



THE SHAMROCK

A Shamrock Legacy Publication

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

The End of an Era Al Schrauben Announces Retirement

Much has been written about Al Schrauben over the years, and when he announced his retirement a few weeks ago, every news agency in the mid-Michigan area wrote or talked about him. Every article cited his 40-years of coaching and his remarkable record of 729-208 which places him third in the state, according to the MHSAA.

But, those who know Al personally or from observing him closely through the years know that there is so much more to this man than the media will ever know. He landed in the girls basketball coaching position unexpectedly, and no one dreamt that he would soon settle into that role and become one of the most notable and successful coaches in the state.

Al's wife Karla said that the first few years were stressful for her. They had a young family and Al was still helping coach football and baseball. But once he focused on girls basketball, the stressful life changed into one that she embraced and cherished.

In talking to Al, it's amazing, that having coached nearly 1000 games, he can remember so many individual moments. He remembers the first time he drove the bus, carrying junior high players to Fowler. He misjudged the distance it would take to stop and took the corner at Divine Highway and Kimball Road a little too fast! He said that is when kids began praying before games.

He remembers missing a turn on the way to a game in Homer, and ending up in Albion, where a Christmas parade was going on. He claims, in typical Al fashion, that he nearly ran over some elves as he maneuvered into an area that was closed to traffic. Whether or not the green bus, affectionately known as The

Pickle, actually ended up in the parade is not clear. They did, however, make it to Homer on time!



Al and Karla and their family. The photo was taken at Saginaw Valley University in February. Adam and Stacey with Brooks 6 months and Allie 2 1/2; Kyle and Katie with Sloan 7 and Chloe 2 1/2; Alex and Rachel with Edison 3.

He said that his most memorable game is the regional final game against Frankford in 2004. Al drove the bus, and on the way north they ran into a blinding snowstorm. It took 1 1/2 hours to go from Lowell to Muskegon, and the entire trip to Manistee took over five hours.

The start of the game had to be delayed so that the Lady Shamrocks could warm up when they finally arrived. The game itself turned out to be a white-knuckler, but one that the Shamrocks pulled off with a win, 43-41.

Karla's favorite memory is the state final game against Ashley in 1996. The Shamrocks trailed most of the game, and with just 16 seconds left on the clock they were down by five and starter Cindy Smith had just fouled out. But, a turn of events, including an unforgettable buzzer shot by freshman Janet Russman forced the game into overtime, where St. Pat's won 53-47. They were three-peat state champs!

Both of the Schraubens cherish their memories of the annual basketball camp at Manistee Catholic which became a tradition for many Shamrock families. That is where they discovered a pizza shop called Big Al's. The team members wanted to buy Al a shirt from the restaurant, but the only shirts available were the ones that the staff were wearing. One of the workers took off his own shirt, with a pizza sauce stain on the front, and gave it to the girls for their coach. That shirt, signed by all of the team members, is framed and hanging in Al and Karla's basement.

Stories about Al could fill volumes and provide hours of laughter and entertainment. Several of his former players shared their favorite memories, beginning on page 8.

A retirement party has been planned for Al and Karla, on Saturday, June 22, from 1:00-3:00 in the Entertainment Tent at Summer Fest. Be sure to stop in to wish them well!

[All About Al continues on page 8]



THE SHAMROCK

A Shamrock Legacy Publication

by Sue Vanlente

It's been one full year since we combined our two newsletters, *The Shamrock* and *The Shamrock Legacy*. Because there still seems to be a lot of confusion about this endeavor, here is an explanation.

Beginning in the summer of 2023, the two newsletters were combined into one, *The Shamrock--A Shamrock Legacy Publication*. Four issues will be published each year.

I continue to be in charge of the summer and fall issues, and they will look like this newsletter, containing the *What's Happening* information and lots of parish news.

Deacon Randy Hodge is in charge of the winter and spring issues, which will focus solely on school news and development information.

If you have any questions, at any time, please contact me at (517) 575-8000 or Deacon Randy at (517) 647-7551.

Former Pastor Celebrates 60th Jubilee

"It was a mild December Saturday in Washington, DC. In the Church of the Holy Rosary, next to the White House the heavy hands of Archbishop Vagnozzi, the Apostolic Delegate, pressed hard on my head. A moment of powerful silence and I was a Priest in the line of one of the twelve Apostles. Only the next day did I fully perceive what had really changed.

"Sunday, was my first Mass. 'Take and eat, this is my Body given for you!' I genuflected! All at once I felt the awesome power of those words. I was a Priest! Sixty years ago! I never guessed where the priesthood would lead me. What a life! Every day a new day, a new experience! I traveled the world, looking for sisters and brothers. I always found them in Jesus!"

These are the words of Father Julian Reganato, reflecting upon the day of his ordination in 1964. Fr. Julian is preparing to celebrate his 60th Jubilee Anniversary on December 19, 2024. During his 60 years as a priest, he has been a blessing to people all over the world.

He describes an experience a few years after ordination. "From 1966-1969, I moved to an ancient Medieval City with Bishop Luciani, later Pope John Paul I, now a saint. Among other ministries, he appointed me Chaplain in a Monastery of Cloistered Nuns. "Bishop, do you think I am too young for that?" He looked at me, smiled and said, 'But you are a priest!' I thought of Saint Paul and young Timothy."

Back in the United States, Fr. Julian worked in North Carolina, ministering to the poorest of the poor in the Black communities. When he integrated an all-white parish in



I have been reading The Shamrock for many years. Your Fall 2023 issue was truly remarkable. It was jam-packed with interesting articles and features. By far the best edition I have ever seen. THANK YOU.

Sincerely, George Johnson

Proud Husband and Father of St. Patrick graduates

First, let me say how much I thoroughly enjoy reading this newsletter! Always great information. I loved the section on "Priests of St. Pat's." It brought back many fond memories. You all are doing great work. It's so appreciated!

Brenda (Schrauben, 1984) Smith

Lincolnton, NC, he drew the ire of the local KKK. He didn't let it phase him and stayed put, continuing God's work.

In 1974 Fr. Julian came to Michigan and began serving the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Sixteen years later, the Bishop sent him to Portland St. Patrick. Father Julian had three goals at St. Pat's: To renovate the aging church; to bring the parish back together again; and to lead the great Shamrocks, boys and girls, to State Championships. He won on all three scores!

Shamrock fans from the early 90's will undoubtedly remember seeing Fr. Julian on the sidelines at the football games. He loved the game and he loved the Shamrocks! What he didn't love were bad calls by the refs!



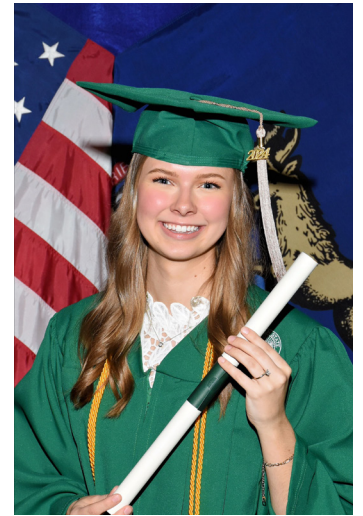
The most faithful Shamrock fan from the 1990's!

There was the memorable moment when Father Julian's reaction to a "bad" call (throwing his hat to the ground and shouting at the ref) almost got him thrown off the field. A warning from the ref, along with divine intervention, allowed Fr. J. to stay on the sidelines, albeit with a less emotional demeanor!

As for what lies ahead, Fr. Julian says, "Where will I be going next? Only God knows. Maybe it's time to finish where it all began . . . back to Italy? Back to the future!"

In the Spotlight

Marian Pearson



Congratulations to SPS alumna Marian Pearson (2021), who earned the Michigan State University Board of Trustees Award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA while earning her bachelor's degree in human resources management! She was the only recipient from her major this semester. Marian credits her St. Patrick education for shaping her into the woman she is today.

As I approach the end of my education at Michigan State University, I have been reflecting on the pivotal role that St. Patrick School played in shaping my academic and personal growth. The incredible teaching staff at St. Pat's had prepared me in many ways to take college head-on and accomplish great things. During my time at the school, I served as President of the National Honor Society and was involved in Student Council, Volleyball, Bowling, and Cheerleading. I have endless fond memories of my time as a student at St. Pat's and to pick staff that stood out would be impossible.

Every single staff member with whom I interacted over the many years has in one way or another shaped my life and still feels like family. However, one message has stayed with me.

Before bowling at States, Mrs. Sandborn gave me a sticky note that said "Marian, you've got this! Don't forget to go to your happy place! Sing a song that makes you feel good! If that doesn't work, then Sue Heck them."

I went home and put this sticky note on my bulletin board and looked at it before every exam, quiz, or presentation I had in college.

Moving from the small class sizes at St. Pat's to the large lecture halls at MSU with over 500 students was a big change. However, I found that making friends and visiting professors during their office hours helped me adjust.

I loved telling my peers that I went to St. Pat's, where my graduating class was comprised of just 24 individuals. This usually led to a plethora of questions, but it gave me a chance to share the impact faith played in my life. I formed friendships with people from various religious backgrounds, and we would often exchange stories about how faith influenced our lives.



Back (L-R) Rob Pearson, Jacob Manning, Chase Fitzsimmons, Shane Ferris. Front (L-R) Sandy Pearson, Abby Pearson, Marian Pearson, Grace Ferris (Adalyn Ferris).

As I navigate the transition from college to what I feel is finally adulthood, I have spent a lot of time reflecting. I am incredibly thankful for my family, friends, and the St. Patrick community. Graduating from Michigan State University's Eli Broad College of Business with a degree in Human Resource Management has marked a significant milestone in my life.

Currently, I am completing my three-year role as a Student Assistant with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Specialized Hiring and Recruitment team and am looking for my next full-time opportunity so, please let me know if you have any recommendations!

Finally, I am eagerly anticipating my wedding with my fellow St. Patrick Class of 2021 alum, Chase Fitzsimmons, in August of 2025. These milestones mark the transition into a new phase of my life, filled with excitement, growth, and endless possibilities. As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I carry with me the invaluable lessons and memories from St. Patrick School, grateful for the foundation it provided as I pursue my dreams and embrace the future.

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 20, 2024.

BIRTHS

To **Johnathan** (2008) and **Kelsey Johnson**, a daughter, Perpetua Magdalene (Poppy), on December 15, 2023.

To **Matt and Dana Pung** of Grand Ledge, a daughter, Paisley Jo, on January 8, 2024.

To **Mark** (2004) and **Johanna Schulte**, a daughter, Lily Yan, on August 11, 2023.

To **Andy** (2002) and **Emily Brown** of Frankenmuth, a daughter, Ivah Marie, on April 25, 2024. She joins brothers, Oscar (6) and Ulisses (3).

To **Erik and Richelle (Vallier 2011) Batten**, a son, Finn Eugene, on February 24, 2024.

To **Jacob and Beth (Vallier 2008) Lowe**, a son, Declan Jay, on April 28, 2024. He joins brothers Ian (6), Spencer (4), and Lucas (3).

To Brandon and Cristin (Stiffler, 2009) Bigham, a son, Callan Hayes, on May 26, 2024. He joins brothers, Emmett (4) and Beckett (2).

To Ben and Marsha (Lenneman, 2001) Harmon, a son, Maxton David, on May 29, 2024.

BAPTISMS

The following baptisms took place at St. Patrick Church between September 2023 and May 2024:

Kollins Jo Droste, daughter of Brad and Jocelyn Droste

Jack Nathan Lay, son of Nathan and Olivia Lay

Hudson Leo Osbun, son of Jordan and Tessa Osbun

Violet Elizabeth Schrauben, daughter of Kyle and Samantha Schrauben

Kolter Mark Diamond, son of Mitchell and Madison Diamond

Holden James Lay, son of Chris and Caitlin Lay

Amelia Judith Clough, daughter of Trevor and Natalia Clough

Mackenzie Lynn Easlick, daughter of Jeremy and Nicole Easlick

Levi Lawrence Letts, son of David and Jollette Letts

Tessa Marie Rutka, daughter of Sean and Macey Rutka

Abigail Rose Hengesbach, daughter of Tom and Mary Hengesbach

Gavin Michael Krausz, son of Jordan and Brittini Krausz

Landon Michael Kreiner, son of Mike and Ashley Kreiner

Aspyn Grace Rembowski, daughter of Ryan and Austyn Rembowski

Elyse Ann Schafer, daughter of Dane and Kim Schafer

Sophia Anne Spitzley, daughter of Scott and Ellen Spitzley

Mila Hayes Miller, daughter of Jacob and Shelby Miller

Wesson Lynn Scheurer, son of Austin and Savannah Scheurer

Deacon Scott Smith, son of Zack and Victoria Spitzley

Finn Eugene Batten, son of Erik and Richelle Batten

Brooks James Schrauben, son of Adam and Stacey Schrauben

Landry Ellesse Lay, daughter of Collin and Elle Lay

Lyndie Kaye Kramer, daughter of Dante and Raevyn Kramer

Joshua James Mason, son of James and Sarah Mason

Charlotte Marie Miller, daughter of Kyle and Jessica Miller

Ivan William Wilcox, Son of Kyle and Joclyn Wilcox

Evelyn May Wilcox, daughter of Ryan and Amy Wilcox

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

Gregory Joseph Sivyer

Marie Francis Krabill

Kelsie Raine Krabill

Jaxson Christopher James

Charlotte Marie Walters

Robin Dee Jared

Joseph Craig Jaraed

Jessica Lea Bozung

Joseph Albert Rosendall

James Montana-Lee Bashore

Krysten Robin Rosendall

Kimberly Rrooke Pierce

Tawny Kaye Estep

Alisa Marie Platte

Trevor Arthur Clough

Samantha Sal Olney-Halfmann

Skylar Dawson McCall

Jewelie Ann-Marie Connors

Nevaeh Nicole Miller

WEDDINGS

Mackenzie Smith (2015) and Jared Loomis were married on September 23, 2023, at St. Brigid Church in Midland, MI.

Matt Thelen (2013) and Marin Pline (2013) were married on January 27, 2024. They reside in Lyons, MI.

Weddings at St. Patrick Church

Justin Schafer and Adrienne Thelen on September 30, 2023

Dante Kramer and Raevyn Bignell-Goodwin on October 14, 2023

Carl Zies and Shelly Laughlin on October 28, 2023

Blake Hodge and Jenna Lehman on January 20, 2024

Matthew Thelen and Marin Pline on January 27, 2024

Zachary Vogt and Jamie Trimmer on February 10, 2024

Alex Hoppes and Maddison Kempa on May 4, 2024

Eric Schweitzer and Morgan Schrauben on May 18, 2024

ANNIVERSARIES

On January 4, 2024, **Joe and Bonnie Wieber** celebrated 70 years of marriage.

ENGAGEMENTS

Collin Trierweiler and Amber Wieber (2014) will be married in September 2024.

Jacob Babb and Amy Wieber (2014) will be married in July 2024.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Diocesan Director of Communications **Annalise (Kransz, 2008) Laumeyer** has been appointed to the Board of Directors for *FAITH Catholic* magazine in Lansing. *FAITH Catholic* is the nation's largest publisher of Catholic magazines. She will serve on the board for a three-year term.

IN MEMORY OF

Raymond Joseph Krzeminski, age 95, of Portland, passed away on Friday, September 15, 2023. He was born on February 23, 1928, in Detroit, the son of John and Casimira (Solak) Krzeminski. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. On October 3, 1953, he married the love of his life, Helen Psioda and together they shared 70 years of marriage. He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Esther Nadolski, Genevieve Sheko, and Emily Sheko. Surviving are his wife, Helen Krzeminski; children, Elaine (Larry) Sandborn, Cynthia Meyers, Timothy Krzeminski, Luke Krzeminski, and Julie (John Leik) Krzeminski; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; siblings, Mary Gandreh, Tom (Donna) Krzeminski, Joseph (Elaine) Krzeminski, John (Dolores) Krzeminski, and Rose De Young; several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church in memory of Raymond.

Sharon Robson, 80, of Portland, passed away surrounded by her family in her home on September 20, 2023. Sharon was born in Portland, MI, on December 2, 1942, the daughter of Dean and DeRua (Pline) Webert. She retired as a mammographer from St. Lawrence after many years of service. She was also a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Sharon is preceded in death by her husband, Burton Robson; her parents, Dean and DeRua Webert; her in-laws, Byron and Arlene Robson; brother, Tom Webert; brother in law, Robert Trimmer; sister in law, Besty Robson; brothers in law, Richard Hanna and Lance Clark; and grandchildren, Chad and Ashley Schneider. She is survived by her children, Tim (Julie) Robson, Michele (Kirk) Hoppes, Melanie (Russ) Schneider, Stephanie (Bill) Schneider, Byron (Missy) Robson, and Sarah (Jason) Haigh. Also her siblings, Carol (Jim) Wilcox, David (Melanee) Webert, and Janice Trimmer; in laws, Shirley Hanna, Mary Clark, and George (Cynthia) Robson; 16 ; several nieces and nephews; special friends, Sandy Meitler and Pat McGregor; and the many friends she made over the years.

Danny C. Arens, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on October 1, 2023, at the age of 86. Born on August 28, 1937, in Portland, Michigan, he was the son of Roman and Eleanor (Koster) Arens. Danny was a devoted family man who found joy in both his work and leisure. In 1962, he married the love of his life, Nancy (Wieczorek) Arens, and together, they built a life filled with love and cherished memories. Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Roman and Eleanor Arens; and his brother, Richard Arens. He is survived by his loving wife, Nancy; their sons, Lonnie (Melissa) Arens and Todd (Kelly) Arens; and five grandchildren. Additionally, he leaves behind his sister-in-law, Jackie (Jerry) Spencer and several nieces and nephews. As a devoted member of the Catholic Church, Danny spent years singing in his local church choirs and eagerly anticipated Christmas mass every year. His family and friends have donated a new outdoor nativity set to St. Patrick Church and School.

Joan Ilene Meyers of Portland, Michigan, age 63, entered into her Heavenly home on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born November 11, 1959, the daughter of John and Estella Meyers. Joan was a devoted, loving, and precious mother, grandmother, and friend who was loved by all of her family, friends, co-workers, and anyone who entered her life. She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Jeremy Weber; and her siblings, Larry, Roy, Kathy, and Jimmie. She is survived by her children, Amanda Weber (Kathleen Irving), Adrienne (Paul) Jabaay, Dylan Weber, and Lori (Dave) Jordan; her former spouse, George Weber; her mother-in-law, Jennie Weber; seven grandchildren; and her siblings Marie Alt, Rosie (Jim) Fish, Theresa (Pat) Lancaster, Nick (Jean) Meyers, Julie (Dennis) Deatrick, and John (Cindy) Meyers. She was the guardian for her brother Roy for over 20 years. John Caron entered her life over three years ago, and they had a loving, faith-filled, and beautiful relationship. The family requests donations in her honor to the Saint Patrick's Church and School, a community she was strongly connected to for decades.

Jacqueline M. Wilcox, 85, of Portland, passed away on October 31, 2023. She was born on August 16, 1938, to Walter L. and Phyllis L. (Koelzer) Holly. She dedicated several years of her life to educating at local country schools, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of her students. Preceding Jacqueline in death are her parents; husband of 57 years, Duane Wilcox; sons, Walter Wilcox and Robert Wilcox; and brother, Dennis Holly. Left to carry on her memory are her children, Leonard (Jennifer) Wilcox and Caroline (Rodney) Epps; daughter-in-law, Lorrie Wilcox; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, with one on the way in November; and siblings, Diane Russell and Luane (Pat) Goodman.

Dolores (Lola) Marie Rivera gained her angel wings on November 6, 2023 surrounded by her family. Born December 7, 1965, to Ernest P. and Maria P. (Cardenas) Rivera, Lola was a 1984 graduate of Portland High School and a dedicated State of Michigan Employee for more than 30 years. Lola is preceded in death by her father Ernest P. Rivera, many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Lola is survived by her four children, Nicholas Carroll, Brandon Lawler, Zachary Lawler, and Marriah Lawler; two grandchildren; her mother, Maria P. Rivera; siblings, Linda Rivera, Mary Ann (Scott) Schafer, Cynthia Rivera, Ernesto Rivera, Ramon (Kerri) Rivera, and Lucinda (Robert) Gallaway; many nieces and nephews; and significant other Doug Dutcher. In addition, Lola leaves behind many cousins, aunts, uncles, and an innumerable amount of friends. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Music Ministry in honor of Lola.

Theresa Wilma (Meyers) Lancaster. After fighting cancer for 24 years, Terry died on November 4, 2023, peacefully in her sleep at home. She was surrounded by her husband of 57 years, all three children, and her daughters-in-law in accordance with her wishes to have hospice at home. At the time of her death, she suffered from three types of untreatable, terminal cancer. The best way to remember and honor Terry is to love your family. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree or some plants or flowers on your property or in your community. Enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature. Alternatively, support your local library (she loved the Portland Public Library and other public libraries).

Martin James Reay, of Portland, Michigan, was born a resident of Old Mission, Michigan, to Matthew and Marian (Zoulek) Reay, on October, 20, 1948. He died on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. Marty attend elementary school in Old Mission then went on to graduate in 1966 from St. Francis High School in Traverse City. Growing up in Old Mission gave Marty a love for the simple things in life, something he strived to pass along to his family. Marty married Connie, the love of his life, in 1975. They settled in Portland, Michigan, where they created a "family" out of their friends and raised their children. Later in life Marty found great joy in being Papa to his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Marty was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Matthew "Brod" Reay; sister, Maxine Johnson; in-laws, Gabe and Martha Pincelli; and infant son, Michael John. Marty is survived by his wife, Connie Reay; his children, David (Stephanie) Reay, Kelly (Tom) Herron, Justin (Jeanie) Cline, Martha (Tom) Heniser, Matthew (Melissa) Reay and Christopher (Sarah) Reay; and his sister, Marilyn (Donald) Smith. Also left to treasure his memory are 23 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren. Finally, he will be remembered by

(Continued on page 16)

School News!

Saying Goodbye to the Class of 2024

by Deacon Randy Hodge

When I began my tenure as administrator at St. Patrick School, this class wasn't yet in preschool and in fact, they most likely were still in diapers. It has been an honor, as their principal, to watch them go from preschoolers all the way to graduates. Now, it is time to say goodbye as they go forth, continuing to build on the rock-solid foundation they built here, and move on to the next phase of their lives.

It has been enjoyable watching this class continue to grow, becoming strong leaders in their senior year when they spearheaded our annual Spirit Week celebration. The maturity and growth continued through the fall, winter, and spring sports seasons; the planning of their senior trip to Boyne Mountain Resort; the senior banquet; the last week of school activities including our annual softball tournament; and finally, commencement.

On Sunday, May 19, graduation day began with Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop David Walkowiak. After Mass, the graduates and their families moved to the school gymnasium for commencement. I opened the ceremony with prayer and shared the major achievements of the Class of 2024 which include:

- 14 of the 24 students are members of the National Honor Society.
- 16 out of 24 were recognized as CMAC Scholar Athletes meaning they had at least a 3.4 GPA and lettered in at least two sports, one of which was in their senior year.
- 21 out of the 24 plan to go on to some form of higher education, with two entering the workforce, and one beginning a career in the military.
- Four have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their sports careers in college.
- 16 of the 24 are graduating with honors (3.79 GPA or higher) with seven having a GPA of 4.0 or higher and 21 having a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.
- They were offered 1.5 million dollars in scholarship money and have accepted \$457,000 of that money.

Valedictorian Alaina Forist and Salutatorians Olivia Pung, Rylee Scheurer, and Hannah Weller addressed their classmates, thanking them for making their class feel like a family. They also thanked those who helped them along the way, sharing accomplishments, memories, good times together, and all the possibilities for a great future.

Following the speeches, the graduates were called forward to receive their diplomas from Bishop Walkowiak. One by one they turned their tassels, and the Class of 2024 joined a group of more than 2,300 Shamrock alumni around the world.

Reverend Michael Alber, officially closed the ceremony with prayer, the graduates processed out of the gym and into the future. Following their final class picture together and the traditional tossing of caps, there were hugs, handshakes, and family pictures to take.

As seniors, the Class of 2024 succeeded in ensuring all our students had a great year. They served as role models for our younger

students, especially their Little Rocks, and provided many outstanding suggestions for ways to improve our school. We are all extremely proud of all that they accomplished during their time at St. Patrick School. We thank them for their leadership, work ethic, and how they have represented Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Roman Catholic Church, the Diocese of Grand Rapids, St. Patrick School, their families, and themselves. We are proud to say that they leave St. Patrick School with a firm foundation to continue living our mission statement, *We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!* We look forward to seeing what the future holds for the Class of 2024. May God bless each and every one of them.



Literacy Night:

Sponsored by the Lancaster Family

One of the things that makes Portland St. Patrick School special is the connection between the grads from decades ago and the students who fill the seats today. On April 17, 2024, a 1966 graduate posthumously sponsored an evening of fun for local families, as Katie Davis, also known as *The Literacy Lady*, came to town, sponsored by Lancaster family.

Mrs. Katie Davis, *The Literacy Lady*, is a reading specialist, a former teacher, mom of three, and an avid reader. She is also the founder of *The Literacy Camp*. During an evening filled with pizza and cookies, fun and prizes, she shared easy tips for setting children up for academic and literacy success.

More importantly, this event was made possible by the Lancaster family in memory of Mrs. Theresa Lancaster, SPS Class of 1966. The legacy of Theresa's love for literacy lives on at St. Patrick School! The Lancaster Family has generously pledged an annual gift in support of literacy needs for students of all ages at St. Patrick School.



If you would like to read a heartwarming tribute to Theresa, visit this website: <https://www.desmondfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Theresa-Wilma-Lancaster?obid=29830581>.

Student SPOTLIGHT

Alice Newman

Our student spotlight is on eighth-grade student Alice Newman. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Angie Newman. Alice is the oldest of six children. Her siblings are Kerrigan (7th), Hudson (4th), Harper (2nd), Max (K), and Leo.

Alice is a member of the JV basketball and volleyball teams. She had this to say about playing high school sports in eighth grade: "I had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the opportunity to play on JV. I gained a lot of valuable experience that I know will help me play better in the future. The coaches and older girls on the team supported me and always encouraged me to keep going if I made a mistake. I really look forward to playing again next year!" Alice is also a member of the middle school student council, middle school youth group, and she serves as a lector at school masses.



Being the oldest child and grandchild in her family, Alice is always being looked upon as a role model. Embracing this responsibility, she has developed many skills which help her be successful at school, sports, and babysitting. Being able to share her experiences with her younger siblings has helped them feel comfortable and confident in their own journeys at St. Pats. She really enjoys the Big Rock/Little Rock program as it feels like being part of another big family.

On April 28, Alice and her classmates traveled to the St. Andrew Cathedral to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. When asked about how St. Patrick School supports her faith life, Alice shared: "We pray every day, go to Mass, and there is a crucifix in every classroom. This is uniquely Catholic and very important to me. One of my favorite things is when we pray together for everyone's individual intentions. It really helps to care for one another and draw closer to God."

Embracing Faith:

Mrs. Smith's Journey to Catholicism and St. Patrick's Catholic School

In a world where spirituality often takes a backseat to the hustle and bustle of daily life, Cortney Smith's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of faith and the impact of a nurturing educational environment. From a childhood filled with spiritual longing to a fulfilling career as elementary principal at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Portland, Michigan, Cortney's story is one of discovery, perseverance, and the unwavering guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Cortney's upbringing was rooted in a family that valued spirituality but hadn't found a home in any particular denomination. Regular church attendance and exposure to Christian teachings shaped her early years, yet she couldn't shake the feeling that something was missing. Despite her active participation in the Protestant traditions, Cortney felt a void that only grew over time.

It was during her high school years that Cortney's desire to explore Catholicism grew stronger. Attending Mass with friends, she felt a sense of completeness in the Catholic Church's reverence, rituals, and teachings. However, it wasn't until her senior year of college that she made the decision to pursue baptism and fully commit to Catholicism. Cortney felt drawn to the Catholic faith, recognizing it as the missing piece she had been longing for.

However, Cortney's journey to Catholicism wasn't without its challenges. Family dynamics, including her parents' divorce and initial disapproval of her decision to convert, added layers of complexity to her faith journey.

After years of contemplation and soul-searching, Cortney made the decision to pursue baptism and join the Catholic Church. Her journey led her to Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Waterford, where she took the first steps towards embracing her newfound faith. Casting aside initial hesitations and doubts, Cortney's commitment to Catholicism only grew stronger with time. She embarked on a journey of self-discovery and faith formation. Through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and the support of her now husband and sponsors, Cortney embraced her newfound faith with courage and conviction.

One pivotal moment in Cortney's journey was her decision to enroll her children at St. Patrick's Catholic School. Guided by a deep-seated desire to provide her children with a nurturing environment rooted in faith, Cortney took the leap of faith and later became a teacher and then principal at the very school her children attend.



At St. Patrick, Cortney found a community that embraced her and her family with open arms. The school became more than just a place of learning; it became a second home where faith flourished, and relationships blossomed. Through her role as both a teacher and a parent, Cortney witnessed firsthand the transformative power of Catholic education.

Today, Cortney's faith journey continues to evolve as she navigates the joys and challenges of life. From Holy Communion preparation with her son Henry to witnessing her children evangelize their peers, Cortney finds fulfillment in living out her faith each day. Her journey serves as a reminder that faith is not a destination but a lifelong journey of growth, discovery, and transformation.

Cortney remains grateful for the gift of faith and the opportunity to share it with others as she walks alongside her children and students. She states, "I would not be anywhere in education except at Catholic schools. I have to be able to live my faith daily and fully." Her story is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the profound impact of a nurturing educational environment rooted in Catholic tradition.

[SCHOOL NEWS CONTINUES ON PAGES 14 & 15]

All About Al—Memories

Word got out quickly this spring that Al Schrauben was stepping down after coaching basketball at St. Patrick School for 40 years, and the memories began to flow! Many of the memories are of his rookie days with the Lady Shamrocks, and the adjustments that they had to make as they got used to each other. Some of the memories are funny and some are poignant. All of those memories and reflections don't begin to sufficiently pay tribute to the man who brought notice to a small rural Catholic school; a man who will never realize the positive impact that he had on so many people; a man who will ever be a legend within the walls of Portland St. Pat's.

SHARI SINES BURLAND: My memories of playing for Al are all so positive! He walked that fine line of being an effective and good coach without taking the fun out of playing. He could laugh along with us when funny things would happen, and funny things definitely happened! One in particular was when we were playing a team with a big player that was guarding me aggressively and by the fourth quarter, I had lost it and gave her a fist in the back to move her. I was called for the foul and left the game but later that night he had the parents over to his house for senior night and as we watched the tape of the game, he put that shove on replay and we all laughed watching it over and over. I'm happy you're doing a tribute to him! He's the best!



MARY KRAMER COOK: Our first season with Al was my senior year. Shari Sines Burland, Cathy Snitgen Simon, Lisa Schrauben Kemmis and I were the four seniors. It was fall of 1985 – back when girls basketball was played in the fall. There was no three-point line. We played with the same size ball as boys, as girls-sized basketballs had not yet been introduced in high school. Socks were worn up to the knees and it was the era at St. Pat's when the color gold was used in the uniforms along with green and white. We played and practiced at the Pit with fans in bleachers and on the stage.

I remember Al not knowing what to think about us. He knew all of us and we knew him. We had him as a teacher in junior high. But he had never coached girls and he didn't have any daughters of his own. Most of us had played under Tony Trierweiler who had



coached girls for many seasons. We also had female JV coaches. This was Al's first rodeo with females and our first rodeo with a coach who had no experience coaching girls. I don't think anything could have prepared him for that first season.

One day, Al had us running Z-drills. It was a tough practice and of course hotter than blazes in the gym. We didn't have

practice jerseys back then, we had very thick reversible shirts. And I mean thick, like sweatshirt material. So we were sweating like crazy.

I was sweating so bad that when I stooped down to touch the line (for the Z-drill) my pad literally fell out of my underwear/shorts and landed on the court!! (Don't ask me how it fell out cuz I have no idea – I just know it would no longer stick due to all the perspiration). In one swoop I picked it up and ran into the locker room. Al was completely speechless. He had absolutely no idea what to say or do. Needless to say, practice ended right then and there. I don't even think he was in the gym anymore when I came out of the locker room.

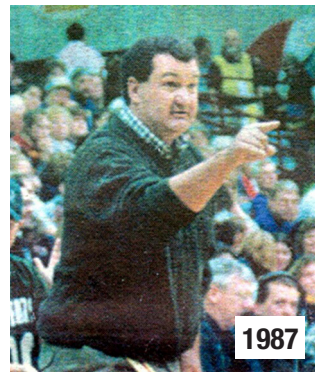


Regardless of us being girls, it never ever stopped him from yelling at us. One time during a game he told Diane (Cook) Hafner not to foul. Well, Diane fouled. Al was so beside himself that he stood up and moved three rows up behind the bench. We looked over to see our coach in the middle of the stands!! He was so mad!

LISA SCHRAUBEN LEHMAN: There are two memories that I have that probably won't be printable but boy are they memorable!

Kathy Snitgen's bra strap broke during one of our first games. She ran to the sidelines and told Al she needed to come out because her bra broke. He grabbed her, threw her on the bench, grabbed the next person and threw her in. Of course he got a technical because he didn't check people in and out properly!

The one I keep trying to forget is when I made him so mad. We had the game won against Potterville. He called time out and he said all we have to do is not foul! I went in and fouled immediately! He ran to the top of the bleachers and put his hands over his head and kept bouncing up and down!



LISA SCHRAUBEN KEMMIS: I do recall our first game at the PIT – Al's first game as a girls' basketball coach. I don't recall who we played, but I do remember winning because our team (of 9) Lady Shamrocks were celebrating in the locker room. I recall us waiting and waiting and waiting for Coach Schrauben to come down and meet/celebrate with us. After waiting what seemed like forever, we all

decided to change/shower and head back upstairs. Well Coach Schrauben was helping the janitor sweep the floor and to quote him: "I didn't know what to do with nine ladies in a locker room."

He soon became accustomed to us! I like to think that the Class of 1986 is responsible for breaking him in. He's truly one of the best.

ALEX (BOOBER) SCHRAUBEN: I know that a lot of people are sharing memories about how my dad has impacted kids' lives. His impact on young (and to be honest, now old) St. Patrick students will be a legacy that I hope will live forever. Being his son, during my young years I will never forget being the water boy on the bench, riding (and dancing) on the bus to away games, and attending practice.

It was some of the best years of my life. I have always admired how humble my dad is about all the accomplishments of his program. I have never met someone that has so much to “brag about” but would never in his wildest dreams flaunt any of his achievements to anyone. It has always been about the students and the community, not himself. I know that dad has done a lot for St. Patrick’s but I know if you asked him it is not even close to what St. Patrick’s has done for him and our family as a whole.

KIM SCHAFER: It was an honor to be coached by Mr. Schrauben. He not only instilled a drive and edge to compete on the basketball court, he took it the extra mile to extend in everyday life. I appreciate his commitment didn’t end after graduation. I have always felt connected with him and valued in my adult life too. Enjoy retirement! You deserve it!



NIKKI BROWN: Al is one of those coaches that I will just never forget. The popsicles after hot practices, piling into the big van to head to the beach at basketball camp, the occasional yell on the court but knowing it was done out of a desire for us to improve, and now the hug whenever I see him. He is one of a kind—a legend—and I am so grateful that I was able to be counted as one of his players.

TARA KLEIN: One memory I have is whenever we had to take I-96 West to a basketball game, Al was always sure to hit that on ramp just right, where we would all fly out of our seats! Got us every time! It just speaks to his character though; always a well rounded guy. One minute he’d be chewing your butt out on the court and then he’d be joking around. He will be missed.

DANIELLE (SIMON) ORR: Anyone who has been around Mr. Schrauben has a funny moment or story - he’s a pretty memorable person. Like many others, I could probably fill a book of ridiculous things he has said or done but I’ll just share one.



My senior year we were on the road for a game, this was one of the last years he was still driving the bus. After the game was over we all piled on and he drove the bus to the other side of the parking lot. He had opened the driver window and was talking with one of his sons who handed him a Meijer bag with something in it. Mr. Schrauben started laughing, tossed it in the aisle, and began driving away.

Jocelyn and Michelle were both yelling at him so I walk to the front to see what was going on. He said to me, “These two are too chicken to open the bag, will you do it?”

I ask what was in it and he wouldn’t tell me. So I opened the bag slowly to find a dead squirrel. I dropped it back on the ground and asked why that was on our bus. He proceeded to tell us that it was dinner for him and Karla tomorrow. He then proceeded to drive us all home with a dead squirrel on the bus.

Jokes aside, as a player, he made us feel valued and loved, pushed us to be our best, and cared about us off the court. Being able to coach with Mr. Schrauben the last couple of years is something I’m very grateful for. I have learned an incredible amount, but I think the



most valuable thing is to not take the game too seriously. Basketball is supposed to be fun and he really tried to make sure all of his players had a great experience, whether basketball was their passion or not. Mr. Schrauben really is one of a kind and will be missed.

“Thank you” doesn’t do justice to the impact he had on his players, St Pat’s and this community. We wouldn’t be the players, program, or people that we are today without Mr. Schrauben’s dedication, compassion, and leadership.

KENDALL (SCHRAUBEN) SIMON: Few people have had as much of a profoundly positive impact on my life as Al Schrauben. Through basketball, Al was a constant source of encouragement and support for my sisters and me, acting as a steady lifeboat during (what I now know to be) some turbulent times. And as a shy, introverted farm kid, Al somehow found a way to speak my language without actually talking.



It wasn’t until recently, as an adult, that I’ve realized how much Al taught me during these years. Al

taught me that just the tiniest bit of humor can lighten the heaviest of moments. He taught me that true leaders inspire and empower those around them. And by setting this high bar, I haven’t settled for leadership that exemplifies anything less. Al taught me the importance of being informed on current events, as well as the consequences of not making my free throws in practice - having to shoot granny style (during a game).

My favorite memory of Al, though, is the day we lost to Lansing Christian in the state finals at the Breslin Center my junior year. I had played nearly the entire game and was working so hard, but I was extremely nervous and had missed shot after shot. Al finally took me out for the last few minutes. I sat at the end of the bench, extremely angry and frustrated with myself. As the last few seconds of the game were ticking down on the clock, it became obvious that we weren’t going to win. Al looked down the bench and we briefly made eye contact before I glanced away to hide the hot sting of tears welling in my eyes. My young, tender heart was breaking because I felt that I had let everyone down. Recognizing this, Al slowly walked over to the end of the bench, patted my head, and then walked back. No words were needed.

I think about this day all the time. And when I do, I never remember specific plays. Or points scored. Or a trophy. I only remember the subtle act of kindness and comfort that he showed me in that moment of hurt, in a language that only he and I spoke. That is the magic of Al. And through this, I’ve learned that no matter what life

[MEMORIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 12]

Al Was Teacher and Mentor

by Deacon Randy Hodge

It is hard to believe that an era at St. Patrick School is coming to an end. Recently varsity basketball coach Al Schrauben announced his retirement, after 40 years at the helm. Al has been a great friend and mentor and I wanted to congratulate him and share my thoughts and memories of coach Schrauben.

My first memory of Mr. Al Schrauben was when I was a fifth-grade student at St. Patrick School. My brother Tom was playing 7th grade basketball and I volunteered to serve as the manager for the team. They had practice one snowy Saturday morning and since coach Schrauben was our neighbor, he offered to pick us up on the way to town. My brother let me know that we had to meet him at the bottom of the driveway because the tires



on his car were too bald to make it up our driveway. When we got to the bottom of the driveway, coach Schrauben got out of the car and let us in through the driver's side door because his passenger door didn't work.

A few years later, I had Mr. Schrauben as a teacher in seventh and eighth grades. I remember playing a study game where he asked us a question and if we had the correct answer, we had the opportunity to shoot a basket on a small rim and if we made it, we gained a bonus point. I used that idea myself when I later became a social studies teacher. I also remember those days when he knew we needed a mental break from social studies, and he would have us write an essay on some odd and random topic. Finally, I remember that his first-born son Adam was born during my time in middle school and we were all entered into a pool to see who guessed his date of birth correctly.

Many years later when I was a coach and teacher, and Al was the Athletic Director he hired me to become the junior varsity volleyball coach. After a couple of years of doing that the varsity position opened up and he hired me to be the varsity volleyball coach which I did for 13 years. He jokingly told me that he had reservations about hiring me because he wasn't sure how a guy as short as me could teach the girls how to spike and block.

During my tenure as varsity volleyball coach, the junior varsity softball coaching position opened and again he hired me for that position, and I did that for another seven years. Mr. Schrauben was a great mentor to have during my coaching years and taught me a lot about the mindset of a coach and how to be a leader of young student athletes.

Since I was coaching two sports, he suggested that it was time that I go and get my Certified Drivers License (CDL) and begin driving the bus, which I did. I have now been driving bus for 20 years and still officially have the title of Transportation Supervisor for the past 16 years at St. Patrick School because of this recommendation.

I thank Coach Al Schrauben for helping me to become a social

studies teacher, a coach, a bus driver, and the principal of St. Patrick School. I thank him for some great road trips, many, many great stories, his mentorship, his friendship, and for all that he has done to make St. Patrick School the great place it is today.

I also especially would like to thank his secretary and better half Karla, for all the support she has given him and St. Patrick School throughout the many years Al served as a teacher, coach, and athletic director. May God bless them both as they begin a new phase of their lives.

The Al and Karla Schrauben Athletic Foundation

At the 2024 Shamrock Auction, Fr. Mike announced the creation of the *Al and Karla Schrauben Athletic Foundation*. This new endowment fund is a tribute to all that Al and Karla Schrauben have done for St. Patrick School, in particular, the school's athletic programs throughout the years.

This new fund will be set up through the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan. The fund will be set up strictly as an endowment fund, meaning the base, or the donations, to the fund itself will not be spent. Instead, once the fund reaches \$1 million, 4% of the base of the fund will be used to support our athletic programs. The ultimate goal of the funds is to attain a high enough level that our athletic programs will be self-funded through this endowment fund.

Donations to the *Al and Karla Schrauben Athletic Foundation* may be made by mailing or dropping off a check at the school or parish office or dropping it in the Sunday collection in an envelope clearly marked for this fund. Also, funds may be donated online at <https://portlandstpats.com/church/donate/>. You may also want to consider designating this fund in your estate plan.

If you have any questions about the Al and Karla Schrauben Athletic Foundation, please contact our development director Deacon Randy Hodge at (517)647-7551 or by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.



Al with Dick Dornbos at the 2005 Reunion of Champs. Dick was the first basketball coach at Portland St. Patrick in 1951.

St. Patrick School Announces Al's Replacement

On May 24, 2024, St. Pat's announced that Michelle (Hitchcok) Smith has been hired as the new girls basketball coach for the Shamrocks. Congratulations to Michelle, and best wishes for a long and successful career at Portland St. Patrick School. Michelle shared her memories of playing for, and working with Al Schrauben over the past 20 years.

I have been lucky enough to sit along Mr. Schrauben's bench for over 20 years now, three years as a player and 17 years as a coach. Every practice, every game, and every bus ride a memory is made through his witty stories, silly comments, and genuine love for the game and players he coaches. It is difficult to reflect back on specific stories that stick out more than others so I will summarize what playing for, and coaching with, Al means to me.

As a junior high student, I watched from the stands as he won his first State Championship and from that point forward, I wanted nothing more than to be a part of his team. As a sophomore, I will never forget when I found out I would be playing on the varsity. It was not elaborate in any way, but certainly is a memory I will never forget. He simply pulled three of us into the hallway after economics class and said 'practice is at 2:30.'

As my sophomore year went on I found out what being a member of his program was about. I never felt more of a sense of honor and pride to be a part of so many traditions within a sport. I learned the cheers, dances, and prayers on the bus and in the locker room before the game and the top secret 'saying' in the huddle after starting line-up announcements. I got my first taste of a "Karla story" and never laughed so hard when stories were told of past players and teams.

We lost that year in the District finals and I will never forget the sense of sadness that came over me, not entirely because we lost, but because I would have to wait another year to attend practice, games, and to experience that sense of team again. In the locker room after that loss, I will always remember when Al came in and shed tears with us and thanked us for our hard work and dedication to the season and hugged each of us. As I watched the seniors embrace him, I knew he was more than a coach to us all, he was a friend and mentor.

My junior year brought even more unforgettable memories. This was the first year our program attended the annual Manistee summer camp. From the beginning, Al made the camp about so much more than basketball; it was a family event where team members and their families began a new tradition. It was here that we met 'Hockey Dave', took trips to the Bargain Barn, took the team 'jumping on the beach' photo, made time for a quick stop at House of Flavors, and of course Big Al's for pizza.

This was also the season that brought great battles with Fowler, whom we would eventually play in the State Championship game. Expectations were high for our team and we expected nothing less. I remember our final practice, which we asked to have. Al said there is nothing more to work on, just do what we have worked on all year and listen to what I say and we will be fine. Of course, he was right, and we won the State title.

As a senior there was an expectation that we should be leaders and he taught us the importance of strong leadership which was an in-

valuable lesson that carries on with me today as a coach and as a working professional. I will always remember walking out of Rose Arena with the State Championship trophy in hand and riding the bus with the police escort back to the gym where the community was awaiting to celebrate our accomplishment. My senior teammates and I cried that our journey with our legendary coach had come to an end and even though in the most perfect way possible, it was still bittersweet.



Michelle holds the 2000 Class D State Championship trophy after a 46-40 win over Rapid River.

Al often attributes his coaching success to the players and their families, and of course he would, because that is the humble thing to do. There is no doubt that the players and families at St. Patrick's are special; there is also no doubt that the successes we have all had on the court would not have happened without our coach.

When I began my coaching career alongside Al, I constantly thought of the amazing opportunity that I had to learn so much about the game and what it means to be a part of the Shamrock basketball family. I

also have learned to appreciate all the time and dedication he has spent building the program over the course of 40 years.



Michelle and her husband, Tony, along with their children, Macie (15), Avery (10), and Jayce (6).

It is difficult to dedicate that much time away from family, missing family events, games, etc. and I am so thankful that he chose to spend so much time with his basketball daughters. He has made such a positive impact on my life and the lives of so many other players he has coached.

Al is my coach, my mentor and most notably my friend and although he is stepping away from coaching, he will always be 'our' coach.

#shamrockpride

MEMORIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

throws at me, win or lose, my ability to give myself a little pat as I walk off the court, knowing that I gave it my all - that is the most important part.

So, thank you, Al, for the countless hours spent in camps, practices, games, and the classroom. Thank you for your big heart and dry, witty humor. Thank you for the pure joy I felt looking over to see your proud, goofy smile as I ran down the court after we made a good play. Thank you for teaching me that, in a world full of loud voices, it's ok for me to be my quiet, sensitive self. But most of all, thank you for sharing your gift of magic with the Shamrock women - you are so loved by us all.

KATELYN RUSSELL: Every year the team would get together and do a secret Santa and Al would always host the team and coaches at his house and make us a team dinner/lunch and we'd do our gift exchange with the whole team and coaches present. My sophomore year at this Christmas party exchange, Al showed us a little trick he used to do when he went to St.Pat's. He microwaved an egg and we all got to watch it explode in his microwave

LAYNIE MEREDITH: A memory is him always singing the children's song "it's peanut butter jelly time" before the games this year and after we won the league.

RYLEE SCHEURER: Another memory was his grandson yelling "Goooo Papaaaa!" during a time out. Shows he was loved and supported by his family and everyone around him.

NATALEE TEACHWORTH: He always said he picks up roadkill to make soup so whenever my mom drove by roadkill she'd send him a picture of it.

MARA SCHRAUBEN: Every year we would go to basketball camp up in Manistee and Al would give everyone on the team \$5 for us to walk over and get Wendy's 4 for 4s the first night we were there.

LYDIA MEREDITH: Before a majority of our games, Al would always tell us a story. Some would have us all leaving the locker room cracking up, while others left the other coaches and players in disgust. But he never fails to have a good story.



RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE COACH AL SCHRAUBEN





When: Saturday, June 22nd from 1:00-3:00

Where: Summer Fest Entertainment Tent @ Father Flohe Field



Cake will be provided and both beverages and food will be available for purchase!

PORTLAND ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC PARISH'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT

SUMMERFEST

Friday – June 21, 2024

4:30 – 7:00 PM
Chicken Dinner by Taste of Heaven

4:30 – 10:00 PM
Food Trucks
-Smoke Ring BBQ
-George's Food
-Kona Ice
-Never Better Caffe

4:30 – 7:00 PM
Bounce Houses (\$5.00 wristbands)

5:30 PM
MEGA Rock Raffle winners announced

6:00 – 7:00 PM
Irish Dancers performance

7:00-10:00 PM
We Three Strings

For additional information call the Parish Office (517) 6476505 or go to: portlandstpats.com/church/summer-fest/

Saturday – June 22, 2024

All Day
Baseball Tournament

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
3 on 3 Tournament

10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Entertainment Tent open

10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Kids Corner--Crafts, Games. Bounce Houses

11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Food trucks (see list on Friday)

1:00 – 3:00 PM
Open House for Coach Al Schrauben

7:00 PM Entertainment Tent
21+ only . \$ 5.00 cover charge.

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
DJ Jump Suit

9:00 – 11:00 PM
Class of '98

alumni news

Many of the first graduating classes from St. Patrick School don't hold reunions any longer, but we would still like to recognize them. Congratulations to the **Class of 1953**, who would have celebrated their 70-year reunion last fall and the **Class of 1954** who would be celebrating 70 years this year!

Reunion Alerts

The **Class of 1969** will be holding a joint reunion with the PHS Class of 1969 on Saturday, August 10, 2024. The reunion will be held at Eagle Park, with social time from 3-5:00 pm. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm, and will be catered by Swede's of Mulliken. Music will be provided from 4-8:00 pm. A bonfire will follow, at the farm of Toni Densmore Blundy. Detailed invitations have been mailed. If you have questions, call Aletha Honsowitz (616-813-5172) or Marlene Simon Keusch (517-647-4852).


The **Class of 1979** will hold their 45-year reunion on October 5, 2024. The evening will begin with Mass at 4:30, followed by dinner at Marie Schafer's house at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be catered by Swede's Restaurant in Mulliken. For additional information call Tim Wilcox at 517-490-0359.

The **Class of 1984** will celebrate their 40-year reunion on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Boomer Trierweiler's house. Contact Monica Jenkins at mojenk65@gmail.com for more information.

The **Class of 1994** has narrowed down their 30-year reunion plans as follows: It will be held on either Saturday, October 12th or Saturday, October 26th; the reunion will be at either the Wagon Wheel or the Portland Country Club. Contact Ben Cross at goshamrocks@yahoo.com

The **Class of 2009** are in the planning stages for a summer reunion. Tentatively they will get together on a Saturday at the home of one of the graduates. They will grill out and hang out at the pond. Contact Shelbi Pline for more information.

CLASS OF
1975



50th
REUNION

Class of 1975

Your 50-Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2025. Mark your calendars now, you'll receive specific information next year.

Reunion Reports

Sixteen of the 32 classmates, along with significant others attended the **Class of 2008** 15-year reunion on October 14, 2023. The group had dinner and drinks at Confluxcity, and then they took a party bus to local bars and restaurants.



The **Class of 2018** held their 5-year class reunion on June 17, 2023 at the Portland Country Club. Twenty classmates participated in a nine-hole scramble followed by dinner catered by the Wagon Wheel. Everyone agrees that they took a picture, but no one can find it.

Baptism Reflects Young Man's Growing Relationship with God

If you read the list of baptisms on page four of this newsletter, you probably noticed that very many people are being baptized at St. Patrick. Infant baptisms are up, but so are baptisms of adults and older children. This is one young man's story.

Baptism is a sacred rite in the Catholic faith, marking the beginning of a spiritual journey and a lifelong commitment to God. While many children are baptized as infants, the decision to be baptized at an older age holds special significance, as it reflects a conscious choice to embrace one's faith.

Imagine being a six-year old boy, filled with curiosity and a growing understanding of the world around you. Jaxson James, a first-grader at St. Patrick School, made the decision to be baptized at this age. It is a testament to his emerging understanding of his faith and his desire to deepen his relationship with God. For Jaxson, being baptized as an older child is more than just a ritual; it is a profound moment of spiritual growth and self discovery. It also signifies his readiness to take on the responsibilities of being a member of the Catholic community and to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ in his daily life.

On December 20, 2023, Jaxson was baptized during the all-school mass. He was joined by his classmates, school community, parents, godparents, family, and friends. As Jaxson emerged from the baptismal waters, surrounded by loved ones and embraced by his faith community, he embarked on a new chapter of his life with hope, love, and the guidance of God's grace.

Congratulations on your baptism, Jaxson Christopher James.



MEGA Rock Raffle Update

To date, the revenue from sales of our **MEGA Rock Raffle** tickets is \$291,090. Our expenses, which include all prizes for the year are \$52,359.28 for a net profit of \$238,730.72 which will be split between the Parish (20%), the school (40%), and the athletic budget (40%). Listed below are the winners from our first three MEGA drawings:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Fall Festival MEGA Winners: | Marriage Gala MEGA Winners: |
| \$5,000 – Douglas Smith | \$5,000 – Linda Huhn |
| \$2,500 – Nick & Brandi Bengel | \$2,500 – Jan Simon |
| \$1,000 – Keith Cook | \$1,000 – Chris & Nancy Nyenhuis |
| \$750 – Kristen Smith | \$750 – Joe Cook |
| \$500 – G.May/Janet Pung | \$500 – Tom & Therese Janderno |
| \$500 – Jerry & Jan Bozung | \$500 – St. Patrick School (ticket donated) |
| \$250 – Daniel Schafer | \$250 – Diane Zimmerman |
| \$250 – Sue VanLente | \$250 – Robert Divish |
| \$250 – Christine Rockey | \$250 – Jim & Linda Spring |
| \$250 – Randy Sandborn | \$250 – Heather Krieger |

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Shamrock Auction MEGA Winners: | Our Monthly \$500 Winners: |
| \$5,000 – J. Fitzsimmons, J. Scheurer, & K. Scheurer | September – Keelie Honsowitz |
| \$2,500 – Josephine Fox | October – B. Austen/K. Waldron |
| \$1,000 – Dan Thelen | November – Ann Schneider |
| \$500 – Paul Schneider | December – Karen Scheurer |
| \$750 – Esther Durnwald | January – Don Gross |
| \$500 – Jerry & Jan Bozung | February – Wayne & Marlene Dick |
| \$250 – Bruce Cook | March – A. Zimmerman/R. Beckhold |
| \$250 – Bob & Casey Lenneman | April – Sharon Schneider |
| \$250 – Lee Schmitz & Janice Trierweiler | |
| \$250 – Mark and Lisa Bartlett | |

There will be one more drawing with Mega prizes. Winners will be announced at the Parish Festival on June 24.

We would like to remind you that tickets continue to be available online and are now being sold for half price at \$250 each. Over \$12,000 remains to be given away! Ten prizes, totalling \$11,250 will be given away at Summer Fest. \$500 will be given away on the last Fridays of May and June. Winning tickets are always put back into the barrel for the next drawing, so it is possible to win multiple times.



We appreciate that so many of you have supported this raffle, it's important that you continue to do so in the future. Proceeds from the MEGA Raffle go a long way in supporting our parish, school, and athletic budgets.

If you have any questions about the MEGA Rock raffle, please contact Deacon Randy Hodge by calling the school at (517) 647-7551 or by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org. If you would like to buy one of the half-price tickets, visit the following website: [https://one.bidpal.net/megarockraffle/browse/fixPrice\(details:item/2\)](https://one.bidpal.net/megarockraffle/browse/fixPrice(details:item/2))

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

The Spirit is Alive at St. Pat's!

by Nikki Brown
Youth and Campus Minister

A year and a half into this life-changing role, and all I can say is "Wow!" I am humbled beyond belief that the Lord has placed me here to be a witness to the Holy Spirit's movement in this school and parish.

What the Holy Spirit is doing in the halls of St. Patrick School is nothing short of incredible. Over the past two years, there have been at least 20 students baptized. Each of those students CHOSE to be baptized into God's family, to be sons and daughters of God the Father! This is absolutely astounding! In every situation, in every moment, in every breath, He is working!

Our Campus Ministry Team (CMT), comprised of students in the high school from freshman through seniors, is continuing to do amazing work at providing encounters with Christ to our student body.

This year, in addition to focusing on Advent, Lent, Catholic Schools Week, and honoring Mary in the month of May, the team undertook the unique challenge of putting on a retreat for our seventh and eighth graders. Students from Pewamo St. Joseph attended, as well.

The CMT did a phenomenal job leading the sessions, small groups, and activities! I was so impressed with their dedication, thoughtfulness, and desire to stir the Holy Spirit's fire. Having a group of high school students put on a retreat for middle schoolers shows incredible leadership and mentorship!

Our parish middle and high school youth groups recently wrapped up a full year of ministry and what a marvelous first year it was! On any given Sunday night, there were between 40-50 students in attendance. We learned together, grew together, and deepened our individual relationships with Christ together. God is good!

If you are interested in being a part of this amazing team that helps with our youth groups, reach out! I'd love to talk with you!

God truly is working in wonderful ways; and I'm so fortunate to be part of this daily blessing.

CAMPUS MINISTRY TEAM



One leadership team that is unique to St. Patrick's is our Campus Ministry Team. This team consists of Daniel Huggler, Maizie Pelc, Ashlyn Clay, Issy Kelly-Myers, Emma Martin, Kaden Brown, Ben Bergsma, Marian Davlin, Siena Schafer, Izzy Kissane, Olivia Rockey, Olivia Pung, TJ Chamberlain, Francis Austen, Ben White, David Clay, and Simon White. Thank you to all of you who help lead our school to grow in faith and be active participants in the life of the Church.

[CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS CONTINUES ON PAGE 18]



St. Patrick Church

Restoration

UPDATE

by Ken Schneider

Revised Plans for Our Church

As previously reported, plans for the restoration and expansion of St. Patrick Church and new parish and school office space have been submitted to the Diocese of Grand Rapids for approval. As construction blueprints are being finalized by the Progressive A/E architectural firm, some aspects of the design will be started in phases as early as this summer. Thanks to the generosity of St. Patrick Parish parishioners, preliminary plans are to begin restoration in the balcony to make space for our talented musicians. As funds become available, the focus will be the restoration of the sanctuary.

Several months ago, the organ was sent out for repairs and improvements. As previously reported, our musicians, organ and piano will be moved to the balcony. Some structural work will be made to ensure that the weight of the organ and piano can be safely supported. Ornamental organ pipes will also be installed in the balcony.

The sanctuary restoration will include the removal of the raised floor installed in the 1980's remodel. The original terazzo floor will be polished and necessary repairs made to reveal the beautiful colors and pattern. A new altar and ambo, that better reflect the architecture of the church, will be installed.

As you may have noticed, the 100-year-old church bell has not been rung for several months. Father Mike had the bell inspected and issues have been identified. The bolts holding the support structure of the bell have loosened over the years with the recommendation that the bell be silenced until repairs can be made. Along with repairs, an automated system will be installed to ring the bell. I recall that when I was a child the bell was rung at noon for the Angelus. With the automated system the bell will again ring at noon.

The new office space will allow the parish and school office staff to be located together to allow better coordination between the church and school personnel. The church addition will provide much needed additional seating. The current seating capacity of 450 people is often exceeded during the 10:00 Sunday Mass and special services at Christmas, Easter, First Communion, and the graduation Mass.

As you are well aware, the Diocese of Grand Rapids is experiencing a shortage of priests. In the foreseeable future, diocesan priests may have to serve as pastor of two parishes. In such a scenario, parish priests may be limited to say one Saturday evening Mass and one Sunday morning Mass

at each parish. The increased seating in the church addition will make this situation workable if not ideal. Continue to pray The Prayer for Vocations for an increase in priests, deacons, and religious life.

I have been amazed at the generosity of our parishioners to complete much needed repairs and improvements to St. Patrick Parish facilities over the past several years. Major projects completed under the leadership of Father Mike include the new roof with added insulation on the school, restoration of the church foundation and front entry steps, and new student and staff bathrooms in the school. Thank you for your past donations and ask you to prayerfully consider your continued support of St. Patrick Parish.

Donations for St. Patrick Church restoration can be placed in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked "Church Restoration" or by scanning the QR code at the right. With your continued prayers and support, all restoration work and improvements can be completed prior to the centennial anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick Church in 2026. Thank you!



Welcome to New Assistant Principal

On May 29, 2024, it was announced that Mrs. Brittini (Wilcox) Krausz has been hired as the K-12 assistant principal for the 2024-25 school year. Brittini is an alumna of St. Patrick School and is an active member of St. Patrick Parish. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Ferris State University and a Masters of Educational Leadership with K-12 administration from Eastern Michigan University. She comes to us from St. Mary Catholic School in Westphalia where she has taught both 1st and 3rd grade in addition to being on the school's behavior and curriculum committees.

In her new role, Mrs. Krausz's emphasis will be on student life, working with students and parents on disciplinary measures and student supports. She will assist Deacon Hodge and Mrs. Smith as they carry out the strategic priorities for the school. This new position will be an important asset to our administrative team as we seek to promote the mission of St. Patrick Catholic School.



WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

many in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends who he considered family.

Rachelle Kay Gladding, born April 25, 1990, in Lansing, Michigan, passed away peacefully on November 21, 2023, at the age of 33. Raised in Portland, Michigan, Rachelle was a 2008 graduate of Portland High School. She pursued her education at Lansing Community College and graduated from Davenport University with a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management. She landed an administrative job at Michigan State University where she was also an avid MSU sports fan. Rachelle is preceded in death by her grandparents, Estel and Josephine (Selbach) Gladding and Norman and Marie (Werner) Klein. She is survived by her father, Ronald Gladding of Lyons; mother, Colleen Gladding (Dennis TenEyck) of Portland; brothers, Brennon Gladding of Grand Rapids and Ryan Gladding (James Pence) of Lansing; significant other, Matt Dickinson of East Lansing, and several loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Karen Morton Burdick age 76, of Portland, passed away November 23, 2023. She was born March 5, 1947, in Niagara Falls, New York the daughter of John and Marie (Franke) Morton. Karen married Patrick T. Burdick November 14, 1970, in Lewiston, New York. She received her BS in Public Health and worked for the State of New York as a Sanitarian for a short time before having children. Karen was a devoted wife and mother and loved taking care of her family. She was a member of St. Joseph's Parish in Pewamo. Karen was preceded in death by her parents; son Mark Burdick in 1997; and her brother Michael Morton. Surviving is her loving husband of 53 years, Patrick T. Burdick of Portland; children, Catherine Burdick (Alvaro Bustos) of Santiago, Chile and Matthew Burdick of Waukesha, Wisconsin; brothers, John (Bobbi) Morton of New Jersey and James (Barbara) Morton of Atlanta, Georgia; sisters, Mary Schneider of St. Augustine, Florida and Amy Morton of Ransomville, New York.

Vicki Lynn Stephens, age 76, of Ionia, passed away on Friday, November 24, 2023. She was born on October 17, 1947, the daughter of Donald and June (Blundy) Hoffman in Lansing. Vicki was raised in Portland, Michigan and attended Portland St. Pats High School. On March 27, 1964, she married the love of her life, Charles "Chuck" Stephens, Sr. After marriage, Chuck and Vicki moved to Ionia where she devoted her life to raising their five children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Sr.; parents; daughter in law, Amie Stephens; and mother-in-law, Francis Stephens. Vicki is survived by her children, Scott (Jennifer) Stephens of Ionia,

Chuck (Charity) Stephens of Stanton, Kathy (Gregg) Mahlich of Ionia, Mike (Jennifer) Stephens of Newaygo and Nikki Daugherty of Ionia; sister, Jeanie (Ed) Utter of Holt; 13 grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. Those wishing may make memorial contributions to Ionia Montcalm Secure and Friendly Environment Child Advocacy Center (IM SAFE).

Garret Andrew Hoppes, age 27, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on January 11, 2024. Born on December 4, 1996, to Kyle Hoppes and Lizzie (Moyer) Hoppes, Garret was a kind soul who touched the hearts of all who knew him. A graduate of St. Patrick High School, Class of 2015, Garret left a lasting mark on those around him. He was not one for many words, but when he spoke, people listened, fascinated by his witty one-liners that never failed to bring smiles to those in his presence. Above all, Garret treasured his family and close group of friends. Surviving Garret are his mother, Lizzie (Moyer) Hoppes; father, Kyle (Shellie Lefke) Hoppes; sister, Michelle (Brandon) Trierweiler; brother, Preston Scheurer; nephews, Aiden and Brody Trierweiler; niece, Everly Trierweiler; stepbrother, Tyler (Mary) Turnquist; grandparents, Jim (Val) Moyer, Glenna Moyer, Tom and Jill Hoppes, and Kaye Lefke; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends.

John Leon Moyer, of Portland, peacefully went to be with the Lord on January 16, 2024, at the age of 95. He was born in Eagle, Michigan, on January 12, 1929, to Russell and Emma (Haueter) Moyer. John was a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. A proud veteran, John served his country with honor during the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army 68th AAA Gun Battalion Division from 1951 to 1954. John also served in the U.S. Navy. He was blessed with a 69-year marriage to the love of his life, his sweet "Honey Bee," Margy (Peake) Moyer. John is preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Emma Moyer; wife, Margy Moyer; several brothers and sisters; and several Peake in-laws. He is survived by his children: Michael (Mary Jo) Moyer, David (Kathy) Moyer, Steve (Ok-Sook Park) Moyer, and Anne (Mark) Wojtkowski. John is also remembered fondly by his six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, Barry "Bud" Moyer; sister-in-law, Eleanor Peake; step-niece, Lindsey Kelleher, and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the V.F.W. Post #4090 or to the American Legion, 1324 E. Bridge Street, Portland, MI 48875 in memory of John.

Alfred "Alfie" Frank Goodman, Jr. passed away peacefully in his home on Friday, January 26, 2024. Al was married to his high school sweetheart, Carol (Seal), for 67 years. Preceding Al in death are his parents, Alfred and Lucy (Miller) Goodman, Sr.; son, Brian Goodman; brothers, Jim Goodman and Mike Goodman; and sis-

ter, Liz Seal. Al is survived by his beloved wife, Carol Goodman; children, Greg (Sue) Goodman, Mark Goodman, Kirk (Renee) Goodman, Todd (Josette) Goodman, Pam (Brian) Grapentien, Chad (Jamie) Goodman, Dana (Andy) Linebaugh; son-in-law, Mike Maliszewski; 20 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; siblings, Louise (Jim) Gensterblum, Alice Bills, Denise Goodman, Nancy Yager, Pete (Ruth) Goodman, Pat (Luanne) Goodman, Neil (Kerri) Goodman, and Denny (Theresa) Goodman; special friend and brother-in-law, Ron Weatherbee; and very special friend, Tom Balderson.

Marilyn Lee Fedewa, age 88, of Grand Ledge, formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2024. She was born on August 6, 1935, in Lansing, the daughter of Nelson and Anna (Szedlak) Smith. Marilyn was raised in Lansing and she graduated from Resurrection High School in 1954. She married Richard L. Fedewa at Holy Cross Church in 1957. They moved to Portland where they lived and raised their family until 1990. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Richard in 2004; brother, Robert Smith; sister, Louise Hamilton; in-laws Donald Hamilton, Betty Smith, Elmer, Frances, Don, Maxine, Robert, Henry, Lorena, Herb, Geri Fedewa, Helen and Charles Snell, and Al and Eileen Bednarz. Surviving are her six children, Brenda (Roger) Shaffer, Lori (Lawrence) Heilbronn, Kathy Strodbeck, Becky (Rob) Wizorek, Mike Fedewa, and Doug (Lisa) Fedewa; 17 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and the 16th on the way; sister, Patricia (Ken) Carter; brother, Darwin (Camella) Smith; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be to CorsoCare Hospice or to The National Kidney Foundation in memory of Marilyn.

Alvin Robert Spitzley, 83, of Mulliken, was called home on February 20, 2024. He was born on March 21, 1940 in Ionia, MI to Leo and Theresa (Fox) Spitzley Sr. Alvin was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and brother who took pride in providing for his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He was a passionate, lifelong farmer who was constantly on the go and kept himself busy with work of all kinds. Alvin was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Leo, Robert, Harold, David, Jerome, Roy and sisters Joan Schmitz, Wilma Schmitz, Alice Esch, and son-in-law Jim English. Alvin is survived by Rosemary, his devoted wife of 63 years; his children Ron Spitzley, Lynda English, LuAnn (Rick) Kinsman, Andy (Larene) Spitzley; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother Phillip; sister-in-law JoAnn Spitzley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tonya Sue Leik, of Mason, passed away on Friday, February 23, 2024 at the age of 51. She was born in Ionia, the daughter of Dan and Sally (Breimeyer) Leik on August 18, 1972. Tonya was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 1990 and she went

on to study at Madonna University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. She had a great sense of humor and was quite strong-willed. Tonya always rooted for the underdog and was a big advocate for the elderly during her career in healthcare administration at various extended care facilities. Preceding Tonya in death are her grandparents, Jerry and Hilda Leik and Andrew and Esther Breimeyer; and brothers, Danny and Denny Leik. She is survived by her parents, Dan and Sally Leik; siblings, Patti Luttmann, Christina (Darin) Roll, John (Lynn) Leik, and Janet Richardson; several nieces and nephews; and friend, Dan Edwards.

James L Huhn, age 79, of Hubbardston, passed away Thursday, April 11, 2024, surrounded by family. He was born December 15, 1944, in Portland, the son of Herman and Mathilda (Kowatch) Huhn. James married the love of his life, Penny Wood, on September 18, 1971, in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. James was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was well known as an all-around family man. James is survived by his wife of 52 years, Penny; daughters Tanya (Danbury) Zimmer and Mandy (Mark) Pluff; sons Dan Huhn and Michael (Mallory) Huhn; five grandchildren; brothers, Robert Huhn, Ken Huhn, and Steve Huhn; sisters Marleah Quimby and Sharon Goodman; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ron, Jon, and Duane Huhn; and sister Mary Ellen LaRose. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Hospice House of Mid-Michigan (1210 W. Saginaw St, Lansing, MI 48915).

Jane Goodman, age 79, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side April 18, 2024. She was born on August 16, 1944, to her parents Norman and Edna (Pohl) Weber. She grew up and lived in Portland where she married the love of her life and raised her family. She was a dedicated, lifelong parishioner of Portland St. Patrick Catholic Church and retired from Auto-Owners Insurance of Lansing after many years of service. Jane is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Gerald (Jerry); her parents; sister, Arlene Weber; brother, Marvin Weber; father-in-law and mother-in-law, George, and Dorothy Goodman; in-laws, Patrick Vashaw, Norman Goodman, Jerry Fernholz and William Curns; niece and nephews, Michelle Curns, Kevin Becker and Ronald Shinaver, Jr. She will be lovingly remembered by her children, David Goodman, Linda (Paul) Connell, and Laurie (Mike) Piggott; five grandchildren; siblings Joan Vashaw, Lee (Jane) Weber, Jerome Weber, Daniel (Joyce) Weber, and Janice (Jim) Bollman; in-laws, Joyce Curns, Carol (Ronald, Sr) Shinaver, Eugene (Letha) Goodman, Ronald (Jane) Goodman and Gladys Fernholz; and many special nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaelfox.org), in memory of Mrs. Jane A.

Goodman.

Ray LeRoy Hart Jr. of Eagle, passed away on February 25, 2024, at the Mid-Michigan Hospice House in East Lansing, Michigan. Ray was born November 4, 1950, the son of Ray and Elsie (Wong) Hart. In 1968 Ray graduated from Carson City High School. He worked hard as a telephone man for 32 years. He will be remembered as a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, co-worker, and friend to many. Ray is survived by his wife Susan (Secor) of 53 years; son Ray (Melissa) Hart III; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; siblings, Mary Hart, Beta (Doug) Cook, Judy (Galen) Young, and Joe (Kathy) Hart; and many nieces and nephews. Ray was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Christy Jo Hart; sister, Betty V. Hart; niece, Stephanie Hart; and nephew, Cody Helman. Donations may be made in his honor to The American Cancer Society.

Daniel Joseph Pung died Sunday, April 14, 2024, of complications from pneumonia. He was 58 years old. Dan was a wonderful husband, loving son, supportive brother, favorite uncle, and loyal friend. After moving to Colorado and later to Phoenix, Arizona, Dan had an extensive career with Wells Fargo in project management where he was regarded as an esteemed colleague and supportive mentor. Dan married Mindy, the love of his life, in 2007; she preceded him in death in 2021. He is survived by parents, Lawrence and Ann Marie Pung; brothers, Christopher (Janet) Pung, Fr. Karl Pung, and Nathan (Kristin) Pung; sister, Rhonda (Craig) MacAllister; nine nieces and nephews; and one grandnephew. Dan's laughter and joy for life will be dearly missed. The consummate host and thoroughly caring soul to the very end, he generously donated his organs upon his death to allow others to continue on their life's journeys. Dan's funeral will be June 22, 2024 at St. Patrick church.

Connie Lee Pierce, of Portland, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2024, at the age of 84. She was born on May 26, 1939, the daughter of Richard and Virginia Green. Connie was quite the homemaker, she was an excellent cook and everything was made from scratch. She enjoyed the outdoors, especially gardening and tending to her flowers. Connie was a wonderful caretaker and a loving grandmother. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Preceding her in death are her parents and husband of 39 years, Harold Pierce. Connie is survived by her sons, Harold Pierce, Jr. and Jeff Pierce; grandchildren, Hunter and Paityn Pierce; and siblings, Larry (Wanda) Green, Ray (Julie) Green, and Lorna Gloden.

Nancy Jean (Neumann) Densmore, of Houghton Lake formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2024, at the age of 76. Nancy was born in Greenville, on May 13, 1947, the daughter of Gerard

and Melvina (Richardson) Neumann. Nancy found joy in life's simple pleasures, especially while reading a good book, playing cards, watching her grandkids various activities, and watching basketball. Above all, Nancy cherished the quiet moments spent at the family's cottage on Houghton Lake. Preceding Nancy in death are her parents and husband of 32 years, Gene "Geno" Densmore. Nancy is survived by her daughter, Melissa (Bob) Fox; son, Kirk (Damarah) Densmore; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; and brothers, Dick (Lynda) Neumann and Larry (Cheryl) Prosser.

James Stephen Klein, Sr., a beloved member of the Portland community, passed away suddenly on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the age of 78. Born on July 6, 1945, to Norman and Marie (Werner) Klein, Jim lived a life marked by dedication to his family, faith, and community. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Jim was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and actively participated in the Knights of Columbus #2168 in Portland. He is preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Marie Klein; his brother, Larry Klein; brother-in-law, Bill Stajos; in-laws, Isidore and Regina Schmitt; and niece, Rachele Gladding. Jim is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Jeanie; his children, James (Nicole) Klein, Jr. and Jonda (Terry "Chopper") Schrauben; five cherished grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; siblings, Jan Stajos, Thomas (Cathy) Klein, Colleen (Dennis Tenyck) Gladding, and Rita Klein; and his in-laws, Gerald (Evelyn) Schmitt, Richard (Bonnie) Schmitt, and Ruth Doepker. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Church in memory of Jim.

Amy Denise Kahn, age 54, passed away on May 29, 2024. She was born on November 27, 1969. Amy met the love of her life, Matt, and they were married on May 8, 2004. Although she was told that she could not have children, God blessed them with a precious daughter, Mya. Thus began a lifetime of dedication between mother and daughter that even death cannot change. She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Steven Kahn; niece, Tiffany Easley and stepfather, George Balser. Surviving are her husband of 20 years, Matt; daughter, Mya; mother, Vickee I. Balser; father, Charles D. Hutchison; sister, Wendy J. Easley; mother-in-law, Carol Kahn; brother-in-law, David (Silvia) Kahn; sister-in-law, Dr. Amy (Darren) Abbott; nephews, Jimmy and Mark Easley; her special Yorkie, Bella Kahn and many friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Community Fund or to the American Cancer Society in memory of Amy.

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



Upcoming EVENTS

Summer Fest June 22-23, 2024
 Al's Retirement Party (see page 12) June 23, 2024
 Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion Sept. 7, 2024
 Fall issue of The Shamrock Mid-September
 Homecoming/Hall of Fame Induction October 5, 2024
 Fall Festival/Lions Tailgate (tentative).... October 13, 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.

CAMPUS MINISTRY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

The spirit is alive and moving at St. Patrick School! The picture at the right shows many of the students from St. Pat's who have been baptized over the past two years.

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.



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1953 Roy Bauer | 1982 Jeff Strang |
| 1956 Rita (Bauer) Cummings | 1983 Steve Lehnert |
| 1961 John D. Pung | 1983 Rich Strang |
| 1961 Donald Mleko | 1983 Kirk Noren |
| 1965 Steve O'Leary | 1983 Marilyn Tallmadge |
| 1966 Mike Feldpausch | 1985 Scott Osmar |
| 1972 Wayne Thelen | 1993 Darcy Hinds Vandecar |
| 1973 Mary F. Brooks | 1984 Thersa Schoenherr Fensom |
| 1975 Susan Thelen | 1996 Paul Theuerkauf |
| 1975 Patricia Cook Leppo | 1997 Jenny Chamberlain Barbosa |
| 1976 Cathy Clark | 2000 Jeffrey Pung |
| 1977 Fred Tallmadge | 2002 John Carter |
| 1977 Rick Bailey | 2004 Don Volman |
| 1979 Harold Pierce | 2004 Cara Monks |
| 1980 Angie Young | 2005 Anthony Fedewa |
| 1980 Patrick Ellis | 2013 Dakota Bonner |





The words in the puzzle are words that can be found in articles in this issue. Find all 29 of these words, and the letters that are leftover will spell out the answer, a message that goes hand-in-hand with the new AI and Karla Schrauben Foundation (see page 10)

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 July 1, 2024. 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: _____

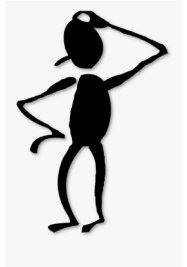
S U C C E S S L H E S T C N R
 F A I T H W I R H S H H E C E
 M I N I S T R Y A G E E O O U
 G I V E E S W L I E R R B S N
 N A I R A M C L R G T A I U I
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AUCTION
 BIG AL
 CHAMPS
 CHEER
 COACH
 CORTNEY
 DAYCARE
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FINALS
 GREEN
 HALL OF FAME
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 KARLA
 LEGEND
 LITERACY

LOVE
 MARIAN
 MEMORIES
 MINISTRY
 PICKLE
 RETIRE
 REUNIONS
 ROCKET CLASS

SPOTLIGHT
 SUCCESS
 SUMMER FEST
 TEARS
 THE PIT

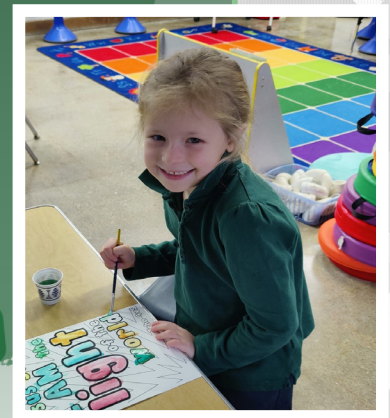
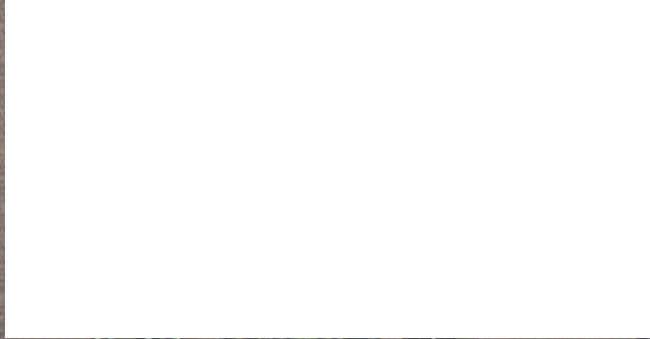


The hidden phrase in the last issue was, "Not only are the attitudes of teachers crucial for the success of Catholic education but so are the attitudes of Catholic parents." The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was JOYCE ROGERS of Portland, who received \$50 for her efforts. Yay, Joyce! After all of these years of being the first one to submit your entry, you finally won! Congratulations!

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