 Mark Meyers
1974 Steve Jenkins	1999 Danielle Thelen
1975 Susan Thelen	2000 Jeff Pung
1975 Patricia Cook Leppo	2001 Segrid Johnson
1977 Brian Jenkins	2001 David Rademacher
1980 Angie Young	2001 Robyn Thelen Bartig
1980 Patrick Ellis	2002 Andrew Stopczynski
1981 Mike Binder	2002 John Carter
1982 Jeff Strang	2002 Amanda Dovey
1983 Steve Lehnert	2002 Andy Lehman
1983 Rich Strang	2004 Don Vollman
1983 Kirk Noren	2004 Cara Monks
1983 Marilyn Tallmadge	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

## 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.

Watch your mailboxes for the fall issue of *The Legacy*, coming to you in October! The bathroom project is complete and you can see the results!

## 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.

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All of the words in this edition’s puzzle are taken from the articles in the newsletter. Lots of good stuff, huh? You know the way this game is played—find all 21 of the words below, and the leftover letters will spell out the answer, a thought that we would all do well to remember! Ready! Set! Go!

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

### 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 November 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AIRLINES  
 BAPTISMS  
 BATHROOMS  
 BIRTHS  
 CAMP WOLVERINE  
 COVENANT HILLS  
 CPO

DENTISTRY  
 FALL FEST  
 GOULET  
 LIT  
 LOST SHEEP  
 MALEWITZ  
 MEGA

MOUNTAINS  
 PUZZLE  
 RESTORATION  
 RETREAT  
 TRAIN  
 UPDATES  
 WEDDINGS

*Hint: The word LIT appears twice in the puzzle. You will have to find the right one for the phrase to be correct.*



The hidden phrase in the last issue was “*Look back and be grateful. Look ahead and be hopeful. Look around and be helpful.*” The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Joane Platte of Portland, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Joane!

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SHAMROCK**

Class of 1972 ..... 1  
 Mail Call..... 2  
 Grad Donates to PASG ..... 2  
 Spotlight on Kathy Hermelyn ..... 3  
 What’s Happening ..... 4  
 School News ..... 6  
 Alum Wins Award ..... 7  
 Reunion Information ..... 8  
 Inspiring Mountain Climber ..... 9  
 Camp Covenant Hills..... 10  
 Camp Wolverine..... 11  
 Church Restoration ..... 12  
 Spotlight on Kelsey Schneider..... 14  
 Spotlight on Morgan Thelen..... 14  
 Upcoming Events ..... 18  
 Lost Sheep..... 18  
 Contact Information ..... 18  
 Word Search Puzzle..... 19

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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!**

**PORTLAND ST. PATRICK**  
**Fall Festival**  
 Mark your calendars!  
 We are excited for this community event to return!

**Food Trucks  
 Craft Show  
 Local Vendors  
 Color Run  
 Kids Games & Activities  
 Mega Raffle**

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**  
 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**ALTON PARK, PORTLAND**  
 (Across the street from the school)