

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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

On Friday, October 28, St. Patrick School wrapped up the first marking period of the 2022-23 school year. We have been extremely busy since the end of the last school year. Here is a snapshot of all that has been accomplished since the beginning of June:

- The bathroom remodel project was completed just before the beginning of the new school year. This included remodeling the four bathrooms in the original part of the building and adding two new staff restrooms.
- More of our classrooms were remodeled over the summer, including removing asbestos tile and chalkboards from the old classrooms. This remodel also included adding a new staff lounge.
- We kicked off an exciting new raffle called the MEGA Rock Raffle, which consolidated four existing raffles into one big raffle.
- The Fall Festival was a success with a whole new look. It featured a craft show, KidsFest, and food truck vendors, all taking place in Alton Park.
- The PTO has been extremely busy this fall, hosting numerous events.
- Our staff had an outstanding professional development kick-off with Jim Basketball Jones encouraging staff to continue to have and develop a growth mindset.
- The teaching staff also had a two-day professional development called Capturing Kids Hearts that is being implemented throughout the school year and into the future.
- The parish pole barn at Father Flohe Field and school weight room got an extreme makeover with donations of weight equipment that modernized our facility.

We could 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 or would like to schedule a tour of our facilities, please contact our Development Director, Mr. Randy Hodge by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or by phone at (517) 647-7551.



2022 Fall Fest Color Run

INSIDE THIS EDITION

**MEET OUR NEW
COUNSELOR**
Pg. 3

FALL FEST 2022
Pg. 4

**MEGA ROCK RAFFLE
UPDATE**
Pg. 6 & 7

CELEBRATE THE CLOSE OF 2022 WITH TAX SAVINGS

As you toast the new year, consider these smart ways to wrap up 2022 on a financially high note. Not only can you save on your taxes, but you can also make a huge impact at St. Patrick School.

Contribute Appreciated Stock Instead of Cash: Suppose you have owned a stock for more than one year, and it has grown in value. In that case, you may be in line for two tax benefits: avoid taxes on the appreciated value and qualify for an income tax charitable deduction based on today's market value when you itemize. You will enjoy the same benefits with a gift of appreciated cryptocurrency. You receive the same tax saving as if you wrote a check, but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes.

Timing: Complete all transfers by December 31. This includes by mail, electronic transfer, or hand-delivery of the assets.

Sell Depreciated Assets and Donate the Cash: Unfortunately, 2022 wasn't good for all portfolios. If you want to support St. Patrick School, but your stocks or cryptocurrency have fallen in value, it is best to sell them first and then donate the cash. This allows you to record the loss as a tax deduction and qualify for an income tax deduction for the gift.

Timing: Complete all transfers and cash donations by December 31.

Open a Donor Advised Fund Account: Contribute to a donor advised fund and enjoy a tax savings on that amount when you itemize.

Timing: Complete the contribution by December 31. You do not have to designate the funds this calendar year to receive the tax benefits.

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of IRA Assets: If you are 70½ years or older, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to St. Patrick Legacy Funds. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use this transfer to satisfy all or part of your obligation.

Timing: We must receive your gift by December 31 for your donation to qualify this year. If you have check-writing features on your IRA, please be aware that your check must clear your account by December 31 to count toward your required minimum distribution for the calendar year.

Help Offset the Tax Liability On a Retirement Account Withdrawal: If you are 59½ years or older, you can take a distribution from your retirement plan account and then make a gift to St. Patrick School Legacy Funds without an early withdrawal penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount.

Timing: If your gift is in the form of a check, it must be postmarked on or before December 31 for your donation to qualify this year.

How to Make a Tribute Gift: Any year-end gift can be made in a loved one's name. This can be a heartfelt way to celebrate someone important in your life or to remember someone.

The Countdown Is On: As we approach the end of the year, we are happy to help ensure that you realize the greatest benefit for your hard-earned assets. Please contact Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.

ST. PATRICK PTO CONTINUES TO GROW AND THRIVE

The St. Patrick School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) continues to thrive! During the first two months of the school year, the PTO has been hard at work for our students and staff! Here is what they have accomplished so far this school year:

- **Homecoming Tailgate** - On Saturday, September 24th, we celebrated homecoming with a tailgate hosted by the PTO and Ashton King Insurance. They provided pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, and water. This event was a wonderful success! We are looking forward to Homecoming 2023!
- **Fall Candle Fundraiser** – The PTO teamed up with The Port to offer some fantastic fall candle scents. The Port continued its generosity by providing a fun pick-up event, with 20% of additional sales being donated to the PTO. This fundraiser ran from September 9th – 19th and was an enormous success!
- **Book Fair** – The PTO teamed up with Usborne Books and More to hold the first in-person fall book fair since Covid from October 13-15. This book fair company has many fantastic book options. Heather Goodenough (Wieber), St. Patrick School Alumni, hosted the book fair.
- **Color Fun Run** – On Saturday, October 15, the PTO hosted our 3rd Color Fun Run. It was a massive success with runners and walkers of all ages! Visit the school's Facebook page @ portlandstpatrick for photos!
- **KidsFest** – The PTO brought back the annual KidsFest on October 15th with the Fall Festival. Many kids from St. Pat's and the Portland community joined the fun! The PTO is looking forward to continuing this tradition annually.
- **Wine Tasting @ the Wagon Wheel** – This event will take place Thursday, November 17. This event sells out fast, so reserve your spot today by calling the Wagon Wheel (517) 647-4989. A fun evening filled with food, friends, laughter, and of course, wine!

With the funds raised by the PTO over the years, they have been able to support our teachers in significant ways, including the following:

- **New Whiteboards** - More whiteboards have been purchased to continue updating classrooms.
- **Wish List Fulfillment** – The PTO fulfilled all teacher Wish List requests for the 2021-22 school year. The PTO budgets \$3,000 annually for this expense and was able to honor every teacher's request, along with providing gift cards to teachers who weren't sure what to ask for! The PTO was excited to deliver these wish list items to our teaching staff.
- **Teacher Fund Requests** - The PTO budgets \$1,500 annually for teachers to submit fund requests for classroom items. They always look forward to approving these fund requests for our teachers.

To learn more about what the St. Patrick PTO is doing to help our teachers and for volunteer opportunities, please join them at their next meeting on January 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in room 110.

Finally, please plan to join them at the Wagon Wheel on Thursday, November 17, for their annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser, which begins at 6:00 p.m. Thank you again for supporting the PTO so they can continue supporting our teachers and students.

5 FACTORS THAT MAKE GIVING FEEL GOOD

Many of us devote our time, talents, and contributions to specific organizations because it's the right thing to do, and we want to make a lasting impact. Sharing our generosity provides us with an immense feeling of satisfaction.

Giving makes us feel good because it can:

- 1. Make a real difference.** Sometimes “thank you” doesn’t convey how much we genuinely care. Financial support of a cause enables you to make a powerful impact, and volunteering allows you to see your impact firsthand.
- 2. Reflect on our values.** We all want to be part of a community that shares our values. Showing support through gifts of time or finances can extend your connection, give you a sense of belonging, and reinforce your belief system.
- 3. Serve as inspiration.** Your generosity may inspire others to follow your lead. Engage loved ones in a discussion about your passions and encourage them to join you in volunteering or raising funds.
- 4. Create an everlasting impact.** You have an opportunity to leave your mark on the world. Planning a future gift—such as one in your will or trust—helps ensure that future generations will benefit. It can also help protect the causes you love beyond your lifetime.
- 5. Recognize individuals.** People who have touched our lives often inspire us to give back. Tribute gifts are a way to honor those individuals.

St. Patrick Parish and School are very appreciative of all those who support us. We could not do all that we are able to without your help. We are working on updating and modernizing our facilities to ensure that our parishioners and students have the best available facilities. Our goal is to continue to be the best educational opportunity in the greater Portland area. We must ensure we are modernizing and keeping our facilities up to date.

We are more than excited to show any of our donors around the school and share all the

exciting things we currently have going on. Please contact our Development Director, Mr. Randy Hodge, by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or by phone at (517) 647-7551 to discuss ways to make a meaningful impact on the lives of St. Patrick School students and staff.

GIVING TUESDAY: NOVEMBER 29

Giving Tuesday is a campaign created and shared through the web and social media to encourage online giving to nonprofits. The Diocese of Grand Rapids aims to encourage Catholics around the diocese to give back to Catholic parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries in place of their favorite secular nonprofits. The diocese will use the hashtag #GiveCatholicWM. Parishioners and school families can donate at the following link: bitly.com/givecatholicwm (the webpage will be live on Giving Tuesday). The diocese will not charge credit card fees, meaning that 100% of the funds donated to each parish, school, or diocesan ministry go right toward the mission.

The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan has generously agreed to sponsor this year’s #GiveCatholicWM campaign with grants totaling \$10,000! Five challenges are intended to encourage participation, inspire the sharing of faithful, joyous stories, and spark good-natured competition. We want to encourage our community to take up the challenges throughout the 24 hours of giving on Nov. 29 and compete to receive additional funds for our mission!

Donations must be made through the diocesan website to qualify for a matching gift from one of the grants. The challenges are detailed here: <https://grdiocese.org/giving-tuesday-challenges/>. Our parish and school are listed as options of places to donate on the diocesan giving portal.

MEET OUR NEW COUNSELOR



Hello, my name is Mary Wernet. I graduated from St. Patrick High School in 2014. I then studied Sociology and Community Leadership at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. My four years at Aquinas gave me many opportunities to learn and grow, including a study

abroad opportunity in Ireland and an internship with the Diocese of Grand Rapids through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development program. After graduating in 2018, I started working for the Ionia County Juvenile Court as a prevention worker and eventually as a probation officer. In my four years with the Juvenile Court, I worked closely with many organizations, including our school and mental health systems. I am very excited to be welcomed back into the St. Patrick community and feel very grateful to be able to intertwine all my previous career experiences into one position. It is a real blessing to work in an environment where Christ is King, and we strive to help each other see the world as a gift from God.



Seniors Will Chislea (L) and Joshua Snitgen (R) in the escape room they designed as part of their Capstone project. Read more in the column on the right.

VARIOUS UPDATES

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILING

Our annual Christmas card will be sent out at the beginning of December; please keep an eye out in the mail! Senior Cozette (Cozie) Brown designed this year's Christmas card. Cozie is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer Brown. She is a very active member of our school, participating in both track and cross county, the school choir, and our Campus Ministry Team.

NHS HAS SUCCESSFUL FIRST BLOOD DRIVE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The St. Patrick High School Chapter of the National Honor Society hosted its first blood drive of the 2022-23 school year on Tuesday, September 27, collecting 31 units of blood. Thank you to all the donors for helping our NHS members serve our community in this important way. Our next blood drive will be on November 22. You can sign up to donate now at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

THE 2022 ESCAPE ROOM

Seniors Joshua Snitgen and William Chislea started creating an Escape Room in the school during their first year of high school. Each year since, they have made a new Escape Room. Traditionally, this has been completed in time for our school Spirit Week celebration, which takes place the week before homecoming. This year, Joshua and Will decided it was time to go big and chose to do an Escape Room for their Senior Capstone project.

Construction of the Escape Room started right after the beginning of the school year in August. It continued right up to the beginning of the Fall Festival when it officially opened for business. This year's Escape Room theme was Gold Mine: Final Escape.

FALL FEST 2022

The St. Patrick School Fall Festival had a new look this year. While many past events were the same or similar, the setting changed dramatically, as did the date. In previous years, most of the event festivities were held in the school and on a Sunday. This year, Fall Fest was hosted on a Saturday, with most events taking place in Alton Park.

On Saturday, October 15, local vendors and crafters, food trucks, PTO KidsFest games, and activities were all set up and ready to go in the park. The PTO also hosted its annual color run. Inside the school, there was a book fair and an Escape Room. A huge thank you to the Fall Festival Chair, Jenny Brown, her team of volunteers, the school PTO, and the Athletic Association for recreating our annual Fall Festival and making it a great success!



FALL 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



2022 HOMECOMING COURT



The Freshmen class with their egg drop projects.



Lily (L) and Mattie (R) celebrating their egg drop win.

FALL 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



UPDATED BATHROOMS AND TEACHER'S LOUNGE



FALL 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



THE 1ST GRADE CLASS AND THE PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



A peak inside the St. Patrick School Escape Room.



2nd grade student enjoying their visit from the Portland Fire Department.

MEGA ROCK RAFFLE UPDATE

As hopefully everyone is aware, St. Patrick Parish and School have started a new raffle to help meet the financial needs of our parish, school, and athletic programs. In addition to raising money, making things simpler and more efficient for our donors was our goal when creating the St. Patrick MEGA Rock Raffle.

The St. Patrick MEGA Rock Raffle has replaced all other raffles that took place throughout the year, including the weekly sports raffle, the Fall Festival Raffle, the parish festival raffle, and the large Shamrock Auction raffle. For the St. Patrick MEGA Rock Raffle, tickets are being sold for \$500 each. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets to help fund our parish, school, and athletic programs.

To date, we have sold around 450 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 616 tickets sold. We have grossed approximately \$200,000, which is close to covering the budgeted amounts we planned from this fundraiser.

Here are the winners from our first drawing, which were announced at the Fall Festival:

- 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

There will be three more drawings with MEGA prizes.

The remaining drawings will take place on the following dates:

- Marriage Gala on February 11
- Shamrock Auction on April 21
- Summer Fest on June 24

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

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

There will also be a monthly drawing on the last Friday of each month for 10 months with one \$500 winner per month beginning on Friday, September 30. Our September winner was Keelie Honsowitz. Our October winners were Barbara Austen and Kathleen Waldron, who split a ticket.

Finally, winning tickets will be put back into the drawing each time, so it is possible to win multiple times. It is essential that all our stakeholders support this raffle as it will go a long way in helping our parish, school, and athletic budgets. Printed raffle tickets are available for sale, and there is also an option to purchase tickets online.

You can also purchase a ticket by mailing a check to the school using the envelope included in this issue of *The Shamrock Legacy*. Please note that 38 opportunities to win remain with the MEGA Rock Raffle.

If you have any questions about this new raffle, please contact Randy Hodge by calling the school at (517) 647-7551 or by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.

ST. PATRICK MEGA ROCK RAFFLE

MANY CHANCES TO WIN!

Fall Festival 10/15/22	Marriage Gala 2/11/23	Shamrock Auction 4/21/23	Summer Fest 6/24/23
(1) \$5,000	(1) \$5,000	(1) \$5,000	(1) \$5,000
(1) \$2,500	(1) \$2,500	(1) \$2,500	(1) \$2,500
(1) \$1,000	(1) \$1,000	(1) \$1,000	(1) \$1,000
(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750	(1) \$750
(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500	(2) \$500
(4) \$250	(4) \$250	(4) \$250	(4) \$250

Month	Amount
September	\$500
October	\$500
November	\$500
December	\$500
January	\$500
February	\$500
March	\$500
April	\$500
May	\$500
June	\$500

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



Using your phone camera, scan the QR code above to purchase your MegaRock 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))