

St. Patrick Catholic School
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portlandstpats.com

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YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT

Located in Portland, Michigan, St. Patrick Catholic School has been educating the minds, bodies, and spirits of its students for over 110 years. Our school mission statement contains six powerful words that are a guide for life: *We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!*

St. Patrick School is open to all families who are looking for a faith-based education for their children. For more information about our top-rated preschool through 12th grade academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs, please visit portlandstpats.com/school.

Establish a scholarship today! Your gift will ensure that a holistic Catholic education at St. Patrick School will be available to families for years to come. 100% of your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your financial advisor to determine which method of giving is most beneficial to you.



A Shamrock Legacy

Spring 2023 | A Development Newsletter for
St. Patrick Catholic School, Portland

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Welcome to the 11th edition of A Shamrock Legacy. We have passed the halfway point of the 2022-23 school year and are well into the third marking period. Spring is in the air, and we have started Lent. Lent offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and deepen our commitment to a way of life rooted in our baptism. It is an opportunity to reflect on our lives, pray more deeply, repent of the wrongs we have committed or what we have failed to do, and to be charitable to those in need. This means many plans and preparation are taking place for events during Lent and throughout the remainder of this school year.

Plans for the 2023-24 school year are underway. The middle and high school schedules and course offerings are being reviewed. We are examining what maintenance and custodial work must be completed this summer to sufficiently maintain the building for the next school year and beyond.

We are also excited to announce that our development program has taken another step forward: starting an alumni committee (more information on page 4). The St. Patrick Alumni Committee will begin developing ways to reach out, keep our alumni in touch with St. Patrick School, and assist with fundraising for the school.

It is exciting to see all that we have accomplished since starting our development program over two and a half years ago. We truly appreciate all who have donated their time, talent, treasure, and prayers over this period. We have accomplished significant projects such as putting a new roof on the school, remodeling four bathrooms, and adding a new teacher lounge and staff bathrooms. We have also accomplished many smaller projects, such as purchasing new copy machines and installing a new phone system in the school. The next project will take place soon, which is installing a new public address (PA) system for the school.

We have been able to do all these wonderful things and much more because of the tremendous support of our donors and benefactors. We continue to emphasize that many hands make for light work. Thank you for all the generosity you have shown St. Patrick School with your prayers and financial support.

If you have any questions about all that is taking place at St. Patrick School, would like to schedule a tour of our facilities, or would like to join the alumni committee, please contact our Development Director, Mr. Randy Hodge by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or by phone at (517) 647-7551.



Student representatives from grades 1-12 attended Mass at St. Andrew Cathedral during Catholic Schools Week.

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FALL TRAP SHOOTING SEASON SUMMARY



As you may be aware, St. Patrick School started its own Trap Shooting team at the beginning of the 2021 school year. Our student-athletes have been very successful thus far, winning the league last spring and then repeating as league champions this fall, finishing first in 1A-Conference 2.

Week 5 ended with four new personal best scores. Kaeden Brown shot a 23/25, Logan Howe shot his first 25/25, Ethan Nickols shot a 15/25, and Ben Smith shot a 21/25.

Final conference standings have been posted, (see right). St. Patrick School finished first in 1A-Conference 2 out of 7 teams.

Top shooters for the team:

Simon White led our team with a 22.9 average and was ranked 3/76 in the conference, he tied for 35th in the state out of 780 athletes.

Logan Howe was second with a 20.9 average, 11/76, and 184/780.

Ben White was third with a 20.7 average, 12/76, and 205/780.

The coaches are very proud of all the shooters; many participate in multiple sports and still made time to shoot every week. We have seen tremendous growth from the team, which will help us as we head into the spring competition.

Team individual averages:

Athlete	Comp AVG
BENGEL, CHASE	17.60
BROWN, KAEDEN	19.90
FEDEWA, SEAN	20.30
GEHRCKE, COOPER	15.10
HENGESBACH, DARREN	20.00
HENGESBACH, WILLIAM	19.90
HOWE, LOGAN	20.90
NICKOLS, ETHAN	11.80
SMITH, BENJAMIN	19.10
STURM, ROBERT	14.40
WHITE, BENJAMIN	20.70
WHITE, SIMON	22.90

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Our staff spotlight for this edition of A Shamrock Legacy is Mrs. Margaret Besson, or as some of her students call her, Mrs. B. She previously worked as a classroom paraprofessional for four and a half years before obtaining her teaching certification. Mrs. B began working

at St. Patrick Catholic School in 2021 as the Academic Support Teacher for K-8th grade.

She focuses on serving students with additional learning needs in the classroom; however, if any student needs help, she doesn't turn them away. Sometimes support is offered one on one, in small groups, or as a whole group. Margaret consults with our ISD team to help meet the needs of students. She differentiates instruction for students to help make their learning equitable. They still learn the same content as other students, but it can be presented differently.

Daily, Mrs. B supports students' sensory needs, helps them work through problems (social-emotional learning), provides positive praise, completes student interventions, and works with teachers to help them best support their students. She puts visuals (picture prompts) together for students to use to help them achieve success. Margaret also completes a lot of self-reflection and thinks about what she could do differently to help students. Sometimes, she will ask students for their feedback and ideas.

This year, we hired a part-time academic support teacher assistant. This position helps supplement what Margaret does daily, allowing her to focus more on content and instruction-based practices.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Our student spotlight is on senior Davide Cannilla. Davide is an exchange student from the small seaside town of Montignoso, Italy, and is being hosted by Chris and Margaret Besson. He has two brothers.

He has participated in theater, tennis,

basketball, and plays the alto saxophone in his free time. He enjoys watching basketball, with Giannis Antetokounmopo being his favorite NBA player. The biggest challenge in watching NBA games is the difference in time zones from where he lives. Davide is a member of the St. Patrick High School varsity basketball team.

After graduation, Davide hopes to attend university and study psychology or history. History is his favorite subject in school because of the amount of information you receive from this subject.

He believes the best thing about being an exchange student is the opportunity to try new things and meet many new people. Davide says, "he will remember and cherish this experience and all the new people he has met forever."

The most challenging thing has been adjusting to the culture here in the U.S. In Italy, Davide attends a much larger school. In the United States, many daily activities revolve around school, including extracurricular activities such as sports.

Davide says, "everyone has been very welcoming and treated him kindly since he arrived, and he attributes that to the school culture at St. Pats."

VARIOUS UPDATES

ST. PATRICK ALUMNI COMMITTEE

St. Patrick School has a new committee called the Alumni Committee. This committee will consist mainly of St. Patrick Alumni and focus on two areas. The first area will focus on outreach to all of our alumni. The committee will plan events and activities to allow our alumni to keep in touch with St. Patrick School and each other. The second area will be to assist in fundraising efforts.

We currently have approximately 15 committee members and are looking for members to join. The goal is that not all members will need to meet each time because we will break our larger committee down into smaller committees. We are looking for alumni from all age groups and throughout the various generations of Shamrock graduates. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Committee, please contact our Development Director, Mr. Randy Hodge, at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or by calling St. Patrick School at (517) 647-7551. We will also have a box to check on the remittance envelope included in this edition of A Shamrock Legacy.

CAMPUS MINISTRY TEAM RETURNS

After a four-year hiatus, St. Patrick High School has a campus ministry team. The campus ministry team is responsible for helping plan and implement spiritual events for St. Patrick School and beyond. Thus far, they have planned our Advent Wreath lighting ceremonies, helped with Catholic Schools Week activities, helped with the education and promotion of Eucharistic Adoration, and their most recent event is to help educate our student body on the traveling Eucharistic Miracles exhibit that came to St. Patrick Parish March 11-13.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The St. Patrick High School chapter of the National Honor Society hosted its pre-Thanksgiving blood drive on November 22. We exceeded our goal of 37 units of blood, collecting a total of 43 units! The NHS hosted another blood drive on January 24 and collected 29 units of life-saving blood. Thank you to everyone who donated blood and to our NHS members who ran a wonderful event. Our next two blood drives are scheduled for March 21 and May 23 and will take place in the Parish Hall. You can schedule an appointment to donate at redcrossblood.org.



The high school Quiz Bowl team took second place in the league and second place at the league tournament. Pictured left to right are Olivia Pung, Payton Russman, William Chislea, Martin White, Joshua Snitgen, and Cozette Brown.



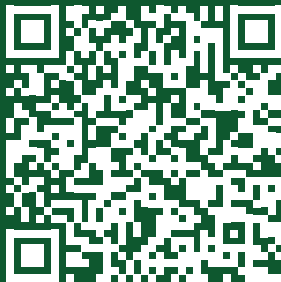
Junior, Olivia Pung and Senior, Hayley Fleischer were awarded Certificates of Merit by the Society of Women Engineers at Michigan Technological University.

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 are currently 634 tickets sold. 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, but there are still 24 opportunities to win).

**PUCHASE YOUR
MEGA ROCK
RAFFLE TICKET TODAY!**



Using your phone camera, scan the QR code above to purchase your Mega Rock Raffle ticket or visit the website listed below.

[https://one.bidpal.net/megarockraffle/browse/fixedPrice\(details:item/2\)](https://one.bidpal.net/megarockraffle/browse/fixedPrice(details:item/2))

Fall Festival MEGA Winners:

- Lindsey Bos - \$5,000
- Dale and Carol Kramer - \$2,500
- Chelsey Pung - \$1,000
- Germaine Simon - \$750
- Tom and Therese Jandernoa - \$500
- Allen Pline - \$500
- Bob and Rose Mosser - \$250
- Brett Klein - \$250
- Sandra Pearson - \$250
- Cindy Brown - \$250

Our Monthly \$500 MEGA Winners:

- September - Keelie Honsowitz
- October - Barbara Austen/Kathleen Waldron
- November - Ann Schneider
- December - Karen Scheurer
- January - Don Gross
- February - Wayne and Marlene Dick

Marriage Gala MEGA Winners:

- Jeff and Dawn Fedewa - \$5,000
- Noreen Logel - \$2,500
- Brandi Bengel - \$1,000
- Dave and Marianne Kerr - \$750
- Roni Christmas - \$500
- Stephanie Wambaugh - \$500
- Nick and Jenny Sandborn - \$250
- Kathleen Spitzley - \$250
- John Schrauben - \$250
- Mary Ann Thelen - \$250



Second-grade student, Henry Baltimore, takes part in the advent celebrations.