

St. Patrick Catholic School
122 West St.
Portland, MI 48875
Phone: 517-647-7551
portlandstpats.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Address Service Requested

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

Winter 2022 | A Development Newsletter for
Portland St. Patrick Catholic School

FINANCIAL UPDATE COLUMN

Recently, we had an unmarked envelope show up with a one-dollar bill in it. When I opened the envelope, Mrs. Cortney Smith was in my office. I told her that opening the envelope and having a dollar in it reminded me of the reading of the widow offering her last two coins in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 12:41-44). Mrs. Smith quickly went to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) website and looked up the day's readings for that specific date, and to our amazement, that was the gospel for that day.

We are always so appreciative of all our donors. Regardless of the size of the donation, each donor is considered generous in our eyes, 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 Fund for this year are \$14,243. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to meet the tuition needs of all our school families so far this year. We have approximately \$1,500 remaining. We know several families that will still need help as the current school year progresses. Any funds not used for the 2021-22 school year will automatically roll over for the 2022-23 school year.

Donations for "Wherever Funds are Needed the Most" are \$19,997.09. These donations are placed in our school's general fund and ensure we can meet all operating expenses for the current school year. We budgeted \$25,000 for the 2021-22 school year, and we are getting close to reaching our goal.

Donations for the Former Pastors Endowment Fund for 2021-22 are \$4,947.50, and the current account balance is \$111,767.67. Our goal is to get this fund to one million dollars as fast as possible.

The Father Flohe Foundation fund ended the 2021 calendar year with a balance of \$2,791,748.

Again, thank you for your kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. We have accomplished so many things recently due to all of you. Please see the column in this edition of *A Shamrock Legacy* for updates on some of our recent projects.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Celebrating Life
Pg. 4

Bathroom Update
Pg. 6

Welcome Anna
Pg. 7

FACILITIES UPDATE

We are excited to announce that we have selected a vendor for our new VoIP phone system. Printing Essentials will be installing our new phones on Friday, March 11, and we will begin using them immediately. Thank you to everyone who donated for this phone upgrade. Our new phones will enhance communication and make our school a safer and more secure facility.

If you visited our school recently for a basketball game, you might have noticed the new lighting installed in the gym. While we were planning to change out the lighting in the gym soon, four of the old lights stopped working early in the winter sports season, making it a priority. On February 7, all the lights were replaced with newer, more energy-efficient LED lighting. We are not only excited about the better lighting in the school gymnasium, but it will also save us money over the long term by having more energy-efficient lighting.

While we are still planning on remodeling our classrooms, that project will take a temporary hiatus while we complete the bathroom renovations. In the next two to three years, the goal is to renovate all our classrooms completely. This remodel will include removing all carpet and tile and replacing them with polished concrete floors in all classrooms. We plan to remove all chalkboards and install brand new whiteboards. New windows, lights, and multimedia projectors will be installed in all classrooms, and we will be upgrading our electrical infrastructure. These updates will ensure our classrooms are up-to-date, energy-efficient, and ready to meet the needs of all learners.

Finally, if you have been attending Mass here at St. Patrick Church, you will have noticed that the floor in the old chapel and on the first step leading into the sanctuary have been restored to their original form. The long-term goal is to restore our church sanctuary closer to what it was originally.

We are very excited about what has been accomplished and look forward to what the future holds for our church and school facilities. Thank you for any donations made to help with any of these projects.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHURCH FLOORS



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBER

By: Mrs. Cortney Smith

We are excited to welcome a new therapy/facility dog to our campus. In partnership with Canines for Change, Inc., we welcome Anna, a Goldendoodle to St. Patrick School. We were blessed with a donation from Farm Bureau Insurance Agency and a partnership with Canines for Change.

Studies show the benefits of having a dog at school include:

- Increases levels of dopamine and serotonin.
- Improves physical well-being.
- Decreases anxiety.
- Dramatically increases positive mood.
- Eases social isolation and helps children learn social skills.
- Helps young readers gain confidence.
- And so much more!

“Anna will be able to provide comfort when someone needs it or learn in a fun way; there are endless opportunities for Anna to be a part of our team,” said Cortney Smith, Preschool-8th grade Principal at Portland St. Patrick.

“To be at the office and see Anna and hang out with her for a little bit, you know, reducing anxiety before you go back to class. Plus, who doesn’t love this adorable face?” Alecia Smith from Canines for Changer commented during Anna’s first day on the job celebration.

At a school event, students had the chance to meet and welcome St. Patrick School’s newest furry faculty member, Anna, the dog.

WATCH COVERAGE OF ANNA’S FIRST DAY FROM WLNS NEWS 6 BY TAKING A PICTURE OF THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT.



MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH ESTATE PLANNING - BY: RANDY HODGE

Since I am in charge of the Advancement and Development program for St. Patrick School, I thought it might be a good idea to take my own advice. I have been advising donors and benefactors of St. Patrick School regarding the importance of estate planning. My wife, Michelle, and I decided it was time to contact an attorney and take care of our estate planning. We contacted local attorney Leo Madarang from Madarang, Hoort, and Associates in downtown Portland and set the process in motion.

Our initial meeting with Mr. Madarang lasted one hour, during which he collected information from us. We were then given a series of documents to help us gather all the necessary information, including:

- Who would have Power of Attorney over health-related decisions.
- Who would have Power of Attorney over financial decisions and our estate.
- We had to list all our assets including:
 - Any real estate (including the deed to the property)
 - Life Insurance policies
 - Stocks, Pensions, IRA's, or other retirement accounts
 - Vehicles, Recreational Vehicles, Jewelry, Collections, or any other assets
- Who will you want to raise your child(ren) if anything were to happen to you and your spouse if they are still a minor.
- Determine how you want your estate to be split between your heirs or any charitable organization you designate.

Michelle and I designated St. Patrick School as one of our estate's beneficiaries. One can split their designated amount between different funds within the organization(s) they name. For example, if a quarter of your estate is left to St. Patrick School, you could split that quarter 50/50 between the Former Pastors Shamrock Endowment Fund and the Father Flohe Foundation Fund.

Finally, the day came to sign our documents. It took about 45 minutes for Mr. Madarang to go over the paperwork and for us to sign all the

documents involved. The whole process was relatively easy and will save our family a lot of time, energy, money, and any legal hassle in the future. We now have peace of mind knowing that if anything should happen to us, our children will not have to worry about what will happen to our estate.

It is also interesting to note that our elementary principal, Mrs. Cortney Smith, and her husband Troy, recently completed their estate planning through Mr. Leo Madarang. Estate planning is a way to show your love for your children and ensure that you have laid out a plan of guardianship should anything happen to you and make sure they will have the proper care and supervision into adulthood.

Finally, by leaving a gift to St. Patrick School in your will, you ensure that we can continue to carry out our mission and create lasting improvements that benefit the people we serve for years to come. You also give St. Patrick School peace of mind and ensure our viability in serving the greater Portland area forever.

Wherever you are in the process, your estate plan is a powerful way to show your love. Please contact Randy Hodge at (517)647-7551 or randyhodge@portlandstpats.org to learn more about including St. Patrick School in your plans.



BATHROOM UPDATE

We are extremely excited to continue to move forward with our Bathroom Remodel Project. The prints and setup for the bathrooms have been approved. Our plans include installing all-new plumbing, fixtures, floor, and wall coverings, lowering the ceiling, adding energy-efficient lighting, and bringing the existing space up to current standards and codes. The color schemes that accent the bathrooms have been established; the girls' bathrooms will use light green, and the boys' bathrooms will use dark green.

Contractors have been in the building to review the project and are in the process of submitting bids for the work that will be completed. We will be remodeling the four bathrooms in the original part of the building and adding two staff bathrooms. The layout of one classroom will be adjusted to create the staff bathroom; this change will also allow us to add a staff lounge to that classroom.

The plan is for the bathroom remodel to occur this summer, beginning as soon as the 2021-22 school year concludes on June 10. Our goal is to have the new bathrooms ready to go for the 2022-23 school year! We will keep you updated on each edition of *A Shamrock Legacy* until the renovations are completed, and all expenses are covered.

Donations for the bathroom thus far this fiscal year are \$82,149.64. Total contributions for the bathrooms raised through the school to date are \$98,062.87. Before our fundraising efforts, approximately \$95,000 was donated to the bathroom project bringing the total donations close to \$200,000. The current cost estimate of the project is between \$500,00 - \$600,000. We will share the tentative initial costs for the project in the summer edition of *A Shamrock Legacy*.

Your support has and will continue to help us make this essential school update. Please consider donating to support our bathroom remodel using the envelop within this addition of *A Shamrock Legacy*.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL BOARD

Co-Chairs and Members Needed! Put your talents to work for St. Patrick School. The board consists of members from the parish, including school parents, parishioners, alumni, and community members. Board meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and last about two hours. Committee work is done independently of the board meetings and varies in time commitment. Your time and talents can make a big difference in ensuring St. Patrick School is around for years to come. Take a picture of the QR Code below to fill out the St. Patrick School Board Nomination Form.

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATION FORM



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL PTO

The St. Patrick School PTO provides support in obtaining necessary tools to aid in students' educational and spiritual development. Contact the PTO with questions, ideas, or to volunteer at pto@portlandstpats.org.

FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

The Father Flohe Foundation was established in 1988 with a mission of ensuring the stability of St. Patrick School for future generations. To accomplish this, the Foundation provides funds to assist in meeting the operating costs of the school, assist in the furnishing and/or improvements of the school, and assist in the support of any present/new programs at the school. Do your part in ensuring Catholic education for future generations at St. Pat's, by considering the Father Flohe Foundation in your annual contribution planning and in your estate planning. Contact Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or randyhodge@portlandstpats.org with questions or if you would like to donate.

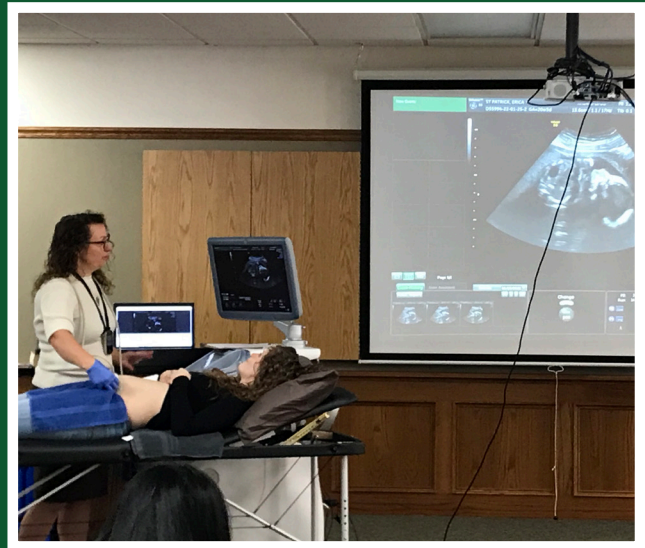
CELEBRATING THE RIGHT TO LIFE

During the month of January, St. Patrick School spends extra time promoting and focusing on the value of every human life. Students sign up to pray a Rosary each day, our high school students can attend the March for Life, and this year, we added an event.

Mrs. Jessica White, a school parent, and experienced ultrasound tech had two expecting mothers come to St. Patrick School for a visit on January 25. Mrs. White performed an ultrasound on these expecting mothers so our students in grades 6-12 could see the baby in the womb. Mrs. White discussed several topics, including an explanation of the following:

- What an ultrasound is and how one is completed.
- An explanation to the students what they were seeing and hearing during the ultrasound.
- The importance and value we as Catholics place on protecting the life of the unborn.
- What we can do as individuals, a community, and as a church to support expecting mothers.
- Answered any questions the students had about ultrasounds.

Thank you to Mrs. Elyse Downs and Mrs. Ericka Pung for sharing their babies and pregnancy experience with our students. We also thank Mrs. Jessica White for sharing her ultrasound expertise.



**WE PRAY!
WE LEARN!
WE ACHIEVE!**



SAVE THE DATE

St. Patrick School Shamrock Auction
Friday, April 29 @ the Portland Knight's Hall
Begins at 6:00 PM
Tickets are \$25 / person



A Night of Pure Imagination!
Tickets for the IN PERSON event include delicious food, drinks, and entry into the Shamrock appreciation raffle, as well as a live and silent auction, raffles, 50/50, entertainment and more!

For those who cannot attend in person, ONLINE ONLY participation is free. Simply create an account at www.bidpal.net/shamrockauction2022 for access to the silent auction, raffles, 50/50, and more!

Our 20th annual auction-based fundraiser provides funding for both academic and athletic programs at St. Patrick School as well as a fun night of fellowship. The proceeds from this annual event have enabled us to continue our tradition of excellence both in the classroom and in our athletics. With your donations and support of this event, we have raised over \$1,250,000 to date.

Our continued success is due to generous donations from our school & parish families. Please consider a cash, gift card, or item donation for this year's Auction.

Donations can be turned into the School Office between the hours of 9:00 AM -3:00 PM and must be dropped off by April 15, 2022. Questions? Contact Mike or Ann Kissane @ 517-604-1852 or kissanes@hotmail.com

As always, thanks for your continued support for St. Patrick School. Mike & Ann Kissane and Jason & Jennifer Chamberlain, Shamrock Auction Co-chairs

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS



Following our "Socktober" initiative, St. Patrick School donated 779 pairs of socks to Homeless Angels. Pictured here is Mrs. Karen Scheuer's third-grade class with the sock donations.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the PTO wine fundraiser at the Wagon Wheel a great success! Wagon Wheel Owner, Terry Schrauben, and the St. Patrick School PTO Officers are pictured here.