



THE SHAMROCK

A Shamrock Legacy Publication

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



Shamrock Girls Earn State Runner-Up

Shamrock track coach, Dawn Fedewa, said that the girls track team had a different feeling this year as they headed into the final days of their season. They had won the regional title for the first time in school history, and suddenly earning a state finals trophy wasn't just a dream, it was a distinct possibility. It was a possibility that brought a level of expectation they were unfamiliar with.

"Because of those expectations, the focus for the entire day centered on 'one race at a time,'" said Dawn. "If we worried about what was still to come or what had already happened, we couldn't focus on the now. And, with each 'now,' we continued to ask for God's help."

In the end, the Shamrocks finished just three points behind the state champs. Just days after winning the regional title, the girls track and field team brought home the first-ever runner-up trophy in track and field. In addition, Rylee Scheurer earned a state title for the 200 meter race.

The girls' varsity track and field team had already had an outstanding season, achieving remarkable milestones. They won trophies at five consecutive invitationals and secured the school's first-ever girls' track and field regional title, dominating the meet with 154 points. They finished 68 points ahead of the closest team. The team earned 49 all-region medals, and eight athletes advanced to the State Finals.

"I had no idea that we were even in the running for a

state title because of how small our team was," said Sophie Schrauben. "I realize now that, although we had a small team, almost every girl on our team qualified for states! It seems like everything we accomplished this year should have been impossible! I think it's important to remember that a small team can go just as far as a giant team can."

Teammate Rylee Scheurer added, "As the season went on, it became more and more apparent that we were a legit state title contender. What started out as a dream became reality as we won the first regional championship in SPS history and moved on to become state runners-up. Our great season was a result of a team that was willing to put in the work. We sacrificed for each other in order to accomplish a common goal and made memories that will last a lifetime."

Shamrock fans never disappoint their teams, and this team is aware and appreciative of that. "We had tremendous support from family, friends, teammates, and the community," said Dawn. "That allowed the team to do what no other St. Pat's track team has done."

Dawn was lucky enough to coach her daughter, Kenzie, who was an important part of the team. Kenzie echoed her mom's sentiments, "It meant a lot to have a large support group there to witness our efforts and support each girl on the team."

(Read more about the team on page 15)



THE SHAMROCK

A Shamrock Legacy Publication

by Sue Vanlente

If you looked closely at the front page of this newsletter, you may have noticed a slight change to the header. Beginning with this issue, *The Shamrock* will be joining forces with *A Shamrock Legacy*, the newsletter that Principal Randy Hodge has been sending out three times per year. Mari (Behovitz) Moyer has been helping Randy, and she will continue to work her magic with the school portion of the newsletters.

Readers will still get top notch information from both publications; the new schedule will give you a total of four newsletters each year. The summer and fall issues will be similar to this edition; the winter and spring issues will be shorter and will focus on news about the school and all of the great things that are happening there.

This is the 81st issue of *The Shamrock*. The newsletter began in the fall of 1989, the brainchild of the pastor, Father Richard Van Lente, and the school principal, Deacon Dale Hollern. The two men put together a small staff who were tasked with creating a newsletter to stay in touch with graduates.

The Shamrock is currently mailed to alumni, current parishioners, and anyone who requests it. Over 250,000 copies of *The Shamrock* have been mailed since 1989.



In 2011, this crew of volunteers inserted 3100 newsletters into envelopes and labeled them for mailing.

Here are some interesting tidbits from the past 34 years:

- In the beginning, the only way to contact us was by mail. In 1994 we added a fax number.
- In the spring of 2000 we added a school website. It was rudimentary, and nothing could be posted without written approval from the school principal.
- In the spring of 2010, a new "modern" school website began, one that was updated daily and did its best to contain current information.
- More than 170 people have been Spotlighted.
- By far, the most written-about individual has been Al Schrauben. He took so many teams to the State Finals, won so many awards, and provided so many witty quotes, that his distinctive title will surely remain for many decades!
- In the Fall of 2012 the front and back covers of the newsletter were printed in color for the first time. Five years later,

in the fall of 2017, the entire newsletter began to be printed in color.

- The newsletter began as a four-page publication, increasing in length through the years to 8, then to 12, to 16, and finally to its present 20-page format.

- For the first 20+ years, *The Shamrock* staff folded and labeled every newsletter, and carried them to the post office in trays.

- In the 34 years since it began, we have worked with many school principals, and every one of them was helpful and supportive of our efforts. Thank you to the following:

Deacon Dale Hollern

Sally Amman

Liz Kolarik

Mary Foy

Bill Heath

Sister Patricia Ann Kidder

Sarah Townsend

Roberta Bonner

Barb Tichvon

Frank Schneider

Ken Maher

Sister Maureen Field

Randy Hodge

Cortney Smith

We have found lots of Lost Sheep. We've covered many state finals games, lots of class reunions, auctions, goat raffles, the passing of The Pickle, numerous school/parish events, and even an American Idol contestant!

We are looking forward to this new joint venture and hope that you are, too!



In the Spotlight

Terry and Carmen Austen

Terry and Carmen Austen are such an important part of the St. Patrick family that it feels like they have been here forever. They came from Grand Rapids in 2010 and quickly settled in, making friends and getting involved in the school, the parish, and the community. Here is the story of how their faith and their life-journey brought them to us.

Terry grew up on a farm near Pembroke, Ontario. He was the second of three children (one brother and one sister). His mom was a teacher and his father a farmer who also worked lots of odd jobs. Terry went to Catholic school through elementary school and then attended the local public high school. His older sister was recruited by Calvin College to play softball and two years later Terry followed her and went to Calvin College, too. He was intrigued that he could study engineering at a Christian college, as this is not a common thing in Canada. After graduating college in 2005, Terry worked for GenTec in Zealand as a mechanical engineer.

Carmen grew up 30 miles north of Portland in the tiny little town of Butternut, Michigan. She is the second oldest of six kids (four brothers and one sister); her dad worked at GM and her mother was a stay at home mom. Carmen attended Carson City public schools K-12. She worked as a pharmacy technician and nurse aid through high school, and then went to Aquinas college to pursue a degree in nursing. After graduation in 2006, and after passing the nursing boards, Carmen traveled to Kenya for nine months to work as a nurse at St. Clare's mission hospital.

When she returned from Kenya, Carmen remembered a young adult group that she heard about when she was in college. At that time, her work and school obligations meant that she could never attend. Now she had time to check out the group that met at St. Thomas the Apostle Par-

ish in Grand Rapids. The group, *Koinonia* (which means "community" in Greek), met weekly, and it was in this community that Terry and Carmen met, formed a friendship, and then started dating.

Terry had already decided that he wanted to leave the engineering field to pursue a teaching degree. The couple was engaged and planned to be married on August 16, 2008. Just before the wedding, he resigned from his job and the young couple flew to Sydney, Australia, to attend World Youth Day, returning only three weeks before their wedding.

After their wedding, the Austens lived in Grand Rapids for two years, welcoming Francis and Maria to their family there. Terry attended school full-time and Carmen continued to work as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

It was in 2009 that Carmen heard about a math position opening up at St. Patrick Catholic School in Portland. Carmen

and Terry were both very interested in raising their family in a small town, and Terry knew he wanted to teach at a Catholic school. He applied for the job.

Unfortunately, Terry was not selected for the position and new plans were made for him to return to school full time in the fall. However, three weeks before the upcoming



The Austen family, in front of St. Andrew Cathedral when their oldest son was confirmed. Their children are Francis (14), Maria (13), Patrick (12), Benedict (9), Felicity (7), and Gianna (6).

(Continued on page 7)

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 May 23, 2024.

BIRTHS

To **Annalise (Kransz, 2008) and Brian Laumeyer** of Grand Rapids, a son, Aiden Brian Laumeyer, on April 27, 2023. Aiden joins big sister Lauren, age 4. Annalise works as the Director of Communications for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, so Aiden had the special privilege of being baptized by Bishop Walkowiak on August 12, 2023, at St. Sebastian Church in Byron Center.

To **Tate (2016) and Trissa Schrauben**, a daughter, Ayla Rose, on May 4, 2023.

To **Brett (2005) and Lauren Simon**, a son, Brooks Joseph, on June 26, 2023. He joins three brothers, Lawson (10), and twins Lennon and Atlas (7).

To **Lance and Melissa (Pohl, 2011) Thelen**, a daughter, Quinn Catherine, on July 21, 2023. She joins siblings Lydia (4) and Levi (1).

BAPTISMS

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

Carson Kreiner, son of Joe and Victoria Kreiner

Annley Lenneman, daughter of Bob and Casey Lenneman

Reese Moyer, son of Jacob and Mari Moyer

Andrew Schmitt, son of Casey and Julia Schmitt

Cora Heckman, daughter of Pat and Carolyn Heckman

Brayleigh Schrauben, daughter of Luke and Erika Schrauben

Jackson Brown, son of Ben and Megan Brown

Parker Hoppes, son of Alex Hoppes and Maddison Kempa

Delaney Mackowiak, daughter of Joe and Madison Mackowiak

Owen Rademacher, son of Bryan and Katie Rademacher

Emery Brown, daughter of Jeff and Jordan Brown

Presley Hinds, daughter of Derek and Ashley Hinds

Peyton Hodge, daughter of Sam and Amelia Hodge

Nora Schneider, daughter of Joshua and Emma Schneider

Brooks Simon, Son of Brett and Lauren Simon

Luke Smith, Son of Graham and Kenzie Smith

The following adults/older children were baptized at school Masses or at the Easter vigil:

Jodi Bowerman

Brandon Bigham

Jacob McLaughlin

Aaron Stahl

Henry Baltimore

Logan Howe

Blakeland Longanbach

Kensington Longanbach

Emma Williamson

ENGAGEMENTS

Adrienne Thelen (2011) and Justin Schaffer will be married at St. Patrick Church on September 30, 2023.

WEDDINGS

Allison Hodge (2015) and Jason Vismara were married July 22, 2023.

The following weddings took place at St. Patrick Church:

Erik Batten and Richelle Vallier on April 15, 2023

Daniel Johnson and Monica Bailey on April 29, 2023

Ryan Ramsey and Kailen Brennan on May 20, 2023

Jacob McLaughlin and Sydney Bartlett on June 9, 2023

Anthony Thelen and Jessica Schneider on June 10, 2023

Cody Brown and Mary Wernet on July 15, 2023

IN MEMORY OF

Nancy Kay Divish, age 78, of Eagle, passed away on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. She was born on April 13, 1945, in Ionia, the daughter of Robert and Irene (Trumble) Carpenter. Nancy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, enjoyed traveling, painting, and wine tasting. She retired from the State of Michigan Department of Education after many years. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister-in-law, Marilyn Carpenter. Nancy is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Robert "Bob" Divish; children, Steven (Christine) Divish of Zephyrhills, Florida, Scott (Kristina) Divish of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and April (Thomas) Debler of Charlotte, Michigan; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren with two on the way; one great-great-grandson on the way; sister, Mary Gale (Larry) Dingman; and brother, Robert J. Carpenter.

Esther Lavonne Irrer, passed away April 30, 2023, at the age of 88. She was born in Lyons, Michigan, on July 30, 1934, the daughter of LeRoy and Marie Mulinix. Esther was a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland; she worked at the Ionia County Commission on Aging. Esther enjoyed doing puzzles, watching birds, and sewing. She also loved watching the Detroit Tigers and Notre Dame Football. Esther will be missed by all who knew her. She is preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Irrer, Jr.; her parents; all of her siblings; and son, Tim Irrer. Surviving are her children, Lavonne (Mike) Franck, Marge Irrer, Eugene Irrer, Phillip (fiancé, Juanita) Irrer, and Nancy (Vern) Griswold; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Donald Mark Kavanagh passed away Monday, May 1, 2023. He was born on July 23, 1932, the son of James and Patricia (Cook) Kavanagh. Donald married Yolanda (Benjamin) Kavanagh and they shared 58 wonderful years of marriage while raising their family together. He was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. Donald retired from TRW after many years of service. He enjoyed traveling and wintering in Zephyrhills, Florida. Donald will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents, James and Patricia Kavanagh; wife, Yolanda Kavanagh; son, Dennis Kavanagh; brother, Joseph Kavanagh; and brother-in-law, Bill Piggott. Surviving are his children, Denise (Cheryl Visscher) Kavanagh of Freemont,

Peggy (Hank) Moczul of Bellaire, Barbara Kavanagh of Portland, William (Pamela) Kavanagh of Portland, Mike (Lisa) Kavanagh of Grand Rapids; daughter-in-law, Ruth Kavanagh; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren, with one on the way; sisters, Alice Piggott and Carol (Jack) Caroen; and sister-in-law, Marie Kavanagh. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to The Friends of The Red Mill, 858 Maynard Road, Portland in honor of Donald.

Former St. Patrick School teacher, **Lavern F. Emery Jr.**, 80, of Holiday, Florida, passed away on May 19, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Janet Emery; children, Matthew (Linda) Emery and Christine Emery; four grandchildren; and siblings Alan Emery, Michael Emery, and Joan Thompson.

Joseph Anthony Majinska Jr., age 69, of Mancelona, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Joe was born on May 20, 1954, in Hastings, to Joseph Anthony Sr. and Maudaline (Rathbun) Majinska. Growing up on the family farm in Lake Odessa gave Joe a work ethic that carried him through life. After graduating from Lakewood High School, Joe entered into the Penn State University Fire Suppression Apprenticeship Program. In 1975, he married Deborah E. King of Greenville, MI. Together they enjoyed 47 years of marriage and raised a family. In 2020 they retired to Northern Michigan, fulfilling their lifelong dream. He will be dearly missed by his wife Deborah; children Emily (Kale) Dicks and Joseph (Corrie) Majinska; two grandchildren; siblings, Jane (Ken) Gasper, and George (Susan) Majinska; brother-in-law Ron Bergeron; and many nieces and nephews. Joe was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings Mary Bergeron, Richard (Beth) Majinska, and Martha (Robert) Sturm.

Joseph Mathias Fedewa, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 12, 2023. He was born on November 21, 1937, in Niles, MI. The son of Henry and Rosa (Schrauben) Fedewa. Joe honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy (1956-1958) during the Cold War. Faith was a major part of his life. Joe was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a founding member of the St. Patrick School Board. He and his brother, Gerald, owned and operated Fedewa Brothers, for many years building quality homes around Portland and the surrounding areas. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gerald (Mary Catherine) Fedewa; sisters, Germaine (Fred) May and Rosemary (Tom) Pung. Surviving are his wife of nearly 65 years, Alice (Kolp); children, Lynn (Daniel) Babbitt, Mary (Wade) Finney, Amy (Greg) Kwast and Joseph "Mike" (Amy) Fedewa, seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Kathleen Bengel; the sister and brothers in-laws in the Kolp family; many nieces and nephews; life-long friends Jim and Rose Ann Hellman; and special friend, Ivan Lay. Memorial contributions may be made to St.

Patrick Church or to the American Heart Association in memory of Joseph.

Donald William Barker, age 76, of Climax, MI, formerly of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, after a five month battle with pancreatitis. He was born March 1, 1947, in Lansing, the son of Ralph and Dorothy (May) Barker. Don was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and served in the U.S. Army. He retired from T.R.W. after 37 years of service, was a lifetime member of the Oak Hill Gun Club and a member of the American Legion Post in Climax. Don enjoyed the outdoors, was an avid deer hunter, and enjoyed trap shooting. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Joseph Barker; sister, Rosemary Shinaver; father and mother in-law, Charles and Ruby Wilson; and brother-in-law, Gerald Wilson. Surviving are his wife of nearly 52 years, Betty; daughter Jennifer (Ryan) VanSolke-ma; three grandsons; brother, Charles Barker; brother-in-law, James Shinaver; and several 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 or contact Amy Smith at (517) 647-6505, ext. 410.

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

Gerald Peter Goodman, age 82, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side Monday afternoon, June 26, 2023. Jerry was born on May 12, 1941, the son of George A. and Dorothy J. (Trierweiler) Goodman. After graduating from St. Patrick High School in 1959, Jerry began his mechanical career on the assembly line at Oldsmobile, transitioning to Max Curtis Ford, Douglas Steel Fabricating, and then retiring from the State of Michigan Motor Transport Division. Early in his career, he served his country in the United States Army Reserve. Preceding Jerry in death are his parents; brother, Norman Goodman; mother and father-in-law, Norman and Edna Weber; in-laws, Arlene Weber, Jerry Fernholz, William Curns, Marvin Weber, and Patrick Vashaw; niece and nephews, Michelle Curns, Kevin Becker, and Ronald Shinaver, Jr. Surviving are his devoted wife of 58 years, Jane Goodman; children, David Goodman, Linda (Paul) Connell, and Laurie (Mike) Piggott; five grandchildren; siblings, Joyce Curns, Carol (Ronald, Sr) Shinaver, Eugene (Letha) Goodman, Ronald (Jane) Goodman, and Gladys Fernholz; in-laws, Joan Vashaw, Lee (Jane) Weber, Jerome Weber, Daniel

(Joyce) Weber, and Janice (Jim) Bollman; and many special nieces and nephews.

Margy E. Moyer, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away on Friday, June 30, 2023, at the age of 95 in Portland, with her family by her side. She was born on August 26, 1927, in Portland, the daughter of Guy and Pearl (Pryer) Peake. Margy was a cherished member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and actively participated in the Resurrection Choir. She will be remembered as a devoted wife, a nurturing mother, a faithful grandmother, and a dedicated member of her community. Margy was preceded in death by her parents, Guy and Pearl Peake, her stepmother, Maude Peake, her brothers, Wilbur (Mary) Peake, Lynn Peake, and Forrest "Bud" Peake; her step-sister, Mary Sewell, and her step-brothers, Jack and Charles Starr. She is survived by her beloved husband, John; children, Michael (Mary Jo) Moyer, David (Kathy) Moyer, Steve (Ok Sook Park) Moyer, and Anne (Mark) Wojtkowski; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Eleanor Peake; step-niece, Lindsey Kelleher; and many nieces and nephews.

Rev. Melvin Fox, age 85, died on Aug. 15, 2023. Melvin Edwin Fox was born on Jan. 8, 1938, to Fred and Rose (née Fassman) Fox in Beal City, Michigan, and was brought up by his parents alongside seven siblings. Father Fox attended Nottawa Township Schools and St. Philomena School in Beal City, St. Joseph Seminary in Grand Rapids, St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, and St. John Seminary in Plymouth. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1963, by Bishop Allen J. Babcock at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. In June 1963, Father Fox was appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart; in September 1963, parochial vicar of St. Francis Xavier; in June 1968, parochial vicar of St. Patrick in Portland; in August 1970, parochial vicar of Holy Spirit; in February 1972, administrator of Sacred Heart in Evart and St. Agnes in Marion; in October 1972, pastor of Sacred Heart in Evart and St. Agnes in Marion; in May 1978, temporary administrator of St. Philip Neri in Reed City and St. Ann Mission in Paris; in June 1979, pastor of Holy Family in Sparta; in June 1985, pastor of Prince of Peace in North Muskegon; in July 1997, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Ionia. He was granted senior priest status on July 1, 2009. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Lawrence B. Fandel, age 72, of Portland, Michigan, passed away on August 26, 2023. Larry was born on May 18, 1951, in Lansing, Michigan. He was the son of Bud and Bernadette Fandel. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Noreen Fandel; sister, Sheri Fandel; brothers, Jim Fandel and

(Continued on page 11)

School News!

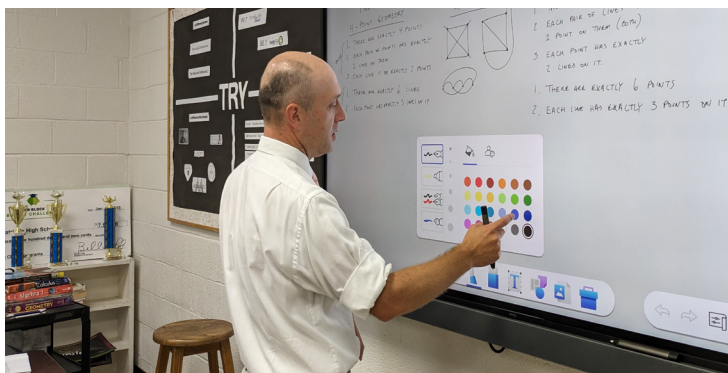
What's New at St. Patrick School for 2023-24

St. Patrick School is gearing up for another successful school year. There are many new and exciting changes. The following is a list of some of these changes:

Staff: We are excited to announce that we have hired several new staff members. Mrs. Jena Schafer is our first-grade teacher, Mrs. Casey Lennemen will teach second grade, and her aide is Ms. Cristina Cote. Mrs. Margaret Besson will teach fifth grade, and Ms. Chloe Cross has been hired to teach middle school religion and math. Shelly Corbeil and Wendy Mallek have been hired to work in our new infant/toddler childcare program.

Childcare Program Expansion: We have expanded our childcare program to include an infant/toddler room serving little ones from six weeks to three years of age. This is an exciting addition to our existing childcare program for three and four-year-olds, which began two years ago. We have hired two new part-time staff members: Shelly Corbeil and Wendy Mallek. We have also promoted Kaitlyn Simmons to a full-time position. Registration for this program is now open. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Aaron Thelen, Childcare Director, at aaronthelen@portlandstpat.org.

BenQ Boards: BenQ Boards were installed in the classrooms and parish hall over the summer. These boards are interactive large-screen displays that aim to maximize student engagement and enable impactful lessons. The school and parish staff received training on these new devices as part of our back-to-school professional development.



High school math teacher, Terry Austen, uses the new BenQ Board in his classroom.

PTO Used Uniform Room: The PTO Uniform Room is back. Our PTO has purchased clothing racks and hangers and completely reorganized the Uniform room, which is now located in Room #207 (the old teachers' lounge).

New PA System: The new Public Address (PA) system has been installed. Many challenges came up throughout the installation, but the new system was ready for our first day of school.

Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector Updates: Our fire alarm and smoke detector system has been completely updated over the past year. New fire alarms and smoke detectors were installed in August.

Construction: The west side of the St. Patrick School building has received a facelift throughout the summer. Tuck pointing and other major brickwork needed to be completed (see separate article on page 13). In addition, new sidewalks were installed in several areas around the school and church. Our maintenance and custodial staff have given the school its annual summertime cleaning, which has the school looking great. We are excited about all the work completed over the past year.

We are still enrolling new students. We encourage you to prayerfully consider a Catholic school education for your children. To schedule a tour or learn more, please call the school office at (517) 647-7551 or visit <https://portlandstpat.com/school/home/prospective-families/>. "Try Us, You'll Like Us!" and other scholarships are still available for new families. We ask you to pray for our students and staff as we begin the 2023-24 school year.

NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT CASEY LENNEMAN

POSITION: 2ND GRADE TEACHER

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:
BACHELORS IN ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION/MASTERS IN READING
AND LITERACY.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:
SPENDING TIME WITH
FAMILY/RUNNING.

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST
EXCITED ABOUT THE SCHOOL
YEAR:** WATCHING AND GUIDING
CHILDREN IN MY OWN
COMMUNITY GROW CLOSER TO
CHRIST.



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

Student SPOTLIGHT

Gracelyn Rockey

Our student spotlight is on freshman Gracelyn Rockey. She is the daughter of Bobby Rockey and Jocelyn Droste. She has two sisters, Gentry (fifth Grade) and Kollins.

Gracelyn is a very active member of St. Patrick School and Parish. While in eighth grade, Gracelyn was confirmed with her classmates, took driver's training, participated in girls' basketball and softball, and showed hogs at the Ionia Free Fair through her 4H program.

Gracelyn had the unique opportunity to play varsity basketball and softball. Since St. Patrick High School has an enrollment of less than 100 students, eighth graders may participate in high school sports. During the winter, she played forward on the basketball team, where she was named Honorable Mention All-League. She also had a very successful softball season. Her high school softball career began with her hitting two home runs for her first two at-bats, and she ended the season with 11 home runs total, setting a school record and putting her in the MHSAA record book. Gracelyn was named 1st Team All-League, All-District Shortstop, and Honorable Mention All-State.

Gracelyn is excited about the upcoming school year and starting high school. When asked to share her thoughts regarding her eighth grade school year, she said, "My time at St. Patrick's school has been filled with awesome memories so far. My eighth-grade year was filled with amazing opportunities, and I was only successful because of the people I was surrounded by. I was prepped for Confirmation by my family and teachers and then confirmed at the Cathedral with 29 classmates who are like family. I also had the opportunity to play varsity sports last year and am SO thankful for my teammates who helped me, made me stronger, and treated me so kindly when I was only in eighth grade. My coaches' and teammates' families also



wanted the best for me, which makes St. Patrick so unique. Everyone roots for and supports one another with their whole heart. I can't imagine having better friends to grow up with or better influences than my teachers and coaches. I look forward to growing in my faith and academics and mentoring younger kids at St. Patrick's to give back."

St. Patrick High School welcomes Gracelyn and the Class of 2027!

NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT CHLOE CROSS

POSITION: MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH AND RELIGION.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: GRADUATED FROM ST. PATRICK SCHOOL IN 2018. CONTINUED EDUCATION AT FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY RECEIVED BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HISTORY AND EDUCATION IN 2022.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: PLAYING AND COACHING SOFTBALL AND BASKETBALL, READING, AND MUSIC.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR: I AM MOST EXCITED TO COME BACK TO THIS COMMUNITY THAT HAS ALWAYS MEANT SO MUCH TO MY FAMILY AND MYSELF. I AM SUPER EXCITED TO MEET THE STUDENTS. I CANNOT WAIT TO HELP STUDENTS GROW AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR FAITH AND CHALLENGE ME TO LEARN EVERYDAY WITH THEM!



SPOTLIGHT ON THE AUSTENS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

school year started, he received a call and was asked, "So, are you still interested in the teaching position?"

The rest is history. Terry accepted the job as high school math teacher and commuted for one year. By then he was certain that he wanted to stay, and the decision was made to move to Portland.

Carmen said, "We could not be happier with our decision! The transition into a small town had its challenges, but we wouldn't change it for anything now."

The Austens have six children; all of them attend St. Patrick School. Terry still teaches math, and Carmen works for Corsocare Hospice as a Lansing area visiting nurse. Terry is a member of the Saturday morning men's group, an EMHC, and a choir member. Carmen is a member of the LIT women's group. Together they are a sponsor couple for engaged couples in the Marriage Ministry Team.

St. Pats Mega Rock Raffle

Sales for the second annual MEGA Rock Raffle are off to a great start. Last year, we started this raffle as a new way to provide financial support for St. Patrick Parish, School, and athletic programs. The goal was to minimize the number of raffles and fundraisers we have while still providing enough financial support for all our programs and investing in our future.



All school families received four tickets; if they sell them, all their students attending St. Patrick School will receive an out-of-dress code slip. All non-school families were provided three tickets. We hope they will purchase them, go in with others and share the cost, or sell them to help benefit the parish, school, and athletic programs.

Tickets may be purchased using our One Cause account at <http://bidpal.net/megarockraffle2023> (see the QR code at right) or by returning the printed tickets to the school or parish office. If additional printed raffle tickets are needed, they are available in the school or parish office.

Each individual ticket may be purchased for \$500. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets has the unique opportunity to buy two tickets and get one free ticket from July 1 through October 5. You may split tickets with other individuals (two people each donate \$250), and separate individuals can purchase one ticket each but share the

third (free) ticket. Winning tickets will be put back into the drawing each time, making winning multiple times possible. Stakeholder participation in this raffle is essential, as it will support our parish, school, and athletic budgets.

There will be four drawings with MEGA prizes taking place throughout the year. MEGA prize winners will be announced at the following events:

- Fall Festival on October 08, 2023
- Marriage Gala on February 10, 2024
- Shamrock Auction on April 19, 2024
- Parish Festival on June 22, 2024

There will be cash prizes totaling \$11,250 at each one of these events. The breakdown of cash prizes at each drawing are as follows:

- Grand Prize: \$5,000
- 2nd Prize: \$2,500
- 3rd Prize: \$1,000
- 4th Prize: \$750
- 5th Prize \$500 (2)
- 6th Prize: \$250 (4)



There will also be a monthly drawing on the last Friday of each month for ten months, with one \$500 winner per month beginning on Friday, September 29, 2023. The winner does not need to be present at any of the drawings to win.

If you have any questions about the MEGA Rock raffle, please contact Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.

NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT CRISTINA COTE

POSITION: TEACHER ASSISTANT

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION FROM FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

HORSEBACK RIDING, HIKING, GARDENING, BAKING.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR: I AM SO EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THE ST. PATRICK FAMILY IN A NEW ROLE WHERE I GET TO WITNESS AND BE A PART OF THE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH!



St. Patrick Senior Class

Has Your Life Changed? So Should Your Estate Plan

Have you ever looked at the calendar and marveled at what year it is? Has that much time really gone by? Time continues to go faster as we get older.

With time's passage comes change: Babies are born, loved ones depart, we move to a new town, we start a new job, laws get revised, we discover a new passion or cause; things are constantly changing. When changes happen, your estate plan must reflect them. Here are key categories to consider:

Timing: Did you write your will before 2001? A lot has changed in the world of estate taxes. For example, the amount you can leave to heirs without paying federal estate tax rose from \$675,000 to almost \$13 million in 2023.

Relationship status: A change in your marital or long-term relationship means you may want to alter your will and beneficiary designations.

Children: Perhaps you now have children or grandchildren and want to ensure you have provided for them. Or you created a will when the kids were young, and they are now grown and financially stable. Do you need to redo or update your will? Did you update your beneficiaries? Are your beneficiaries aware that they have been named as such?

Residence: Legal requirements and taxes vary by state. If you've moved to a new state since creating your will, you'll want to see what impact that may have.



Family and friends: Our connections with people sometimes shift over time. You may want to increase or decrease the amount left to specific individuals or add or remove them from your will or beneficiary designations. Is there a particular organization you wish to leave money to now but did not want to when you first completed your estate plan?

Pets: Ensure that your pets are cared for after you're gone. Name a guardian you trust and assign assets to provide for your pet's food and veterinary care.

Charitable causes: If you have formed new or stronger connections with specific nonprofits and want to take your support to the next level, you can set up gifts in your estate plan to ensure your values endure after your lifetime.

If St. Patrick School is part of your plan, we'd love to celebrate! Contact Randy Hodge at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or (517) 647-7551 today to let us know or to get our help while revising, updating, or establishing your estate plan.

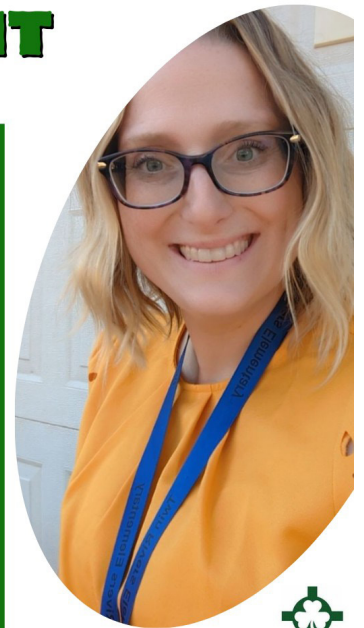
NEW TEACHER **SPOTLIGHT** JENA SCHAFFER

POSITION: 1ST GRADE TEACHER

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: I GRADUATED FROM CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN 2011. I WAS LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO DO MY STUDENT TEACHING AT ST. PAT'S IN THE SPRING OF 2011. I THEN STARTED MY CAREER WITH IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM 2011-2023. DURING THIS TIME, I WORKED AS AN INTERVENTIONIST FOR 3RD GRADE, DID TWO LONG TERM TEACHING JOBS IN KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE, THEN I TAUGHT KINDERGARTEN FOR 2 YEARS, SECOND GRADE FOR 3 YEARS AND FOURTH GRADE FOR 5 YEARS.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR: I AM SO EXCITED TO HELP TEACH STUDENTS THAT ATTENDED ST. PAT'S ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. I FEEL BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO TEACH WHERE MY CHILDREN ALSO GO TO SCHOOL.



Why St. Patrick Catholic School?

- Preschool through 12th grade on one campus
- The only Catholic High School in Ionia County
- Leading standardized test scores
- Earn college credits through dual enrollment classes
- STEM curriculum
- Inclusive clubs, activities, and athletic teams for all students
- Safe and supportive environment
- Low staff turnover

Our education is centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values. Come and see for yourself.

Take a guided tour, explore academic and extracurricular opportunities, meet school teachers and staff, talk to current school families, review scholarship and tuition options, and learn about a school where a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is fostered.

Schedule a private tour by contacting Cortney Smith cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org or 517.647.7551.

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

alumni news



Class of 1978

The **Class of 1978** gathered on May 6, 2023, to celebrate their 45-year class reunion. The celebration started with Mass, followed by dinner and drinks at the Wagon Wheel. By all the chatter and laughter, it appeared everyone enjoyed themselves. Sixteen classmates and many significant others were in attendance. (Not pictured, Mike Brown.)



Class of 1983

The **Class of 1983** gathered at the Wagon Wheel on Friday, June 24, and again on Saturday, June 25, 2023, to celebrate their 40-year reunion. On Saturday, most of the group also went to Summer Fest, where the 80's band, *Star Farm* was playing. Steve Lehnert travelled the farthest, coming from California; Bruce Smith was second, coming from Albuquerque. Former teacher, Jim Burns, attended, too. The class took the opportunity to salute and pay their respects to Mr. Vern Emery who had recently passed away. The Class of 1983 wants to thank the Wagon Wheel for the hospitality they were shown.



Class of 2003

On April 22, 2023, the **Class of 2003** gathered together at ConfluxCity to reminisce about all the fun they shared during their days at St. Patrick School. Twenty years have passed, but the fun and laughter was still very much present. Classmates enjoyed a few games along with delicious food and drinks. It was a good time for all who attended, and the ones who couldn't make it were missed.

Sister Evangeline Professes Perpetual Vows



Sister M. Evangeline Rutherford (Wendy Rutherford, 2009) professed her perpetual vows with the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana, on August 2, 2023. Sister graduated from MSU in 2013, with a B.S. degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In 2015 she entered her religious order. She is currently assigned to St. Francis Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana, where she works in the laboratory and also visits with patients. She lives at St. Elizabeth convent in Lafayette with six other sisters.

The picture above was taken at a party celebrating the occasion. Left to right: Andrew Rutherford (2007) and wife, Jenna; Sister Evangeline; parents, George and Linda Rutherford.

Education at St. Pat's is centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values.

Spotlight on the Athletic Association

When St. Patrick Parish opened its new high school in the early 1950's, the first Shamrock athletic teams were formed. One early concern was how the teams would be supported financially since the parish did not have the funds to do it. In 1951, under the guidance of the pastor, Father Louis Flohe, and associate pastor, Father Robert Heyer, St. Patrick's Athletic Association was formed. This organization would be responsible for raising the funds necessary to support the new Shamrock sports program.

Though the program has grown tremendously since that time, and now boasts more than 20 athletic teams plus a Quiz Bowl team, the Athletic Association still raises the money to provide the Shamrocks with whatever they need to be productive and safe. Currently the athletic budget runs over \$250,000 per year.

According to Treasurer Dan Lawless, fundraising has changed in recent years. The Fall Festival is no longer a revenue raising event, instead it provides an opportunity for parishioners and others to spend social time together. The Fall Festival Raffle and Sport Raffle were eliminated last year and rolled into the MEGA Raffle, a portion of which goes to the Athletic Association.

Dan says, " We continue to sell family and individual season passes; but beginning this school year, 50/50 raffles at home games will not be allowed. So, our major sources of revenue are now the MEGA Raffle and the Shamrock Auction. Other sources of income are gate admission, concessions, and the merchant-sponsored baseball/softball banners, which hang on the fences in the spring."

He continues, " We work with the administration on grounds projects and any other items that we can assist with. We recently purchased a new net to go between the baseball and softball fields and are in the process of working to develop a pulley system to raise and lower the net. We had a recent donation of weights that are now in the new weight room in the Father Flohe building and the group has worked to finish the interior of that building. We are also working on getting a fence installed along the west side of the Father Flohe property between the goal posts and the parking lot."

Since the pandemic, Athletic Association membership has declined, and the group would like to invite parents and other interested parishioners to stop in at one of their meetings and to consider joining them. Meetings are typically held on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Active members who attend eight meetings per year will receive complimentary season passes which allows the member and their immediate family to attend all home games free of charge.

If you would like more information about the Athletic Association, contact any of the officers: President Andy Mosser, Vice President Mike Coyne, Secretary Kim Schrauben, Treasurer Dan Lawless.

Mission Statement

St. Patrick's Athletic Association is committed to providing St. Patrick's Parish and School with financial support to afford our students the opportunity to participate in a school athletic program. In support of this, we will provide high quality coaches, uniforms, equipment and facilities.

#shamrockpride



WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Robert (Roxanne) Fandel; sons, Tim (Lyndsey) Fandel, Mike (Linna) Fandel, Chris Fandel (deceased), Scott Fandel, Nick Fandel, and Justin Fandel; daughters, Theresa (Eric) Spitzley, Carrie Fandel, Christy Fandel, Amy (Adam) Most, and Jennifer (Nick) Lowe; 22 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Larry was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp, serving during the Vietnam War. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, canning pickles, and especially watching old western movies. He especially loved all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed and loved by all who knew him.

Michael Trierweiler, 64, of Portland, died on August 30, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pat and Patty Trierweiler and his son, Hartlee. He is survived by siblings, Tony (Karen) Trierweiler, Pam (Ernie) Luna, Rick (Deb) Trierweiler, and Chris (Jamie) Trierweiler; and several nieces and nephews.

Complete obituary information for the deceased who were local can be found at <https://www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com/>.



St. Patrick Church

Restoration

UPDATE

by Ken Schneider

Revised Plans for Church

Plans to restore St. Patrick Church have evolved and now include a church expansion which will meet the long-term needs of the parish. Canon law and the directive from Bishop Walkowiak state that priests in the Grand Rapids Diocese can conduct no more than two Masses on a Sunday. This means that we will require additional seating in our church, especially during Christmas and Easter seasons. With fewer men entering the priesthood, there is little hope that St. Patrick Parish will get an associate pastor for the foreseeable future.

As such, the plans will increase church seating from 450 to over 700 by expanding the church with east and west wings that will result in the floor plan taking on a cruciform shape, a common design of Catholic churches since the great cathedrals of Europe were constructed.

Preliminary plans are to construct an addition to the east where the musicians are currently located, and an addition to the west where the handicap entrance is currently located. A handicapped accessible confessional will be moved into the current chapel area, and the choir and musicians will be relocated to the balcony. The parish has contracted with Progressive A/E architectural firm to draw the plans and provide a construction cost estimate.



the church to the school building with a vestibule that will have an entrance from the upper parking lot (the area between the church and school). The vestibule will also provide access to the proposed parish and school offices. The new office space will be constructed north of the parish hall. This proposed plan also includes two additional classrooms above the new parish and school offices. Future plans envision using the current school office space as part of the athletic and physical education programs but are not included at this time.

Locating parish and school offices in the same building will allow personnel to work together. Office space for our priest, deacon and school administrators will have sound dampening walls so that meetings with parishioners or parents will provide more privacy. Currently Deacon Don and music director James Tavadze share an office in the church basement. This will allow them improved office space.

The additional classroom space will provide room for our preschool and daycare programs and also the large kindergarten and first grade classes, which require two classrooms each. Currently, the preschool and daycare center are located in the school basement, with no outside windows, a less than ideal situation. Since 2008 the number of K-12 students has increased by over 3%. The additional classroom space will allow our enrollment to continue to grow.

There is no firm cost estimate at this time, but the design and cost estimate will be made available to parishioners and school parents when they are finalized. It will require a capital improvement pledge drive to pay for the church restoration, adequate staff office space, and to meet the educational needs of St. Patrick Parish for the following decades.

Thank you for your generous donations in the past. With your continued support, plans are to complete this work during the summer of 2024.



The **preliminary** design connects the western side of

Major Summer Maintenance and Repairs

Two projects were planned for St. Patrick Parish this summer, a new shingled roof for our church and exterior masonry repairs to the school. The masonry work has nearly been finished, just in time for the new school year to begin.

Masonry repairs included replacing damaged bricks and repairing failing masonry joints. Most of the necessary work was located on the original 1950 portion of the school, and involved grinding out the damaged mortar before adding new mortar to the joints. A sealer was also applied to prevent any further water damage. Parishioner, Tom Daily of Prius Masonry, performed the work.



As reported in the last issue of The Shamrock, the church roof was inspected and found to have damage from the 2015 tornado as well as the May 2023 hail storm. Cost to replace the shingles will be over \$200,000, but fortunately, our property damage insurance will cover the anticipated costs. The commercial grade shingles to be installed have a life expectancy of 50 years, so the new roof should last well in the 2070's. Work should be completed this year.

Thank you to the 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023

of graduates from our five Catholic high schools

310

98%

Graduation rate

of military-bound graduates

3

% of graduates attending college

92%

of graduates attending trade school

8

\$39,327

Average scholarship per college-bound graduate

\$9,005,507

Accepted scholarships





YOUTH MINISTRY: Big Plans for the New School Year

by Nikki Brown



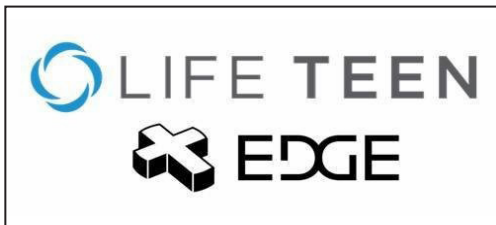
The start of a new school year always brings so much excitement. This year feels like there is extra excitement since this also means it is the start of our revival of the youth ministry programs for our high school and middle school parishioners! This summer in the youth ministry corner of our parish has mostly been spent prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction for our youth groups and we are so excited to begin this fall!

We will be using programs from a company called Life Teen ("Life Teen" for high school and "Edge" for middle school) that specializes in providing Catholic youth ministry programs that are relational, fun, engaging, and rich with the beauty of our faith. This allows me and our volunteers to put on amazing nights while being able to focus our efforts on building relationships with each student to be able to walk with them along their journey closer to Christ.

Middle School (7th and 8th grade): Our middle school youth ministry program will consist of our parish students in 7th

and 8th grade and will be using the program called *Edge*. We have an amazing group of adult volunteers (CORE team)

and high school students (Leadership Team) who have said "yes" to the Lord's call to serve these teens in this capacity! Our *Edge* kickoff event will be on Sunday, September 17, from 5:30-7:00 pm and will meet each Sunday evening at that same time in the Parish Hall.



High School (9th-12th grade): Our high school youth ministry program will use the program *Life Teen*. Life Nights will have their kickoff event on Sunday, October 1, from 7:30-9:00 pm and will run twice a month on the first and third Sundays of each month at the same time in the Parish Hall. Our CORE group of adult volunteers are being assembled to walk with our high school aged students and diving deeper into their love for our Lord!

6th grade youth ministry: We will have quarterly opportunities for this age group to come together and begin to build a community with each other. These will be fun social nights designed to get to know the kids and help them build friendships that will carry them into their middle school and high school youth ministry years. More information on these nights will be forthcoming!

If you know any of our parish teens or tweens in these age groups, encourage them to step outside of their comfort zone and attend! But most of all, please pray that what is done through the youth ministry programs gives glory to God and provides an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work within all our hearts!

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, feel free to reach out! nikkibrown@portlandstpats.org or 517-647-6505 ext 1092.

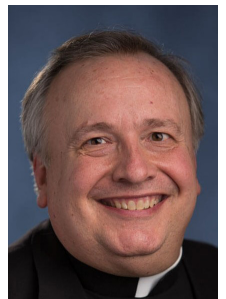
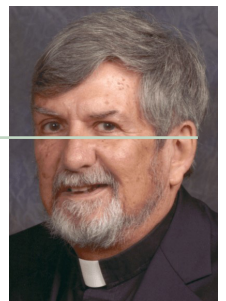


RETIREMENTS

Two former St. Patrick priests, Fr. Charles Hall and Fr. Mark Przybysz, have entered into senior priest status. This status is similar to retirement, which means that they are no longer assigned to one parish.

Fr. Charlie was pastor at St Patrick Parish from 1997 to 2004, managing the final stages of our church remodeling and also the addition to the school.

Fr. Mark was an associate priest in the early 1990s at St. Patrick Church, and has been assigned to parishes in West Michigan since that time. You can read more about Fr. Mark in his interview with WOOD TV: <https://www.woodtv.com/.../west-side-priest-ready-to-.../>



Thanks to Fr. Charlie and Fr. Mark for your priestly service to our parish and diocese!

RTL President Retiring

by Pam Brown

Having been president of Portland Right to Life for the past 22 years, I feel it is time to pass the baton to a new generation and pray that someone who has a passion for the cause will step up to lead our group. Currently we have members from five different religious denominations, working together to save as many lives as we can.



Portland RTL has been in existence since 1984 and is one of over 80 affiliates of Right to Life of Michigan. We have field representatives who keep us informed of what's happening with legislation, current events, and what we need to focus on in any given situation. We have 150 members who send in membership dues each year.



Now that abortion is engrained in the Michigan Constitution, the future of Right to Life of Michigan is going in a new direction, focusing more on what we can do to help the women who are in difficult circumstances, and to get the truth out to young people about the ramifications of abortion; we need to let them know there are alternatives.

In the past, much of the money we raised went to support pro-life candidates and to help get pro-life laws passed. Our focus now is to help places like pregnancy centers, Project Rachel, Jacob's Ladder, and Jessica White's new mission, *Life On Display*. She takes her portable ultrasound machine around to schools and lets the students see what life looks like in the womb.

If you feel a calling to become involved with this mission, or if you would like to support us financially by becoming a dues-paying member (\$25 per year), please contact Pam Brown at brownpambill@hotmail.com. The person who steps forward to become the new president will have plenty of guidance from the Right to Life of Michigan field reps, and from me, personally.

GIRLS TRACK TEAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Individually, Rylee Scheurer became a state champion by finishing first in the 200 meters. The 4 x 400 team of Siena Schafer, Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, and Kenzie Fedewa secured second place.

In addition, the team broke several track records during the 2023 season:

The 4x100 relay team of Kyra Kinsman, Izzy Kissane, Kenzie Fedewa, and Rylee Scheurer ran 51.87, surpassing the 1993 record.

The 4 x 200 relay team of Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, Kenzie Fedewa, and Rylee Scheurer achieved a time of 1:47.62, surpassing the record set in 2017.

The 4 x 400 relay team of Siena Schafer, Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, and Kenzie Fedewa set a new school record at 4:09.32 during the state finals, breaking the previous record set in 2016.

Junior Rylee Scheurer broke the school records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dash at the state finals.

Sophomore Kenzie Fedewa set a new school record in the 800-meter with a time of 2:23.25.

Junior Sophie Schrauben broke the school records in both the 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles.

Additionally, Rylee Scheurer, Sophie Schrauben, Kenzie Fedewa, Kyra Kinsman, and Cozette Brown received Academic All-State honors for their impressive combination of grade point average and state finals performance.



Rylee Scheurer was the state champion in the 200 meter dash.



Kenzie Fedewa, Sophie Schrauben, Izzy Kissane, Siena Schafer were the 4 x 400 relay team.

Priests of St. Pat's

We received a request from former teacher and coach, Ken Johnson, to print a list of all of the priests who have served at St. Patrick Parish since Father Flohe. In response to Ken's request, here is a list of all of the pastors since the parish was founded in the late 19th century, along with their major parish accomplishments.

The Founding of the Parish

Our History began in 1870's when the spiritual leadership of the Catholics in the Portland area was in the care of the Bishop of Detroit. On July 14, 1878, **Fr. Charles G. Bolte** of Ionia was authorized by Bishop Borgess of Detroit to build a church in Portland. The church was made a mission of St. Johns. **Fr. H. C. Koenig** came every other Sunday to celebrate Mass and brought many improvements to the newly built church. Frs. Grimme, Fenner, Ryan, and Holten also helped in Portland at this time.

Irish Parishioners Name the Church

During this time, the names Moriarty, Miller, Mathews, Siebel, Lawless, Manning, Sonday, and Kilmartin were most often mentioned. They were probably some of the original Irish settlers, and they named the new church after the great apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick.

German Settlers Arrive



Between 1899 and 1908, the Catholic community grew steadily with German families moving in from the Westphalia area. **Fr. Mathias Auer**, a German immigrant, succeeded Fr. Koenig and was named the first pastor of St. Patrick's Parish. Fr. Auer made Portland his "home" in life and death. The parishioners, numbering approximately 60 families, built a rectory for him.

Fr. Auer directed the construction of a school, and approximately 80 to 90 students were enrolled. The Sisters of St. Joseph came to administer the school system and teach the children.

They lived on the second floor of the school.

In April, 1908, Fr. Auer died and was buried in Portland Cemetery.

Fr. John Koelzer succeeded Fr. Auer, and under his guidance, two homes located in the church block were transformed into a convent. It was also during Father Koelzer's tenure that the fast-growing Catholic congregation outgrew their frame church and planning began to build something bigger. In preparation for a larger one, Fr. Koelzer had the wooden church moved to the southeast corner of West and Center Streets and converted it into a parish hall. In 1931 it was destroyed by fire.

Fr. John Griffin was the pastor at St. Patrick Parish for just two years, but during his short time here, the planning for the new church continued. Father Griffin held a competition to determine the architect of the new church to be built. Harry Mead was chosen, but before construction could begin, Fr. Griffin died at the age of 38 after an unsuccessful surgery.

Fr. William O'Rourke became the pastor of St. Patrick and took over the in-progress planning to build a new church. Fr. O'Rourke disregarded Fr. Griffin's choice of Harry Mead as architect and instead gave the job to Henry Walsh. A brief legal battle ensued.

The New Church Opens in 1926

By 1926 the new church was built in a Gothic-Tudor style according to designs Fr. O'Rourke had obtained from a rural church in England. Cost for the new church was \$80,000. The seating capacity was approximately 550.

In 1927 the pipe organ was installed, paid for by church organizations at the cost of \$3500. Light fixtures, altar canopy, and pulpit were made of wrought iron by Fred Russman, Sr., a local blacksmith. In 1928 a bell was purchased for the new church and was dedicated in memory of Fr. H. Koenig and other founders of the Catholic community. The names of Rose and Mary Manning, Jerry Moriarity, and Nick Lawless together with that of Fr. Koenig are inscribed on the bell. It has been preserved and is on display in the lobby of the school.

Three Dioceses

Fr. Joseph Rochford became pastor after Fr. O'Rourke. In 1937, under Fr. Rochford, St. Patrick Parish was transferred from the Diocese of Detroit to the fledgling Diocese of Lansing. **Fr. Joseph Kohler** became pastor of St. Patrick while it was a part of the Diocese of Lansing, but in 1938, his first year as pastor, the parish was transferred again, this time to the Diocese of Grand Rapids where it remains today.

Father Flohe Arrives



In 1945, 45-year old **Fr. Louis Flohe** became pastor and served at St. Patrick Parish for seven-teen years, until his death in 1962. He was by far the longest serving pastor of St. Patrick Parish. During his time as pastor, Fr. Flohe made many significant improvements to the parish.

In 1946 he purchased the land diagonally across the street from the church. The land was owned by Ionia County. Today this land holds the baseball and softball fields and is known as Fr. Flohe Field. In 1951 Fr. Flohe tore down the 1906 school building and built a more modern school. In 1961, less than a year before he died,

he built an addition to this school, which doubled the classroom space and included a basement cafeteria. For all of his work at St. Patrick Parish, Fr. Flohe was awarded the title of Monsignor.

When he died in 1962, Monsignor Flohe's open coffin sat in the center aisle of St. Patrick Church and hundreds of parishioners paid their final respects to a man who had done so much for their parish.

Vatican II Brings Changes

With much of the needed construction finished, the next two pastors at St. Patrick Parish had an easier time. **Fr. Julius Amman** was pastor at St. Patrick Parish for two years, during the Second Vatican Council. **Fr. Stephen Kolenic** was pastor for six years during which time he oversaw the changes made by Vatican II. During the final months of Father Kolenic's tenure, the Sisters of St. Joseph discontinued teaching at St. Patrick High School, and the high school came perilously close to closing.

Fr. Joseph Malewitz arrived in 1970. During his time as pastor he oversaw the building of the Rectory/Parish Office Building that is still in use today. Father Malewitz suffered a heart attack in 1974 and was no longer able to serve as pastor.

In 1974, Fr. Donald Weber arrived at St. Pat's and was here for almost ten years, during which time he oversaw the remodeling of the sanctuary to meet the standards set by Vatican II.

FFF Helps Stabilize School Finances

Fr. Richard VanLente served as pastor for much of the 1980s during which time he stabilized the financial status of St. Patrick Church and School and helped found the Father Flohe Foundation (FFF). The foundation helps fund the school and offers scholarships. It is still active and successful today.

Fr. Julian Reginato was St. Patrick's Pastor for seven years and began the renovation of many of the parish buildings in preparation for the parish's centennial in 1999. Additional properties were purchased for future expansion. The convent became identified as the "Annex" and began use as a center for our newly formed religious education program designed to administer all religious educational needs of parishioners, both youth and adult.

New Parish Hall and School Addition

Fr. Charles Hall arrived in June 1997. He inherited the renovation project begun by Fr. Reginato and presided over the 1999 Parish Centennial. In 2001 Fr. Hall oversaw the building of a new addition to the school completing the school as it stands today.

Fr. Larry King presided over the 2006 school centennial, bought several buildings and plots of land for future expansion, and started and continued numerous programs in and around the parish.

Fr. Mike Alber arrived in 2018, and began the huge task of updating the parish office building, returning it to its original purpose, a rectory. He has also overseen updates and improvements to the school and church (see separate articles on page 12.)

Prayer for Our Priests

Lord, thank you for the gift of all the priests who faithfully served the people of St. Patrick Parish.

For those who have passed, may eternal light shine upon them.

For those who continue to serve, lift them up.
Grant them the graces they need to administer to your people.
Keep them pure and strong in your love.
Give them courage when things are difficult.
Accompany them when they are lonely,
and strengthen them in times of weakness.
Amen.

1899-1908	Father Mathias Auer
1908-1920	Father John Koelzer
1920-1922	Father John Griffin
1922-1934	Father William O'Rourke
1934-1938	Father Joseph M. Rochford
1938-1945	Father Joseph Kohler
1945-1962	Monsignor Louis Flohe
1962-1964	Father Julius Amman
1964-1970	Father Stephen Kolenic
1970-1974	Father Joseph Malewitz
1974-1983	Father Donald Weber
1983-1990	Father Richard Van Lente
1990-1997	Father Julian Reganato
1997-2004	Father Charlie Hall
2004-2018	Father Larry King
2018-present	Father Mike Alber



PORTLAND ST. PATRICK
FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2023

12PM-5PM AT THE PORTLAND CONSERVATION CLUB

- TAILGATE FOR LIONS/PANTHERS GAME
- MEGA ROCK RAFFLE
- FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND KID ACTIVITIES (WEATHER PERMITTING)
- TICKETS: \$15 IF PURCHASED IN ADVANCE, \$20 AT THE DOOR, AND KIDS UNDER 5 ARE FREE
- TICKETS INCLUDE: 2 HOT DOGS OR BRATS, CHIPS AND DESSERT, AND 2 DRINK TICKETS
- CHECK SCHOOL OR PARISH WEBSITE FOR TICKET FORM, OR EMAIL [SCHRAUBENKA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:schraubenska@gmail.com)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Upcoming EVENTS

Class of 1973 50-Year Reunion Sept 9, 2023
 Veterans Day Celebration Nov 10, 2023
 Next Issue of *The Shamrock (School Edition)* Dec 1, 2023
 Catholic Schools Week Jan 28-Feb 3, 2024
 Spring Issue of *The Shamrock (School Edition)*..... Feb 14
 Summer Issue of *The Shamrock (Full Edition)* June 14
 Confirmation..... TBD
 First Communion..... TBD
 Graduation May 19, 2024
 Summer Fest June 22-23, 2024
 Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion Sept. 7, 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.

School website: www.portlandstpats.com/school
 Parish website: 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
 Alumni site: www.portlandstpats.com/schoolalumni

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

The Shamrock and Shamrock Legacy are published four times annually and are mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick alumni, St. Patrick parishioners, and upon request.

Lost Sheep

Despite the continuous work 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 given their own accounts in our parish database. Their addresses remain the same as yours because we assume that they won't have their own permanent addresses 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.

Earlier this month a long lost sheep, Mike Binder (1981) contacted us. He'd been on our list for decades! Let's try to find these others. Thanks for your help!



1953 Roy Bauer	1982 Jeff Strang
1956 Rita (Bauer) Cummings	1983 Steve Lehnert
1967 John D. Pung	1983 Rich Strang
1961 Donald Mleko	1983 Kirk Noren
1962 Gene Miller	1983 Marilyn Tallmadge
1965 Steve O'Leary	1985 Scott Osmar
1966 Mike Feldpausch	1983 Darcy Hinds Vandecar
1969 Patty Thelen Koenigsnecht	1984 Thersa Schoenherr Fensom
1972 Wayne Thelen	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1973 Mark F. Brooks	1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa
1975 Susan Thelen	2000 Jeffrey Pung
1975 Patricia Cook Leppo	2001 David Rademacher
1976 Cathy Clark	2002 John Carter
1977 Fred Tallmadge	2004 Don Volman
1977 Rick Bailey	2005 Anthony Fedewa
1979 Harold Pierce	2007 Marki Stimpson Keusch
1980 Angie Young	2013 Dakota Bonner
1980 Patrick Ellis	



The words in the puzzle are names of past priests, principals, and administrators at St. Patrick Parish. Find all 21 of these people, and the letters that are leftover will spell out the answer, a great commentary from Pope St. John Paul II. 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 October 15, 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: _____

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

ALBER

FOY

KING

TICHVON

AMMAN

FRANK

KOLARIK

TOWNSEND

BONNER

HEATH

MAHER

TROY

BOUFFORD

HODGE

MARK

CHARLIE

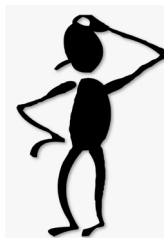
HOLLERN

PETER

CORTNEY

JULIAN

ROUECH



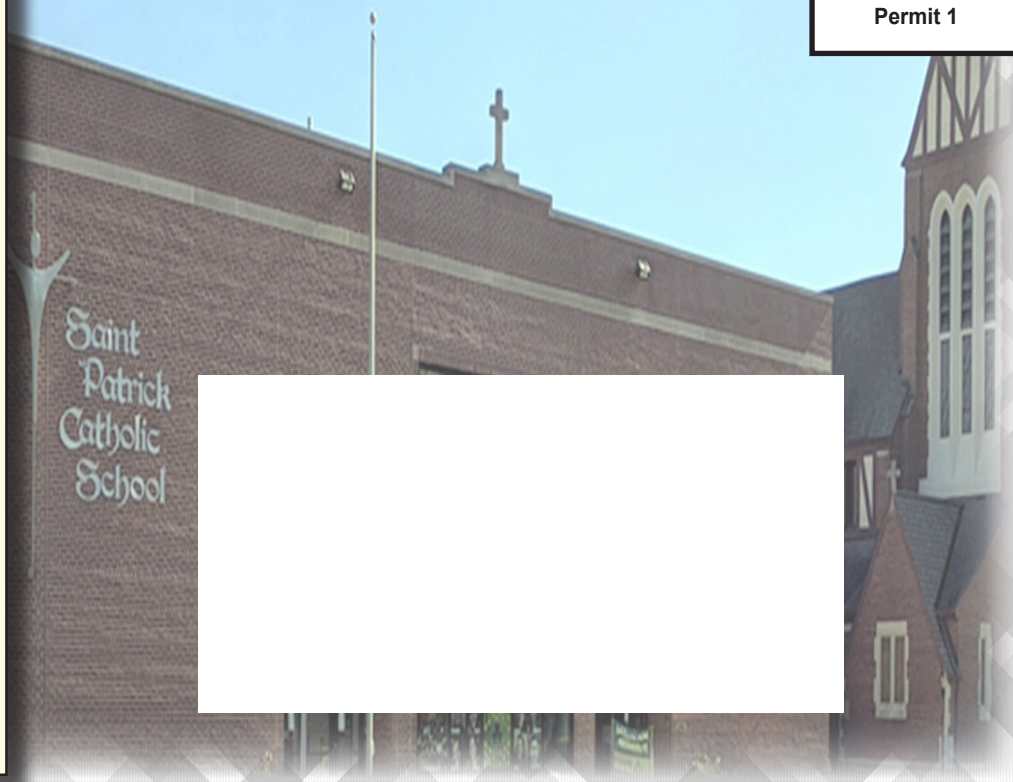
The hidden phrase in the last issue was a little tricky. Nevertheless, over 40 people had the correct answer, "HE KNOWS NOTHING. HE THINKS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING. THAT CLEARLY POINTS TO A POLITICAL CAREER." The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Casie (Wilcox) Bayless of Portland, who received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Casie!

(We must have jinxed Joyce Rogers by mentioning in the last issue that she is always the first entry we receive. Marie Badder beat Joyce this time by a little more than two hours!)

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