



# THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2023

## Adoration Leads Alum to New Position

*Nikki (Sheaffer, 2002) Brown is the new Youth and Campus Minister for St. Patrick Parish. Her journey to this position took her by way of the State Capitol where she began as a lobbyist and ended as the Director of the Policy Office, working closely with the Senate Majority Leader and the rest of the caucus members on long-term strategy. In 2022, Nikki ended her political career because God had other plans for her.*

The amazing part of my story is how Brian and I discovered Adoration and how it led me to where I am now.

Adoration wasn't something we knew much about. It wasn't something either Brian or I did while we were growing up. I didn't really start going regularly until August of 2019 when we lost our infant son, Joseph. For weeks, I spent a lot of time in the adoration chapel praying, crying, allowing the Lord to begin healing my wounds. Sitting in His presence allowed Him to show me joy in the sorrow and pain.

At first it was just Brian and me. It was awkward at first because I didn't know what to do and I felt like I needed to fill the whole hour with words. I eventually started to realize that what I really needed to do was to be still, to be quiet, and to listen. I didn't need to speak all the time. I needed to pour my heart out to the Lord and then

listen. Sitting in His presence and just spending time with Him is where I feel peace and calm. He needed to work in my heart to help me to quiet myself in order for me to really feel the direction He was leading me. He works with our baby steps.



It was in adoration in the early part of 2021 where I finally started asking God where it was He was calling me to. I really felt it wasn't the Senate. And I had so much peace because I knew that when the timing was right, He would call me out of there and into wherever He was leading me.

Then came 2022, which turned into a big year of discernment for me in many ways.

At the beginning of that year, I felt an invitation from the Lord to a deeper level of my faith. I started the process of earning a Certificate in Theology, but had no idea where the Lord was leading me or why I was doing it. I knew that at the very least it would deepen my relationship with Him and that would lead to me being the wife, the mom, the daughter that He created me to be.

Something else happened in the beginning of 2022, instead of going to adoration monthly as had become our pattern, Brian and I began going every Friday night. After a few months we knew that this was something our family needed. We began taking our three boys. These weekly visits with our Lord increased the frequency in which I was discerning where He was calling me. Each time I asked the question, Mother Teresa's words "Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta" would come into my head. So, I began to be more tuned in to my family at home and my work family, my team.

In July, 2022, at a week-long family retreat where we started each day with Mass and then spent time in adoration each afternoon, I felt an overwhelming peace that God was leading me somewhere great and that I wouldn't be in my current position

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## NIKKI BROWN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

much longer. I was also uncharacteristically comfortable not knowing where He was taking me.

At the end of August, I was having a conversation with Carolyn Heckman, St. Patrick Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization. The conversation was completely unrelated to my journey, but I mentioned to her that I was working towards my certificate in Theology and I had no

idea where it was going to lead me. She mentioned Youth Ministry and I laughed out loud. This couldn't be where He was calling me. I work with adults, not children. I work in politics, not ministry. Excuse after excuse.

Praise God He made a way for us to begin our weekly adoration time earlier that year because that was the first place I went. I spent a LOT of time in adoration discerning. A LOT of time that week.

I remember distinctly one of the days praying in a quiet, still church. I remember saying "Lord, this can't be where you are calling me. I am not qualified to do Your work." And for the first time ever I heard in my heart "And now you need to depend on me." I still get chills thinking about it. I smiled with tears in my eyes and said "Ok. I'll go but just don't leave me." And He hasn't and He never will.

Adoration has been a major part of our family's story of strengthening our relationship with the Lord and thus knowing joy through sorrow and triumph. What a blessing it is to provide other students with that type of experience and walk with them as they strengthen their own relationship with Him.

*Nikki and Brian have three sons who all attend St. Patrick School, Kaeden (8th grade), Emerson (5th grade), and Griffin (2nd grade).*

Photo credits for this article: Heather Abram



## Veteran Teachers Retire

**A**fter more than 64 years of combined service, Mrs. Janice (Jan) Simon and Mrs. Diane Simon will both be retiring. They will end their teaching careers at the end of this school year on June 9.

Mrs. Jan Simon began her journey at St. Patrick School as a student herself. She is a graduate of the Class of 1985. From there she pursued her degree in education majoring in mathematics and joined the St. Patrick faculty in 1989.

Jan has taught many grades over her 34 years including kindergarten, fourth grade, middle school theology and mathematics. In many cases, she has taught both parents and their children.

Jan has this to say regarding her future plans, "Spur of

the moment day trips with Jim, lunches with my Mom and siblings and playing with the grandkids."

Mrs. Diane Simon joined the St. Patrick school faculty in 1994.

She has been a lifelong member of St. Patrick Parish deeply committed to enhancing the faith life of her students by serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and teaching first reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation.

Diane has taught many students and families over her 30 years in elementary education including first grade, second grade, and third



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# In the Spotlight

Shamrock alumni are scattered 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 Shelbi (Wilcox, 2009) Pline and Troy Smith (2002). If you would like to recommend an alum who can be spotlighted, please send your suggestions to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com).

## Shelbi (Wilcox) Pline

Shelbi (Wilcox) Pline graduated from Portland St. Patrick school in 2009 and attended Saginaw Valley State University, where she earned her Masters of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in 2014. Her first full-time job after graduation was in an Outpatient

Hand Therapy setting, and because she enjoyed the work so much, she decided to further her education in that field.

In June of 2022, Shelby became a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) through the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC). This certification is awarded for achieving the highest recognition of competency in the profession of upper extremity rehabilitation. There are

less than 7,000 individuals in the United States who have earned this title.

Shelbi currently works as an Occupational Therapist (OT) and Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) for NovaCare Rehabilitation in Grand Ledge. She has eight years of experience working as an OT in the outpatient hand therapy setting, specializing in orthopedic conditions of the upper extremity including both non-surgical and post-surgical conditions of the hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder. Common diagnoses she treats include fractures of the hand, wrist, and arm; tennis elbow (lateral epicondylitis); trigger

finger; carpal tunnel syndrome; and other nerve compression syndromes, arthritis (specialized training for thumb CMC OA), wrist and finger sprains, tendon injuries, and rotator cuff injuries.

She says, "Part of what I can do as treatment for my patients is fabricate custom splints/orthotics and removable casts as needed. I am also certified to offer services including cupping, instrument assisted soft tissue mobilization, therapeutic taping, wound and scar management, and therapeutic modalities including electrical stimulation and ultrasound."

"I love my job, and I am happy that I can help my patients get back to doing what they love. Being able to work so close to where I grew up, and to the place I call home, is such a blessing. As an OT, CHT in this community, I am rewarded everyday, as I get to help people achieve their goals and I can see that I have made a positive difference in their lives."

*Shelbi has been married to Matt Pline (2009) for almost eight years. They have two daughters, Brooklynn (4), who attends St. Patrick Preschool, and Ryleigh (2), who will enroll in St. Patrick Preschool next year.*



# What's Happening

*If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of The Shamrock, please send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com. Deadline is August 15, 2022.*

## BIRTHS

To **Jerrod** and **Emilee (Fox, 2011) Harrison** of Muskegon, MI, a son, Braden Louis, on December 10, 2022.

To **Jeff** (2005) and **Jordan Brown** of Lyons, a daughter, Emery Hope, on March 11, 2023. She joins brother, Weston (2). Emery is the first girl in the family for Jeff's parents, Tom (1971) and Cindy (Simon, 1977) Brown. The couple have four sons and seven grandsons!

To **Casey** (2009) and **Julia (Sandborn, 2009) Schmidt** a son, Andrew Joseph, on January 17, 2023. He joins siblings, Kennedy (3), and Lyndon (2).

To **James** (2010) and **Rachel (Miro, 2010) Spohn**, a daughter, Quinn Marie, on January 26, 2023.

To **Jacob** (2014) and **Mari (Behovitz, 2014) Moyer**, a son, Reese Hugh, on January 28, 2023. He joins one sister, Peyton (1 ½).

To **Tyler** (2010) and **Aubrey Smith**, a daughter, Holland Leigh, February 2, 2023.

To **Mick** (1999) and **Anastasia Hamberg** of Louisville, KY, a daughter, Maria Anna, on September 11, 2022. She joins siblings Bethany (7), Evelyn (5), Louella (4), and William (2).

To **Brett** (2005) and **Tara (Schrauben, 2006) Klein**, a son, Noah William Klein, on November 10, 2022. He joins older siblings, Ava (9), Cora (8), Riley (6), and Logan (2).

To **Jon** and **Dani (Long, 2004) Zatkoff**, a daughter, Neve, on April 30, 2022.

To **Heather (Wieber, 2007) and Dennis Goodenough**, a daughter, Emberly Ann, on December 28, 2022. She joins siblings, Oliver (7) and Myla (5).

## BAPTISMS

The following baptisms took place at St. Patrick Church between September 2022 and March 2023:

**Lillian Katharina Clough**, daughter of Trevor and Natalia Clough

**Hadley Rae Nickelson**, daughter of Thomas and Cortney Nickelson

**Russell Scott Smith**, son of Tyler and Sarah Smith

**Kyslie Marice Kochensparger**, daughter of Michael and Kristy Kochensparger

**Cole Anthony Kreiner**, son of John and Kaitlin Kreiner

**Ada Lynn Lay**, daughter of Kyle and Amanda Lay

**Aidan Smith**, son of Kyle and Hanna Smith

**Cade Lawrence Davis**, son of Nicholas and Samantha Davis

**Hudson Timothy Miller**, son of Kyle and Jessica Miller

**Letti Jean Nurenberg**, daughter of Jacob and Katherine Nurenberg

**Alexis Irene Thelen**, daughter of Chad and Kaitlin Thelen

**Adalyn Marie Vallier**, daughter of Nolan and Krista Vallier

**Timothy Allen Fischer**, son of Timothy and Jill Fischer

**Sophie Ann Glowacki**, daughter of Jeffrey and Erica Glowacki

**Julia Marie King**, daughter of Ashton and Kristen King

**Noah William Klein**, son of Brett and Tara Klein

**Renley James Simon**, daughter of David and Laura Simon

**Quinn Marie Spohn**, daughter of James and Rachel Spohn

## ENGAGEMENTS

**Richelle Vallier** (2011) and **Erik Batten** from Mendon will be married at St Patrick Church on April 15, 2023.

**Blake Hodge** (2017) and **Jenna Lehman** (2016) are engaged to be married on January 20, 2024.

**Matt Thelen** (2013) and **Marin Pline** (2013) are engaged to be married on January 27, 2024. They will reside in Lyons, MI.

**Mackenzie Smith** (2015) and **Jared Loomis** will be married on September 23, 2023.

## WEDDINGS

**Hannah Thelen** (2016) and **Seth Sundberg** were married in Carson City, MI, on November 5, 2022. They reside in Bay City, MI.

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

**Danielle Simon** (2014) and **Ryan Orr** on October 22, 2022

**Ryan Wilcox** (2012) and **Amy Smith** on November 5, 2022

**Emily Aungst** and **Joseph Sober** on November 18, 2022

**Victoria Beard** (2009) and **Tory Gentile** on January 27, 2023

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**Erin and Alyssa Hengesbach**, identical twin daughters of **Ed** (1977) and **Tracy Hengesbach**, were invited to participate in the 2022 Milan Fashion Week in Milan, Italy. The women spent eight days in Italy and walked for Gucci, as part of the Twinsburg theme. This was their second modeling experience; the first was in 2019, when they were featured in a Marc Jacobs campaign. They were discovered by photographer Hugo Scott, who snapped their picture during the Twin Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio.

**Paul Kolarik (1990)** was the recipient of the Heart of a Hero Award from the Brevard Heart Foundation in Florida. Paul is the general manager of VITAS Healthcare and is a hospice social worker by training. According to the nomination notice, "Paul ensures that patients facing end-of-life have immediate and timely access to hospice services, no matter where they live in the community. He moves mountains to ensure that patients and families are treated with compassion, re-



spect, and dignity.”

**Laurie (Hoppes, 1982) Cathcart**, who is a kindergarten teacher at Dudley STEM Elementary School in Battle Creek, won a Tonka-sized truckload of books for her classroom in January. The contest, sponsored by Michigan Construction, received more than 3000 entries, and two winners were chosen. Michigan Construction runs the contest every year to give out books to elementary school classrooms throughout the state, to help raise awareness of and interest in the skilled trades.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Linda Marie Smith**, loving mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at the age of 74. She was born on June 1, 1948, the daughter of Benjamin T. Sykes, Jr. and Dorothy (Karnath) Sykes. She was a graduate of Portland St. Patrick High School and resided most of her life in Fowler. She was an avid University of Michigan fan and a member of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Linda is survived by her children, Terri (Eric) Bolyard of St. Johns, MI, Jason (Cari) Smith of Fowler, MI, Stacey (Will Moser) Smith of Anchorage, AK, Scott Smith of St. Johns, MI, Mark Smith of St. Johns, MI, and Jeff Smith of Carson City, MI; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law; and three brothers-in-law. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Smith; grandparents, Benjamin and Della Sykes; parents-in-law, Vincent and Loyola Smith; sisters, Carol Graft and Elizabeth Sykes; brother, Leon “Butch” Sykes; three brothers-in-law; and her parents. Memorials may be made to Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or the American Lung Foundation.

**Joan Marie Guy**, age 79, of Lake Odessa, formerly of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. She was born on November 18, 1942, the daughter of Burton and Marian (Barton) Brown. Joan enjoyed 4H, camping, and entertaining for family and friends. She was a member of First Congregational Church in Lake Odessa. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; infant son, Gerald; parents; sister, Janice (George) Livingston; and brother, Jeffery (Susan) Brown. Surviving are her children, Anne (David) Sawdy, Michael (Tracy) Guy, and Daryl (Sarah) Guy; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister, Anne (Fritz) Russman; brothers James Brown, Joel (Nelda) Brown, Jerrold (Judy) Brown, William (Pamela) Brown, Thomas (Cindy) Brown, Christopher (Constance) Brown, Jon Brown, Brian (Pat) Brown and Michael (Lisa) Brown; and many nieces and nephews.

**Julius William Platte**, 89 of Portland, loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather went to heaven on October 2, 2022, surrounded by his loving

family. Julius was born September 15, 1933, the son of Bernard and Mary (Gross) Platte. Julius served in the United States Army after graduating from high school. He began his career as an electrical lineman with the Village of Portland, later moving to work at Tri-County Electric until retirement. He served several years on the Portland Township Board. Julius was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia; son, Herbert; daughter, Jill; granddaughter Amber; and great-grandson Gunner. Julius is survived by his children, Judy (Jay), Tim (Amy), Ben (Diane), and Ted (Betsy); 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; brothers, sister, nieces and nephews. For those wishing to do so, contributions may be made to VFW Post 4090, 1324 E Bridge St., Portland, MI, 48875 in lieu of flowers.

## 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.

**Michelle Marie Lumbert**, age 85, passed away on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at SKLD (formerly Heartland) in Ionia. Michelle was born on July 2, 1937, in Orbigny, Indre-et-Loire, France, to Andre and Andrée (Genileau) Mercier. She was preceded in death by both her parents and one brother, Bernard Mercier. She was also preceded in death by her longtime companion, husband, Pierre Blanquet. She is survived by her three daughters, Valerie “Barbara” (Joe Pline) Hodges, Natalie (Scott) Spitzley, and Caroline (Rick) VanHouten; seven grandchildren; two great-grandsons; sister-in-law, Rolande Mercier of Orleans, France; and several nieces and nephews both in France and locally.

**Winifred Helen Kortes**, passed away November 6, 2022, at the age of 103. She was born on July 9, 1919, in Portland, Michigan, the daughter of Edward and Helena Keusch. Win was a member of the St. Francis Catholic Church in Ft Myers, Florida. Preceding Winifred in death are her parents; husband, Russell Kortes, Sr.; son, Russell Kortes, Jr.; sister, Marjorie Hogan; brothers, Thomas Keusch, Edward Keusch, and Charles Keusch. She is survived by many nieces and nephews of the Keusch and Kortes Family. She will also be greatly missed by Vern Murphy and his family.

**Dorothy L. (Smith) Lenneman** died

November 16, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 6, 1926, to William and Louise Smith, in Westphalia. Her goal was to see her 96th birthday, crowning her the longest living of the ten Smith siblings. Family was her most prized accomplishment. She was a wife to Ron; a mother to her six children, Linda Friddle (special friend Max Endsley), Diane Huhn, Dan and Katherine Lenneman, Sharon and Kevin Page, Pete (Ronald Jr) and Judy Lenneman, Annette and Jeff Helmel; a grandma to nine grandchildren; and many great and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Ronald; sons-in-law, David Friddle and Larry Huhn; grandchildren, Fred Meyers II, Jamie Huhn, David Huhn, and Daron Page; great-grandchild, Taryn Montez; and great-great-grandchild, Island Buena. Besides her family, she enjoyed quilting, and won many ribbons throughout the years. She also enjoyed bingo, any game of cards, garage sales, time at the lake, and sweets. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the Portland Area Service Group in memory of Dorothy.

**Margaret Lynn Stark** passed away peacefully at Providence Hospital in Novi, Michigan, on December 3, 2022, in the presence of loving family members and in the arms of her beloved husband, Tom. She was born in Saginaw, Michigan, on December 4, 1957, to Robert and Mary Dolores (Markey) Rutherford. Margaret touched the hearts of many and will be deeply missed by all who loved her, including her husband, Tom; son, Sam; mother, Mary Dolores Rutherford; Tim and Theresa Rutherford, Mary and John Skoglund, Jane and Mike Alsgaard, Tom and Cindy Rutherford, Ann Huntington, George and Linda Rutherford, Mary Rose Rutherford, Alice and Shawn Overgaard, Jim and Cinda Stark, Lindsay and David Susalski; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and special family friends. Margaret was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Katie Ann Stark; father, Robert Rutherford; brother, Matthew Rutherford; parents-in-law, Larry and Joyce Stark; and brother-in-law Kim Huntington. Those wishing to include a contribution honoring her memory may consider the Michigan Lupus Foundation.

On Friday December 23, 2022, **Ronald “Ron” Dean May**, loving son and father passed away at the age of 62. Son of Jeri and Leon; father to Tyler (Erica) and Shaina (Tony); grandfather of five grandchildren. Ron was born and raised in Portland. He was a graduate of St. Patrick’s High School in 1979, where he played basketball and baseball. He was known to his teammates as “Mad Dog.” Growing up on the family farm gave him a deep respect for hard work and honesty which he carried with him while building his company and reputation as a licensed residential builder/general contractor of 35+ years (May Builders LLC). He was preceded

*(continued on page 16)*

# alumni news

## Reunion Reports

On October 6, 2022, 12 members of the **Class of 1967** gathered at the Wagon Wheel to mark their 55-year class reunion. They were having so much fun, they forgot to take a group picture! Special thanks to Jeanine Bennett Cross for organizing nearly every reunion for this class.

Eleven members of the **Class of 1970** gathered at Tom and Toni Kissane's house on October 1, 2022, for dinner and a bonfire.



Class of 1970

The **Class of 1977** had an awesome 45-year class reunion on Saturday, October 22, at Fabiano's Point. There were 18 classmates in attendance as well as many spouses/significant others. In the afternoon they enjoyed picture perfect weather while golfing at the Portland Country Club.



Class of 1977

The **Class of 82**, 40-year reunion was held at the Wagon Wheel, on Saturday, November 12, 2022.



Class of 1982

The **Class of 1992** celebrated their 30-year reunion on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2022, at Confluxcity Brewing Company. As expected, a few of their classmates were not able to make it due to distance, family obligations, and illness, but a great time was had by all in attendance. There were 13 of the 43 classmates who arrived for the beginning; another arrived halfway through the evening; and finally, with another late arrival, they ended the night with 15 classmates plus spouses, significant others, and friends of the class. Christy (Gross) Danca travelled the farthest from her home, approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes or 177.4 miles, to join them on her birthday! Joe Cook had the busiest travel day after starting the day in California for a work conference and ending in Portland, celebrating with his classmates.



Class of 1992

## Looking for St. Pat's Alumni to Spotlight

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





St. Patrick School Alumni came from as far as Grand Haven, Rockford, and Frankenmuth, to attend the **Class of 2002** 20-year reunion. The classmates gathered at Confluxcity Brewing Company in Portland to share memories and flip through old yearbooks. Fifteen of the 26 graduates attended and everyone enjoyed each other's company.

The **Class of 2007** held their 15-year reunion on September 17, 2022. They golfed at Huckleberry Golf Course and ended the night at Confluxcity Brewing Company in Portland.



## ATTENTION CLASS OF 1973

Members of the Class of 1973, don't forget that this is your very special year!

Your 50-year reunion will be held on September 9, 2023. Your invitations and complete information will be mailed soon.

## Puzzle Champ

Recognition needs to be given to Joyce (Blundy, 1960) Rogers, who is always the first person to submit her answer to the puzzle that appears on page 19 of each issue of *The Shamrock*. Her puzzle answer arrives by email the same day her newsletter arrives in her mailbox.

## Upcoming Reunions

- The **Class of 1961** will hold their annual class reunion on Friday, September 8, at noon, at the Wagon Wheel.
- The **Class of 1978** will hold their 45-year reunion on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Mass will be at 4:30 followed by dinner at the Wagon Wheel. Kevin Schneider is putting the plans together. He says, "We will be in the patio area and ordering off the menu. I have most of the classmate's cell numbers and will mail out the rest of the invitations."

- The **Class of 1998** currently has no plans, but would love to have someone begin planning something.

- The **Class of 1983** will hold their 40-year class reunion on Summer Fest weekend, June 23-24, 2023. The weekend will kick off on Friday, June 23, around 5:00 p.m. at a location still to be determined. On Saturday, dinner will be held at the Wagon Wheel at 6:00 p.m. Later in the evening, classmates will gather at the Summer Fest beer tent. Scan this QR code for up-to-date information, or contact Bob Russman at 517-526-3327 or [portlandstpatsclassof83@gmail.com](mailto:portlandstpatsclassof83@gmail.com).



- The **Class of 2003** will hold their 20-year reunion on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at Confluxcity Brewing Company in Portland. The organizers put out this message to their classmates: "Come and drink a few beers with people you haven't seen in years! Please bring your significant others along. Everyone will be on their own tab and there is no upfront charge. Bonus! There will be live music! See You There!"

- The **Class of 2008** is making plans for a 15-year reunion in late summer/early fall somewhere locally. No exact date, location, or activities have been established. If you have ideas or would like more information, please contact Morgan Thelen at [mathelen003@gmail.com](mailto:mathelen003@gmail.com).

- Plans are still being finalized for the **Class of 2013** reunion. Information will be available soon. Classmates should watch the class Facebook page.

- The **Class of 2018** will hold their 5-year class reunion at the Portland Country Club on June 17, 2023. The plan is to start golfing at 4:00 p.m. followed by dinner and catching up afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join the golfing or just come for dinner in the banquet room around 6:00 pm. Contact Kaitlyn Coyne at (517) 899-5255 with any questions or to RSVP!



# Troy Smith (2002)

After graduating from St. Patrick High School in 2002, Troy Smith attended Michigan Technological University (MTU) to pursue a career in Mechanical Engineering. While in college, he was a member of the Clean Snowmobile Challenge, where he designed and modified snowmobiles to improve emissions. His team competed against other national colleges.

After graduation, Troy was hired by Haldex Brake Products in Grand Haven, MI. In 2011 he became an Applications Engineer for Kawasaki Engines, a company that provides engines to the lawn and garden market.

Troy has made many advancements at Kawasaki, and currently is the New Product Development Engineering Manager. He is responsible for setting future goals and business plans for engines, new products, new technologies and new markets. He has travelled throughout the United States and the world with his work, and has been a presenter at numerous conferences and dealer events.

Troy doesn't hesitate to talk about the influence that St. Patrick School has had on his life and his career. He says, "Heading off to a college that was ten hours away was a new adventure for me. St. Pat's prepared me very well, not only academically, but also spiritually. I relied on my faith when I was missing home and when I was working through

all of those challenging math problems for engineering homework. My faith helped me find the right people to be around, many of whom are still part of my life today."

His older sister introduced Troy to his wife, Cortney, and their faith brought them together. Cortney is currently the preschool through 8th grade Principal at St. Patrick Catholic School. The school and parish are an important part of their lives. Their three children attend St. Pat's and the Smith family has been involved in many school and parish events through the years.

In 2021, Troy, along with two other coaches, Craig Corbeil and Mike Bozung, helped launch a middle and high school Trap Shooting Team for St. Patrick School at the Oak Hill Gun Club. In their second season they were 2022 Conference Champions and 2023 Fall Conference Champions. The trap team participates in both the fall and spring seasons.

As for family, Troy firmly believes it is important for fathers to be spiritual leaders in their families. "Expressing your faith for your children is one of the best ways for them to learn," he says. "In our family, we model this is by reading books about saints before bedtime, they hear great examples of how people have lived their faith and stood for good morals and virtues. It has a big impact on how kids see the world and how they act towards others."



## VETERAN TEACHERS RETIRE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

grade.

Diane is excited for, "freedom, spending time with Mark, my kids and grandkids, traveling, reading, other surprises that may transpire."

Please join us in wishing Mrs. Janice (Jan) Simon and Mrs. Diane Simon a very happy and rewarding retirement! Jan and Diane will be greatly missed at St. Patrick Catholic School but have left an extraordinary legacy that spans multiple generations of Shamrock families.



#shamrockpride



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Schedule a private tour by contacting Cortney Smith [cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org](mailto:cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org) or 517.647.7551.

**We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!**

## Teacher with Superpower!



High school science teacher Jordan Smith recently was a guest speaker at the *Michigan Science Teachers Association* convention. He presented on his experiences as an autistic teacher and things he has learned from his autistic students.

Jordan says, "Prior to being diagnosed as autistic as an adult, I had quite a few interactions with students on the autism spectrum. Learning to view autism as a source of strength (a superpower if you will) has helped me become a better teacher and advocate. Identifying strengths that autistic learners bring to the science classroom and identifying ways that are accommodating for neuro diverse learners helps create more equitable learning environments for all students."



# We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!



We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

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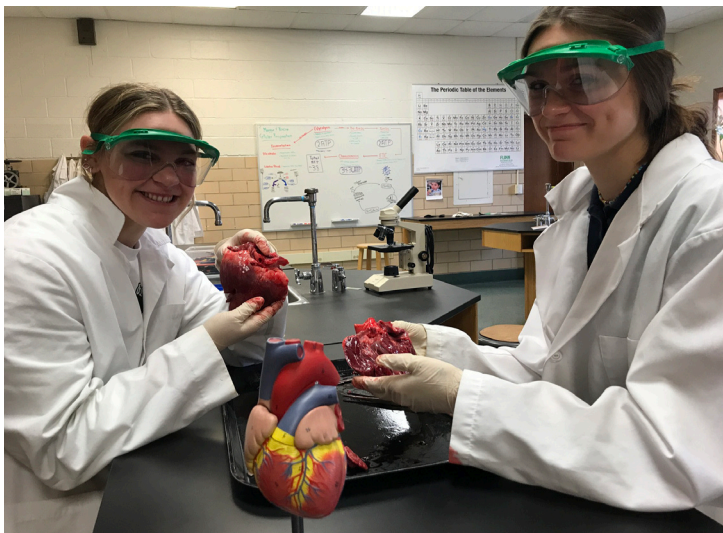


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(517) 647-7551



Catholic Schools Week is always great fun. One of the daily themes was Dress Like a Saint!



The human anatomy class recently dissected pig hearts as part of their study of the cardiovascular system. There really is no substitute for seeing the real thing!



Big Rocks and Little Rocks worked together on their fairy houses as part of our "Reading Enchants Us" theme.



Kindergartners are getting Anna ready for March Is Reading Month!



Students enjoyed bowling, movies, and various activities to wrap up Catholic Schools Week. Thanks to all who choose Catholic education for your child!



Our education is centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values.



Call us today  
to schedule a tour!  
(517) 647-7551



The Class of 2023 enjoyed their senior trip at Frankenmuth where they spent time at Zehnder's Splash Village, ate the Zehnder's famous chicken dinner meal, had time to shop in town, and had plenty of photo ops outside of Bronner's.



Our high school campus ministry team led conversations with our K-8 grade students on adoration and what that means to them. It was a beautiful experience watching our older students walk with our younger students in the faith!



The St. Patrick High School choir attended the African Refugee Mass at St. Andrew Cathedral. After joining their community for food and fellowship in the parish hall after Mass, their choir taught our choir a song in Swahili.





## Coach Al Wins 700th Game



Girls basketball coach Al Schrauben achieved another milestone on January 19, 2023, when he won his 700th game.

Al began his coaching career in 1977, when he started coaching middle school basketball at St. Pat's. In 1985 he took over the varsity girls team, and his players have been to the state finals ten times, finishing as state champions six times.

In his 46 years on the basketball courts, Al has become a legend who is respected by other coaches and referees. He is also admired and loved by his players and their families.

Congratulations, Al Schrauben!



Above: Flashback to January of 2017 when Al won his 600th game.



And, flashback a little further to 1988 when his team made their first appearance at a state final game and brought home a runner-up trophy.

## Mega Raffle Update

As reported in the latest issue of *The Legacy*, which arrived in your mailboxes in March, the Mega Raffle tickets are still available, **now at half price**. There are still 24 opportunities to win!

To date, 634 tickets have been sold, and the gross proceeds are approximately \$200,000. The **Shamrock Mega Raffle** replaced four smaller raffles and increased the raffle prizes that are paid out. Winners' names are put back into the raffle and are eligible to win over and over.

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

### Remaining drawing dates:

April 21, 2023 (at the Shamrock Auction)

June 25, 2023 (at Summer Fest)

Plus, the last Friday of each month\*



### Prizes at the two big drawings:

1st \$5000 4th \$750

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

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

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

License C30586



During Catholic Schools Week, two children from each grade were able to attend Mass at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids where Bishop Walkowiak was presiding! The rest of the school was able to participate by watching virtually.





# St. Patrick Church

## Restoration

### UPDATE

by Ken Schneider

## Sanctuary Restoration Continues

Several weeks ago, I met with Father Mike, Deacon Don, and two representatives from Progressive AE architectural, design, and engineering firm to discuss the various projects entailed in the church restoration. Our discussion had an emphasis on the sanctuary restoration.

When the initial plans are completed by Progressive AE, the St. Patrick Church restoration committee will meet with Father Mike, Deacon Don, and the architects, to discuss any modifications to the plan. After any revisions are made, a detailed plan along with a cost estimate must be submitted to the Diocese of Grand Rapids for final approval. As the approval process progresses, updates will continue to be provided through the Shamrock newsletter.

At this time, no capital improvement fundraising appeal is being planned but one may be necessary as the final construction cost estimate is concluded. You can contribute to these projects in the weekly collection in envelopes marked "Church Restoration" or online with the link located on page 15.

## Roof and Masonry Repairs

Two projects are being planned for St. Patrick Parish this summer, a new shingled roof for our church and exterior masonry repairs to the school.

Last summer, an inspection of the church roof revealed damage to the shingles. The damage came from the 2015 tornado and also the hail storm which hit parts of Portland last May. The cost will be over \$200,000, but fortunately, our property damage insurance will cover the anticipated costs. Special high lift equipment is needed to reach the



The church roof will be replaced this summer to repair damage from two storms. The cost will be paid by our insurance company.

roof peak and bell tower. Costs also include disposal of the old roof shingles. The commercial grade shingles to be installed have a life expectancy of 40 years, so the new roof should last well in the 2060s. Work should be completed this summer.

Additionally, masonry repairs will be made to the school along West Street. Masonry joints typically are damaged by water infiltration and the freeze/thaw cycle. Most of the damage is located on the original 1950 school building especially on the topmost portion of the wall. This is to be expected in a building over 70 years old.

Parishioner Tom Daily of Prius Masonry will perform the work. Prius Masonry previously completed work on the school to repair



Cracks in the bricks and missing mortar in the joints need immediate attention.

(Church Restoration continued on page 15)



## Children's Faith Formation Returns to Classrooms

Children's Faith Formation Director Lori Thelen never wanted to keep the children out of the classrooms, but circumstances beyond her control forced her to look for other options.

The Covid pandemic closed all classrooms at the end of the 2020 school year. In 2020-21, limits placed on gatherings and meetings prevented classroom instruction from returning. In 2021-22, a lack of teaching staff meant

that the children would spend another year learning from home. Lori provided the families with the best materials she could find, and also gave them as much support and encouragement as she could, but, she knew that it would be best for everyone when they could return to face-to-face learning.

Last summer, as she prepared for the 2022-23 school year, Lori was confident that this would happen. She chose the programs, ordered the books and supplies, and trusted that God would provide her with enough Catechists to fill all of the positions.

As the school year drew closer, she still didn't have enough teachers. Lori and Father Mike held a parish-wide informational meeting and invited anyone in the parish who thought that they might be interested to attend. Through the grace of God, she had more people than openings! "God sent me some of his best people to provide religious education to the children of our parish family," she said. "Each classroom now has two Catechists. Thank you, God!"

## Thank you to the Catechist Teams



### Kindergarten, Karen Stevens and Diane Smith

**Karen Stevens** has been teaching for 12 years. She is a retired teacher from Alaska. She feels privileged to support parents in sharing the love of God with the children. Her creativity is endless. **Diane Smith** has been assisting in the classroom for many years. Her four children have gone through or are going through the program now. She is always amazed at the excitement children bring to class to learn about Christ.

### First grade, Vicki Pohl and Abbey Pohl

This mother and daughter duo are first-time Catechists this year. **Vicki Pohl** studied psychology, family studies, and child development and currently works for the State of Michigan. She brings a wealth of knowledge into the classroom. **Abbey Pohl** is a senior at Portland High and is busy with sports, work, and studies. She is a great asset with organizing and managing the classroom. What a great example for the students to witness.



### Second grade, Ashley Miller and Ann Miller

This mother and daughter duo are longtime Catechists.

**Ashley Miller** has been teaching for six years. She also helps prepare the students for their First Reconciliation and Communion. **Ann Miller** has also been teaching for many years. Ann has taught at different grade levels as she will go where needed. She and Ashley bring their strong Catholic faith to the classroom to share with the students.

### Third grade, Angie Weber and Roni Christmas

**Angie Weber** has been a Catechist for 14 years. She brings to the program her strong Catholic faith and enjoys learning along with her students. Her five children have gone through or are going through the program now. **Roni Christmas** graduated from St. Patrick and is very humbled to be part of the students' education in their faith journey. She loves the Catholic Church and her teachings; that makes her excited to instill that love in the children.

### Fourth grade, Judy Keelean and Doug Snitgen

**Judy Keelean** comes to us for the first time. She and her husband moved to Portland recently and inquired about volunteering in the church. She brings classroom experience and expectations for the students and herself. **Doug Snitgen** is also a first-timer this year. He and his family are involved in many aspects of the church. He believes being Catholic is a great adventure, and he has fun exploring the faith with the students. They make a great team!

### Fifth grade, Sue Spitzley and Christine Swanson

**Sue Spitzley** brings a wealth of knowledge from her teaching days; she has been a Catechist for many years. Her desire to share the Catholic faith with the students is a great example of being a disciple of God. This is **Christine Swanson's** first year assisting in the classroom. Her two children have been attending since they moved to the area five years ago. Christine felt very welcomed by the community and wanted to give back; helping teach the children is her way of doing so.

### Sixth grade, David Chislea, Heidi May, and Will Chislea

**David Chislea** started working as a Catechist in the year of COVID, so he never got to finish his first year. He was still on the fence when there was a chance to return to in person instruction. As he saw there was a need for Catechists, he stepped right up. He brings to the classroom his strong Catholic faith and knowledge as he guides the students through the Old Testament. **Heidi May** has been around for many years and has taught many grades. All I have to do is ask her, and she just can't tell me no! She is always excited to learn right along with the students. All of her children have gone through the program. **Will Chislea** is Dave's son and a senior at St. Patrick School.

He has been helping in the classroom since Dave began. He is involved in sports and brings to the classroom his Catholic knowledge to share with the students. Another great example of the family spreading the word of God.

### Seventh grade, Denise Arnesen and Judy Dick

**Denise Arnesen** just can't say no when there is a need to teach the children of the parish. She has a strong love of Christ—more than anyone I know. She enjoys spreading the joy of Christ with anyone she meets.

**Judy Dick** was recruited by Denise. What a better thing to do as good friends than to spread the joy of Christ. Judy's joy comes from the heart of Jesus.

### Eighth grade, Brenda Smith and Alexa Weber

**Brenda Smith** retired from the State of Michigan recently and comes to the Ministry for the first time. She has a strong passion for the faith and a desire to gain deeper knowledge of God's calling. She takes interest in each student and addresses their spiritual needs with love and understanding. Alexa, a junior at Portland High, is a great addition to the class with her organization skills and discussion topics the students can relate to. They make an excellent team.

## CHURCH RESTORATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

damage to the parapet wall and also performed work on our church that included foundation repairs and the replacement of the exterior steps on the Grand River entrance.

Thank you to our generous parishioners for their weekly offertory collections which have provided the financial means to continue to improve and maintain our facilities. With your prayers and continued contributions, our facilities will continue to serve the needs of St. Patrick Parish for many years to come.

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESTORATION PROJECT

Would you like to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of our beautiful church? Donations can be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope clearly labeled CHURCH RESTORATION or mailed to St. Patrick Parish, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.

Donations can also be made through Online Giving. Go to [portlandstpats.com/church](https://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.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

in death by father, Leon; brother, Phillip; and sister-in-law, Dorothy. Survived by mother, Jeri; and siblings, LeAnn (Dan), Steve (Chris), Luke (Holly), and sister-in-law, Heidi.

**Father George Fekete**, who served at parishes across the diocese during nearly six decades as a priest, died on December 24, 2022, at the age of 92. He was the oldest living priest in the diocese at the time of his death. Father Fekete served as parochial vicar of Portland St. Patrick from 1970-1972.

**Lynda Mae Russman** (Sandborn), age 78, of Portland, went to Heaven on January 6, 2023. She was born on July 5, Happily married to a loving husband, Jim Russman for 55 years. A loving mother to Dan, Deb, and Dianne Russman. She enjoyed golf, her bowling league, and caring for and riding her horses. Lynda was a registered nurse for 45 years. She knew how to inspire people through her actions and the care that she showed for others. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her. Lynda is preceded in death by her mother and father; brother, Jeff Sandborn; and daughter, Dianne. Surviving are her husband, Jim Russman; son, Dan Russman; daughter, Deb (Mike) Coyne; three grandchildren; sister, Connie (Robert) Stiffler; brother, Jack (Mary) Sandborn; brother, Dan Sandborn; and several nieces and nephews, and many cousins. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association or the Portland United Methodist Church Helping Hands in memory of Lynda.

**Lyle Oliver Braley**, of Portland, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on January 6, 2023, at the age of 88. Lyle was born on November 7, 1934, in Edmore, MI, to John and Madge (Brokaw) Braley. Lyle was a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. He retired from the Lansing School District in 2000, after many years of service. Preceding Lyle in death are his parents; son, David Braley; six sisters; and two brothers. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Judy Braley; daughters, Irene Braley of Portland and Lisa (Lee) Ingraham of Saranac; sons, William Braley of Portland and Patrick (Teresa) Braley of St. Johns; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Ronald Eugene Crosby, Sr.**, age 79, of Lake Odessa, passed away on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Ron was born on November 13, 1943, to Walter and Theo (Dailey) Crosby in Hastings, MI. He is survived by his children, Ronald (Leslee) Crosby Jr., Kristine Crosby, Raymond Crosby, and Robert (Cristina) Crosby; brother, Larry Crosby; sister, Margie Crosby; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Ron was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Don Crosby;

sister, Janet Mooney; his wives, Kay, Sue, and Laurie. Memorial Contributions may be made to Alzheimer's foundation of America or IM Kids of Ionia.

**Barbara Ann Densmore**, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on January 12, 2023, at the age of 86. She was born in Portland, on January 5, 1937, to Peter and Helen (Fernholz) Gensterblum. Barb was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a graduate of St. Patrick High School Class of 1955. She went on to work at the Secretary of State for over 30 years before her retirement. Preceding Barb in death are her parents; son-in-law, Daniel P. Lenneman; siblings, Bernita Gensterblum, Richard (Marcella) Gensterblum, Leon (Helen) Gensterblum, Elizabeth (Gerald) Huhn, Geraldine (Albert) Hodge, Marvin (Lois) Gensterblum, Virginia (Neil) Shimp, Lucille (Carl) Redman, Alvin Gensterblum, Dolores (Allen) Houser, Paul Gensterblum, Robert Gensterblum, and Larry (Janet) Gensterblum; and brothers-in-law, LaVern Densmore and Forest "Bud" Peake. She is survived by her beloved husband of 66 years, Leon "Pete" Densmore; children, Pete (Sally) Densmore, Patty Lenneman, and Neil (Cyndy) Densmore; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; siblings, Eleanor Peake, Sr. Bernita Marie Gensterblum, Mary Louise (Bill) Hanses, and Jim (Louise) Gensterblum; in-laws, Cecelia Gensterblum, Mary Gensterblum, Judy Gensterblum, Rose (Bob) Mosser, and Dolores (Ron) Frazee; and many nieces and nephews. A special thank you to Kim Bower, Kelly Hicks, and Heart to Heart Hospice for their wonderful care and compassion given to Barb. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Athletic Association in honor of Barb.

**David Joseph Lenneman**, of Portland, loving husband, father, and grandfather passed away on January 13, 2023, at the age of 67. He was born in St. Johns, Michigan on February 6, 1955, the son of Joseph and Julianne (Schafer) Lenneman. Dave was a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. He retired from General Motors after 30 years of service. He was very active in AA over the years, where he worked hard to support anyone who needed a sponsor or a listening ear. Preceding Dave in death are his beloved wife of 38 years, Joyce Lenneman; his parents; brother, Dan Lenneman; father and mother-in-law, Elgin and Marie Fox; and brother-in-law, Ron Meyers. Surviving are his children, Brad (Jade) Lenneman, Marsha (Ben) Harmon, and Brian (Brenda) Lenneman; six grandchildren; siblings, Ruth (Fred) Proctor, Kevin (Julie) Lenneman, Mary Lou (Paul) Simon, and Shirley (Bob) Smith; sister-in-law, Patty Lenneman; Fox in-laws, Linda Meyers, Bonnie (John) Jenks, Elgin Fox, Jr., Jane (Cliff) Sharp, and Nancy (Clay) Sharp; and many special nieces and nephews.

**Irene Hengesbach**, age 87, of Sheridan,

passed away on January 21, 2023, at Sparrow Carson Hospital in Carson City, surrounded by her family. Surviving Irene is her husband of 67 years, Ernie; daughter, Sheryl (Steve) Sutherland of Sheridan; sons, Mark (Sharon) Hengesbach of Portland and Steve (Karen) Hengesbach of Portland; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Irene was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Kathryn (Smith) May.

**Robert "Jim" Thelen, Jr.** passed away on February 14, 2023. He was born on September 20, 1938, the son of Robert and Viola (Blundy) Thelen. Jim was a dairy farmer and he worked at ET MacKenzie Company for many years as a heavy equipment operator. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, David and Wayne Thelen; sister, Judy Martin; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Arnold and Dorothy Nurenberg; and several brother and sisters-in-law. Surviving are his wife, of 54 years, Arlene Thelen; daughters, Kendra (Mike) Grasseschi and Jennifer (Jason) Chamberlain; four grandchildren; sisters, Janice Getzen, Marlene (Wayne) Dick, Mary Baker, and Gail (Dick) Hill; brother, Donald Thelen; sister-in-law, Deb Thelen; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Special thank you to special friends, Betty Leyer, Nancy Thelen, Nancy Onuoha, Gary Bond, and Brian Werner. In lieu of thank you cards, a donation will be made to a charity in Jim's honor.

**Ronald Alvin Hodge** passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on February 20, 2023. He was born May 29, 1948, to Albert and Geraldine Hodge in Portland, Michigan. Ron served four years as a Sergeant in the Military Police for the United States Air Force. He was a very proud American and would want everyone to know that Agent Orange, which many vets suffer from, played a role in his death. After his service, he worked for GM and also alongside his father-in-law, Morris Johnson as a well driller; where he would go on to own the company. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susan Hodge, two daughters, Karen (Bron) Magoon and Amy Hodge. He enjoyed spoiling his three granddaughters; he was also blessed with two great grandchildren. Ron is also survived by nine siblings: Gary (Barb) Hodge, Irene Miller, William (Barb) Hodge, Connie (Charles) Carr, Linda (Doug) Brown, Mike (Sherry) Hodge, Jane (Keith) Pline and John (Mary) Vander Laan; sisters-in-law, Patricia Johnson and Judy Gensterblum, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother Robert Hodge, sister-in-law Sharon Hodge, brothers-in-law James Miller and Paul Gensterblum. Memorial contributions can be made in memory of Ronald to McLaren Hospice, 2815 S Pennsylvania Ave Ste 4, Lansing, MI 48910.

**Richard Leo Breimayer**, of Portland, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on March 1, 2023, at the age of 79. He was born



in Belding, Michigan, the son of Andrew and Esther (Ulrich) Breimayer on April 26, 1943. Dick enjoyed attending and watching sporting events, camping, and hunting. He is preceded in death by his parents; beloved wife of 51 years, Nancy Breimayer; brother, Thomas Breimayer; and sisters, Betty Spitzley and Nancy Sherrick. Surviving are his sons, Rick (Brenda Decess) Breimayer, Scott (Amy Hengesbach) Breimayer, and Mark (Crystal Layman) Breimayer; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; siblings, Jim (Jeanice) Breimayer and Sally (Dan) Leik; sister-in-law, Kay Breimayer; and brother-in-law, Phil Spitzley. For those wishing, contributions may be made to Lansing/Ionia Area Hospice in memory of Dick.

**Mary Dolores Rutherford** passed away peacefully at The Brook of Portland on March 6, 2023, at the age of 96. The seventh of nine children of William and Ethel (Laundra) Markey, she was born on December 16, 1926, in Saginaw, Michigan. Dolores touched so many lives and will be deeply missed by all who love her, including her children, Tim and Theresa Rutherford, Mary and John Skoglund, Jane and Mike Alsgaard, Tom and Cindy Rutherford, Ann Huntington, Terry Cherup, George and Linda Rutherford, Tom Stark, Mary Rose Rutherford, Alice and Shawn Overgaard; 24 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sister Geraldine Dangel; sister-in-law Pauline Duby; Doreen Miller and Julio Rodriguez, whom she and Bob welcomed into their home as theirs; and many nieces and nephews and

friends. Preceding her in death were her husband Robert; son, Matthew Rutherford; daughter, Margaret Stark; son-in-law, Kim Huntington; granddaughter, Katie Stark; siblings Robert, James, Dorothy, Genevieve, Patricia, Vincent and Ted. Memorials honoring Dolores may be given to a charity of one's choice.

It is with deep sadness that the Cote family announces the passing of **Michael James Cote, Jr.**, on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Mike was born on November 19, 1974 in Grand Rapids, MI, and raised in Comstock Park, MI. Mike and his wife, Cristina, were married in 2013 and eventually settled in Ionia, MI. Mike will always be remembered for his outgoing personality and charm, his fun-loving spirit, and his love for his family. He was always helping someone out, or receiving help in kind from family, neighbors, and treasured friends. He is survived by his dear wife, Cristina (Hathaway) Cote; daughter, Natalie (8) and son, Jack (4); father Michael Sr.; mother, Barbara (Hansen) Cote; mother-in-law, Barbara Storms; father-in-law, Steve (Jenny) Hathaway; sisters, Michele (Pamela Powell) Cote and Sara (Kenny) Farabaugh; brother, Jeff (Noreen Finn) Cote; many cherished nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, cousins, extended family and dear friends who loved him so much. In lieu of flowers, the family has set up a fund to help his wife Cristina and their two young children as they navigate through this difficult time. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/michael-james-cote-jr>

**Joann V. Theis**, age 90, of Portland, died on March 29, 2023. She was born on October 10, 1932, the daughter of Harold and Pauline (Feldpausch) Leik. Joann was a member of St. Patrick Church and graduated from Portland High School. She was born and lived her entire life in Portland. She enjoyed bingo, playing cards and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Bob and Bill Leik. Surviving are her husband of 67 years, Ed; children Sandy (Mike) Rutherford of Westfield, IN, Mike (Beth) Theis of Portland and Steve (Sparky Mowery) Theis of Dimondale; grandchildren, Kelli (John) Servizzi, Eric (Trisha) Rutherford, Brian (Erin) Theis, Jessica (Jake) Simon and Ashley (Kyle) Klein; 10 great grandchildren; sister, Rosalee Sochor; brother, Jim (Diane) Leik; sister-in-law, Inez Leik; many nieces and nephews. The family is at peace knowing Joann will be sitting on her porch waiting for them in heaven. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church or to the The Soup Project in Portland. A special thank you to the nursing staff at McLaren Hospital's I.C.U. Department and to Michigan Greater Lansing Cardiovascular Associates for their care to Joann.

*Receive their souls, oh Holy One.  
Present them now to God Most High.*



## The Shamrock Auction is turning 21!

**Friday, April 21, Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Knights Hall, 690 Maynard Road**

**You are invited to a special birthday party  
with great food and great friends!**

**In person party includes dinner, drinks, live &  
silent auctions, music, dancing, and more!**

**Can't attend in person, but  
still want to celebrate?**  
**Online only event includes a silent  
auction, raffles, 50/50, and more!**



## 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@portlandstpatrs.org](mailto:frmichaelalber@portlandstpatrs.org)  
Facebook: [stpatrsportland](https://www.facebook.com/stpatrsportland)  
Website: [portlandstpatrs.com](https://www.portlandstpatrs.com)

### Parish Office Hours

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

# Upcoming EVENTS

Shamrock Auction .....	April 21, 2023
First Communion .....	April 29-30, 2023
Confirmation .....	May 7, 2023
Graduation .....	May 21, 2023
Summer Fest .....	June 23-24, 2023
Class of 1973 50-Year Reunion .....	Sept. 9, 2023
Fall Issue of <i>The Shamrock</i> .....	Mid-September
Deadline for submitting info .....	August 25, 2023
Fall Festival 2023 .....	TBD
Homecoming .....	TBD
Spring issue of <i>The Shamrock</i> .....	Mid June, 2024
Deadline for submitting info .....	May 23, 2024

## 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.

## Lost Sheep

Despite the continuous work of our staff to keep the alumni/parish address list up-to-date, a few people are still "lost." Here's how you can help:

**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.

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

**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!



1953 Roy Bauer	1983 Steve Lehnert
1956 Rita (Bauer) Cummings	1983 Rich Strang
1961 John D. Pung	1983 Kirk Noren
1965 Steve O'Leary	1983 Marilyn Tallmadge
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1985 Scott Osmar
1969 Patty Koenigsknecht	1993 Darcy Hinds Vandecar
1974 Steve Jenkins	1994 Theresa Schoenherr Fensom
1975 Susan Thelen	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1975 Patricia Cook Leppo	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa
1977 Brian Jenkins	1997 Marcus Schroeder
1980 Angie Young	2000 Jeff Pung
1980 Patrick Ellis	2001 David Rademacher
1981 Mike Binder	2002 John Carter
1982 Jeff Strang	2004 Don Vollman
1982 Jeff Cathcart	2004 Cara Monks
1982 Laurie Cathcart	2005 Tony Fedewa
	2013 Dakota Bonner

## 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.

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





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 24 of the words below, and the leftover letters will spell out the answer, a thought that we would all do well to remember! Good luck!

### 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 June 1, 2023. 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 :

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

H	E	K	N	C	O	B	W	S	L	N	O	T	S	M
H	I	N	G	H	O	E	A	E	T	H	I	N	U	S
S	H	T	R	I	B	N	E	P	K	S	H	E	M	I
K	N	O	W	S	B	H	F	S	T	E	V	Y	M	T
J	U	L	I	E	W	L	N	L	E	I	O	R	E	U
T	R	O	Y	N	Y	O	E	T	U	U	S	H	R	A
I	N	G	O	T	I	B	W	H	T	X	H	M	F	A
T	C	G	L	N	E	E	U	H	S	A	C	K	E	R
J	A	F	U	L	D	Y	P	S	O	N	A	I	S	I
W	O	E	L	D	N	I	K	K	I	W	I	P	T	N
T	R	R	I	O	O	S	F	T	A	N	A	W	O	Y
A	P	N	D	R	G	A	O	S	L	R	E	I	T	T
T	G	I	G	A	I	C	A	A	T	L	C	S	A	H
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AUTISM  
BAPTISM  
BIRTHS  
BUSINESS  
CHT  
CHURCH  
CONFLUXCITY

FAITH  
GOLF  
JORDAN  
JULIE  
KAWASAKI  
LOSTSHEEP  
NIKKI

ORGAN  
REUNIONS  
SHELBI  
SUMMERFEST  
TRAP  
TROY  
TWINS

WAGONWHEEL  
WEDDINGS  
YOUTH



The hidden phrase in the last issue was “*YOU WOULDN’T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU IF YOU REALIZED HOW SELDOM THEY DO*” The winners, drawn randomly from all correct entries, were Brad and Kellie Leonard of Portland, who received \$50 for their efforts. Congratulations, Brad and Kellie!

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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 education is centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values.

**We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!**

ST. PATRICK'S

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FE  
ST

**June 24 & 25, 2023**

*Always the weekend after Father's Day!*

Our annual Parish Summer Fest will be taking place the weekend after Father's Day again this year! More details to come, but you can expect to see many of the things you know and love!

- Chicken Dinner Friday evening
- Baseball tournament
- Kids games and inflatables
- Food trucks
- Entertainment tent
- Starfarm performing in the tent on Saturday evening

We look forward to seeing you there! Watch our website and the school and parish Facebook pages for more information. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities and registrations coming soon! Questions? *Contact Brandon Rockey at [rockey1bj@gmail.com](mailto:rockey1bj@gmail.com).*

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