



# THE SHAMROCK

*A Shamrock Legacy Publication*

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



## We Appreciate Your Support

By the time this edition of The Shamrock Legacy ends up in your mailbox, the school year will be 75% complete. While it has been a very busy school year so far, it has also been rewarding, with many great things happening.

Our Campus Ministry team is thriving. They lead our students and staff in many activities, including Advent Wreath Lighting ceremonies, Stations of the Cross, and our 7th/8th grade retreat.

Our quiz bowl team had another exciting season, and our high school choir has grown to 12 students and sounds fantastic. Our winter sports season has wrapped up with our girls' basketball team winning the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) and our girls' bowling team advancing to states. Two individual bowlers, Bella Russman and Olivia Rockey, also advanced to states as individuals.

While we are working hard to have an excellent finish to the current school year, much planning is already taking place for the 2024-25 school year. Enrollment is officially open for the upcoming school year.

We are always so appreciative of all our donors. Regardless of the donation size, each donor is considered generous, and we are incredibly grateful.

Here is what all of you have helped us to accomplish so far this year.

- Donations for the Tuition Angels Scholarship Fund this year (as of 2/20/24) are \$29,900. Thanks to your generosity, we have met the tuition needs of all our school families so far this year. We know several families that will still need help as the school year progresses. Any funds not used for the 2023-24 school year will automatically roll over for the 2024-25 school year.
- Donations for "Wherever Funds are Needed the Most" are \$10,360. These donations are placed in our school's general fund to ensure we meet all operating expenses for the current school year. We budgeted \$25,000 for the 2024-25 school year, so we are getting close to reaching our goal.
- Donations for the Former Pastors Endowment Fund for 2024-25 are \$8,135.00, and the current account balance is \$117,340.63. Our goal is to get this fund to one million dollars as soon as possible.
- The Father Flohe Foundation fund ended the 2023 calendar year with a balance of \$2,593,438. Again, thank you for your kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. We have been able to accomplish so many things recently due to all of you.

# School News!

## Fall Sports Wrap Up

While the winter sports season will end soon, it will not conclude by the time this edition of The Shamrock Legacy goes to the press. In the meantime, we want to provide everyone with a wrap-up of our fall sports season.

**Football:** For the first time in recent memory, we had enough student-athletes to field a junior varsity football team. They had a very successful season, finishing it with a 6-1 record. The varsity football team finished the year with a 9-3 record, were the Midstate Athletic Conference Champions, and advanced to the regional finals before being defeated in a closely contested and hard-fought game. Receiving individual awards for the Shamrock football team were:

- Brady Leonard – All-Conference Quarterback
- Landon Simpson – All-Conference and All Region Defensive Back
- Brayden Simon – All-Conference Running Back and Defensive Line
- Tyler Groothius – All-Conference Tight End and Kicker and All Region and All State Kicker, Bishop Baraga Award Winner
- Devin Cook – All-Conference Defensive End and Honorable Mention All-Conference Offensive Lineman
- Shawn Frawley – All-Conference and All Region Offensive Lineman
- Riley Mosser – All-Conference Linebacker and Tight End
- Hudson King – Honorable Mention All-Conference Running Back
- Auggie Teachworth – Honorable Mention All-Conference Linebacker
- Aiden Mosser – Honorable Mention All-Conference Linebacker
- Grant Pline – Honorable Mention All-Conference Lineman
- Daniel Huggler – Tim Chamberlain Award
- Lucas Simon – Tim Chamberlain Award

**Volleyball:** Our junior varsity volleyball team was very young this year and mainly consisted of 8th-grade student-athletes. The varsity volleyball team finished with a record 16-20-3, winning the Webberville tournament and was Team Academic All-State. The following received individual awards:

- Tori Sandborn – SPS school record holder for Career Digs, Dig Average, 1st team All-Conference
- Marley Weems – Honorable Mention All-Conference and Academic All-State
- Hannah Weller – Academic All-State
- Alaina Forist - Academic All-State

**Cross Country:** The boys' and girls' cross-country teams had very competitive seasons. An unfortunate, late-season injury kept our boy's team from qualifying for states. They did win a trophy, placing in 3rd place at the Saranac Color Run. The following received individual awards:

- TJ Chamberlain – 2nd Team All-Conference
- Isaac FoxElster – State Qualifier and Academic All-State
- Laynie Meredith – 1st Team All-Conference, State Qualifier, and School Record Holder
- Marian Davlin – Honorable Mention All-Conference

## Blood Drive Results

We had a successful blood drive on January 23, although we fell just short of our goal of 34 units. We collected 33 units! We were excited to have three students who signed up to donate for the first time; thank you to Laynie Meredith, TJ Chamberlain, and Charlotte Bergsma for rolling up your sleeves and saving lives! The Red Cross canceled our March 19 blood drive due to worker availability. Our final blood drive is scheduled for May 21 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Remember, if you're old enough to drive, you're old enough to save lives by donating blood.





## Mr. Hodge Diaconate Ordination

On a very wintry day across the State of Michigan, our high school principal and development director, Mr. Randy Hodge, was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on Saturday, January 13. Deacon Randy was ordained along with eight other members of the Parmenas class.

Mr. Hodge has been asked several questions regularly since his ordination. Here are those questions with an answer:

### **Who is your “boss” as a deacon or who officially oversees deacons?**

Deacons pledge their obedience to whomever is the bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and his successors. Currently, that is Bishop Walkowiak. He decides where deacons are assigned to best serve the needs of those in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. When deacons are assigned to a parish, they are expected to work with the pastor of that parish to do whatever he decides is most needed to assist at that parish to help meet the needs of the parishioners in that community.

### **Where have you been assigned to serve as a deacon and for how long?**

Bishop Walkowiak has assigned Deacon Randy to serve as deacon at St. Patrick Parish for the next three years.

### **What does that mean when you say you have been assigned to serve at St. Patrick Parish for the next three years?**

Essentially, Bishop Walkowiak evaluated the needs of the parishes within a reasonable distance of where Deacon Randy lives. He determined that Portland St. Patrick could use the services of another deacon.

### **You have been assigned to St. Patrick Portland for three years, what happens when those three years are up?**

After Deacon Randy’s first three years, Bishop Walkowiak will evaluate his assignment and decide if he will continue at St. Patrick Parish for another three years. He may decide that another parish needs a deacon more, or he may decide to keep him right here at St. Patrick Parish.

### **What are the faculties that a deacon has in serving in the ministry of the diaconate?**

Deacons serve as Deacons of the Word, the Altar, and Charity. When the deacon assists at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word, that is one way this duty is fulfilled. Deacons are also expected to preach the word outside of Mass when possible. Deacons may also celebrate baptisms, marriages, and funerals when a Mass is not necessary or possible. When they assist at Mass or take Communion to the sick or the homebound, they serve as Deacon of the Altar. Finally, they serve as a Deacon of Charity in many ways. This could include hospital ministry, prison ministry, street ministry, etc.

*We Pray.  
We Learn.  
We Achieve.*

# Student SPOTLIGHT

## Tyler Groothius



Our student spotlight is on senior Tyler Groothius. Tyler is the son of Jason Groothius and Michelle Groothius. He has one brother, Gavin, who is currently a sophomore.

Tyler keeps busy as a football, basketball, and baseball team member. In football, Tyler plays tight end on offense and corner on defense. This year, Tyler set the school record for kicking the longest field goal in our school history, 42 yards. He also was awarded All-League, All-Region, and

All-State awards as a kicker. Tyler is a member of our school's chapter of the National Honor Society.

Deacon Randy had this to say about Tyler: "Tyler has shown significant growth in his faith life this school year. He presented to the St. Patrick High School Men's Group about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. He also gave a presentation at the St. Patrick Parish Men's Retreat and served as a sacristan for high school Masses. Tyler was also one of several high school students who signed up for Adoration in the middle of the night during our Parish Mission."

Tyler said this about his time at St. Patrick High School: "When I came to this school for my first year of middle school, I immediately felt welcomed. At first, I was unsure of the change and had doubts about my future. However, the more time I spent here, the more I realized how many good people there are in this community. Every teacher here cares about the success of each individual, and I appreciate the personal connection that the small atmosphere provides. The school does a good job of offering opportunities for students to branch out and be more involved. I have built friendships and relationships with many people throughout my time here, and I will value them for the rest of my life. I have spent six years with the boys in my class, and I have to say there is no friendship like mine with them. The term "everybody knows everybody" applies to the St Pat's community, but if you have ever spent time around these people, you know it is a good thing."

## Student Spotlight Continued

As far as graduation goes, it is bittersweet. I have enjoyed my time here and its impact on my life, but I am excited for the future and grateful for the memories I made. I want to thank everyone who supported me and welcomed me into this community; I will be forever grateful.



## St. Patrick School Kindergarten Round-Up

We are thrilled to announce the relaunch of Kindergarten Round-Up at St. Patrick School in preparation for the 2024-2025 school year! This is a result of continued growth amongst our youngest learners. After five years of a multi-age kindergarten program, St. Patrick School has assessed the needs of our current students, teachers, and parents. It plans to return to a developmental kindergarten and a kindergarten classroom structure in the fall of 2024.

The purpose of a Kindergarten Round-Up is to evaluate students and determine their best educational fit in either developmental kindergarten (DK) or kindergarten. We aim to enroll at least eighteen students in each of these classrooms.

We encourage you to participate in the Kindergarten Round-Up, which will take place with scheduled one-hour sessions between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Monday, April 15. This event will be an excellent opportunity for parents and students to familiarize themselves with our school, meet our dedicated faculty and staff, and learn more about our kindergarten programs.

Spread the word! If you or someone you know is interested in registering for Kindergarten Round-Up, please complete the required form in the link below or contact the office at 517-647-7551.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to St. Patrick School and guiding them on their exciting educational journey.

Scan the QR Code to Register:



## How to Financially Support Enrollment

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is, "How can we support students financially who cannot afford the full tuition cost so they may attend St. Patrick School?" There are several ways our students have been supported financially over the years, including the following:

- **The Former Pastors Scholarship Fund:** started in 2022 with a generous donation from Fr. Julian Reginato, one of our former pastors. Once the fund reaches one million dollars, 4% of it will go to tuition scholarships.
- **Tuition Angels Scholarship Fund:** 100% of this fund will be used to help any family that falls short of paying their full tuition for the current school year due to reasons beyond their control (e.g., divorce or marital separation, loss of job, loss of life, health issues, etc.). Any money left from the current year will roll over to the next school year.
- **The Father Flohe Foundation:** A percentage of the Father Flohe Foundation fund provided to the school goes into the budget each year for tuition scholarships.
- **Adopt a family or a student:** we've had generous donors adopt a student or a family who could not afford the full cost of tuition, and they supported that student or family until they could pay the full cost on their own or until they graduated.

If you have any questions, would like to donate to any of these funds, or would like to adopt a student or family, please feel free to contact Deacon Randy Hodge by calling the school office at (517) 647-7551 or by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).



Junior, Ashlyn Clay keeping a close eye on her science experiment.

## Why St. Patrick Catholic School?

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

Our education centers on virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values. Take a guided tour, explore academic and extracurricular opportunities, meet school teachers and staff, talk to current school families, review scholarship and tuition options, and learn about a school that fosters a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

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

### How to Stay in Touch!

It's easy to stay up-to-date with what's happening at St. Patrick School and Parish.

School website: [www.portlandstpats.com/school](http://www.portlandstpats.com/school)  
Parish website: [www.portlandstpats.com/church](http://www.portlandstpats.com/church)  
School Facebook: St. Patrick School-Portland-MI  
Alumni Facebook: St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends

### How to Contact Us

Church: 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875  
Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807  
Text: (517) 575-8000 (Be sure to say who you are.)  
E-Mail: [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com)

School: 122 West Street, Portland, MI 48875  
E-mail: [Schooloffice@portlandstpats.org](mailto:Schooloffice@portlandstpats.org)  
Phone: (517) 647-7551 Fax (517) 647-4545  
Alumni site: [www.portlandstpats.com/schoolalumni](http://www.portlandstpats.com/schoolalumni)



# MEGA Rock Raffle Update

To date, we have sold around 468 tickets. When including the free ticket from those who purchased two tickets and received a third ticket for free, our total ticket sales currently are 634. We have grossed approximately \$200,000, which puts us close to covering the budgeted amounts we planned from this fundraiser.

Tickets continue to be available online and are now being sold for half price at \$250 due to over half of the drawings already taking place. There are still 24 opportunities to win! There will be two more drawings with Mega prizes. The winners of these drawings will be announced at the Shamrock Auction on April 19 and the Parish Festival on June 21.

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

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

We will continue to hold our \$500 monthly drawings on the last Friday of March, April, May, and June. Finally, winning tickets will be put back into the drawing each time, so it is possible to win multiple times. All our stakeholders must support this raffle as it will support our parish, school, and athletic budgets. If you have any questions about the MEGA Rock raffle, please get in touch with Randy Hodge by calling the school at (517) 647-7551 or by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).

To purchase a ticket, please scan the QR code below or use the enclosed remittance envelope.



## Our Monthly \$500 Winners:

September – Rocky Beckhold & Alice Zimmerman

October – Jim & Doreen Spohn

November – Erin Martin

December – Christine Rockey

January – Brenda Lenneman

February – Jim Thelen

## Fall Festival MEGA Winners:

\$5,000 - Douglas Smith

\$2,500 – Nick and Brandi Bengel

\$1,000 – Keith Cook

\$750 – Kristen Smith

\$500 – Germaine May/Janet Pung

\$500 – Jerry and Jan Bozung

\$250 – Daniel Schafer

\$250 – Sue VanLente

\$250 – Christine Rockey

\$250 – Randy Sandborn

## Marriage Gala MEGA Winners:

\$5,000 – Linda Huhn

\$2,500 – Jan Simon

\$1,000 – Chris and Nancy Nyenhuis

\$750 – Joe Cook

\$500 – Tom and Theresea Jandernoa

\$500 – St. Patrick School (ticket donated)

\$250 – Diane Zimmerman

\$250 – Robert Divish

\$250 – Jim and Linda Spring

\$250 – Heather Krieger

## A Family Continues the Legacy of Literacy at St. Patrick School

Theresa (Meyers) Lancaster was a member of the St. Patrick High School Class of 1966. She embodied the spirit of academic excellence and community engagement. Growing up on a farm on what was then Looking Glass Road, Terry cherished her upbringing alongside her ten siblings. Her dedication to education and literacy promotion shone brightly throughout her life.

During her time at St. Patrick School, Terry's leadership as co-captain of the cheerleading squad, her role as Homecoming Queen, and her achievement as salutatorian underscored her commitment to academic and extracurricular pursuits. Subsequently, Terry pursued higher education at Michigan State University and embarked on a thirty-year career teaching elementary students in suburban Detroit. During this time, she pursued her Master's degree in reading.

Terry's passion for reading extended beyond the classroom. She fervently advocated for public libraries and actively supported initiatives in her communities, including the Portland Public Library.

Despite her battle with cancer, Theresa remained steadfast in her love for reading. She instilled the same passion in her three children and seven grandchildren, some of whom have become published authors themselves.

The Lancaster Family is deeply committed to continuing Theresa's legacy and love for literacy by supporting literacy initiatives and educational programs within St. Patrick Catholic School for years to come.

We believe that continuing Theresa's legacy will inspire future generations to embrace the transformative power of literature and knowledge.



Students participating in the Farm Bureau traveling lab that was at St. Patrick School during Catholic Schools Week.

## There Is No 'I' in Estate Plan

If you do not already have an estate plan, any time is a great time to consider having one drawn up. You do not have to create your estate plan on your own. Many professionals are ready to help if you get stuck, have questions, or worry about forgetting something important. Here's who you can turn to and when.

Here are some potential members of "Your Team.":

**Estate Planning Attorney:** Works with you to establish a plan for your estate in case you are incapacitated or when you pass away. You want to create (or update) a legally valid plan to protect you, your assets, your loved ones, and your pets.

**Certified Financial Planner:** Advises on various topics, including retirement, education, investments, taxes, and charitable planning. They will help you complete a comprehensive, long-term financial plan.

**Trust Officer:** If you include a trust in your estate, this individual is responsible for administering that trust.


**Certified Public Accountant (CPA):** Helps you navigate your taxes. They are available when and if you want to help to file your taxes or to create a plan to minimize taxes.

**Charitable Gift Planner:** Helps you set up a gift for a specific nonprofit. Gifts to benefit organizations such as St. Patrick's School may provide you with financial benefits and the fulfillment that comes from helping. These can benefit the causes you care about during or after your lifetime.

**Free Advice:** Remember that many retirement plans and life insurance policies provide access to professionals who can assist you. Take advantage of all the free advice that is available—whether it's through your financial institution, your employer, or your plan provider.

If you have any questions about your charitable legacy, any giving programs or funds, or to have a private conversation about how you would like your donations to be used at St. Patrick School or Parish, simply contact Deacon Randy Hodge by phone at (517) 647-7551 or by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).





The Shamrock Auction is going to the Derby



# SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY  
APRIL  
19TH

Kentucky Derby themed event with dinner,  
drinks, and entertainment

Doors open at 6:00pm

Silent and live auctions, 50/50, and raffles

Buy tickets and follow updates on the auction website:

[www.bidpal.net/shamrockauction2024](http://www.bidpal.net/shamrockauction2024)



Knights Hall, 690 Maynard Rd, Portland





## With One Simple Choice, You Can Do Amazing Things

There is a simple way to ensure what you love lasts—and it's easier than you may think. Creating a beneficiary designation gift is quick and costs you nothing now. Instead, it allows you to take savings you have accrued over time and put it to good use.

Completing your gift takes a few minutes and a simple form. You may even be able to change your beneficiary designation online. Completing that quick task can result in transformative change for a nonprofit like St. Patrick Catholic School.

The following assets allow you to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries:

- Retirement plans
- Individual retirement accounts (IRAs)
- Life insurance policies
- Donor advised funds
- Bank or brokerage accounts

Remember, your beneficiary designations don't have to be all or nothing. You can give us a percentage of an asset, with the rest going to loved ones or other worthy nonprofits.

The legacy you leave behind can make good things happen for years. The options are as endless as your generosity.

### DID YOU KNOW...

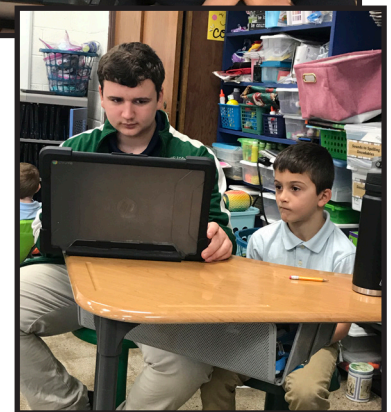
If you leave your retirement plan or IRA to a person, they will lose a portion to federal income taxes. Nonprofit organizations such as St. Patrick Parish or Schools can put the entire amount of your gift to good use.

### NOTIFY YOUR BENEFICIARIES

Once you have created your gift, share the good news with the people and place your name on your form. Financial institutions sometimes won't inform beneficiaries about or administer a gift to them. If St. Patrick Parish or School is part of your plan, we'd love to celebrate! Contact us at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or (517) 647-7551 today to let us know or to get our help.



Student Grant Lafferty had fun dressing up like Fr. Mike.



8th-grade students showed their 1st-grade little rocks digital stories, which the Big Rocks made about the planet they were assigned, and included their Little Rocks in the stories.



# We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!



The 5th-grade boys basketball team with their trophy after finishing 2nd in the CYAC tournament.



The high school girls' bowling team, after advancing to States.



Mrs. Russman's Kindergarten class had a blast celebrating St. Patrick's Day.



Mrs. Weems and her class celebrate St. Patrick's Day in their festive gear.

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



All our students gathered in the gym for our St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Some of our students and staff learned a dance with the Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe.



Many St. Patrick School students are members of the Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe, which performed at our St. Patrick's Day Celebration.



Little Rocks worked with their Big Rocks to build Noah's Arks from tasty building materials.

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