

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

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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](http://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.

## **WHEN COVID GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE**

St. Patrick School has faced many unique challenges this school year. Our goal has been for our students to continue in person, assuming all governing bodies allow us to do so.

Our students and staff have met this challenge head on. It seems that they have adopted the unofficial motto for this year to be “if Covid-19 gives you lemons, make lemonade.” There have been challenges to face and overcome, but we are the only school in our area to successfully start on time and remain in school throughout the first marking period. We continued in-person learning until the Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) mandate required us to close.

Our faculty, staff, and student body have done a lot to ensure they are making the most of their educational opportunity. Here are some of our accomplishments thus far this school year:

- We started a new group that named itself Mind Over Matter Committee. The purpose of this group is to boost student morale, problem-solve any challenges our students face, and promote mental health awareness and a positive school culture.
- St. Patrick School welcomed 32 new students in grades K-12, including the largest kindergarten class we’ve had in quite some time.
- Mr. Luis Arturo Araujo has joined our teaching faculty as the K-12 Art/Technology teacher. His positivity and energy is contagious! A fun fact about “Mr. Art” is that he placed in the top 10 artists of Art Prize in 2014! Take a look at his entry here <https://www.artprize.org/56186>.
- St. Patrick High School had its largest cheerleading squad in school history, with 36 cheerleaders total in grades 9-12.
- In a fine display of generosity and selflessness, Senior Brice Cook volunteered to have his head shaved if St. Patrick School raised \$500 for Positive Solutions Informed Choices. We are happy to share we surpassed our goal. The highest donors were able to shave Brice’s head at a high school assembly (see picture above).
- Our fall sports teams have been very successful. Freshman Laynie Meredith and Sophomore Cozette Brown both advanced to the state meet in cross country, making this year the first that we’ve ever had two cross country runners advance to the state meet within the same school year.
- Our football team is currently 9-0. They’ve won their region for the fifth consecutive year and have advanced to the semifinals for the third time in five years.



With great support from our parents and donors, our students and staff have made this school year a huge success. We are very excited to continue through the school year with as much normalcy as possible. We do not want to rest on our laurels as we continue to make lemonade. We need our donors’ support to ensure we have all resources necessary to remain the best educational opportunity in the greater Portland area now and forever.

### **INSIDE THIS EDITION**

**Christmas Card  
Contest**  
Pg. 4 & 5

**Support Your Passions Well  
Into the Future**  
Pg. 6

**Meeting the Needs of  
St. Patrick School**  
Pg. 7

# THANK YOU

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

- All of the generous donors who mailed in an envelope or donated online following our last *A Shamrock Legacy* mailing.
- To the extremely generous donor who donated \$76,000, which allowed us to set up our Shamrock Scholarship Endowment Fund.
- To our first sponsor of *A Shamrock Legacy*, Ashton King Insurance Agency. Check out their ad below.
- To the St. Patrick School Board Marketing Committee: Sue VanLente, Ashley Kliewer, Ross Schneider, Leslie Weller, Ann Kissane, and Chad Brown.
- To our Advancement and Development Committee: Michael Wolfston, Elizabeth Hager, Cortney Smith, Randy Hodge, and Mari Moyer.

## A SHAMROCK LEGACY SPONSORS WANTED

We plan to continue to produce three editions of *A Shamrock Legacy* each school year. We are looking for a business or several businesses to sponsor our production. Please consider supporting an edition of *A Shamrock Legacy* or splitting the cost of each production with up to three other businesses. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Mr. Randy Hodge by phone at (517) 647-7551, or by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).

**THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST  
A SHAMROCK LEGACY SPONSOR,  
ASHTON KING INSURANCE AGENCY!**



# Ashton King Insurance Agency Go Shamrocks!

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INSURANCE®

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## **HOW TO DONATE ONLINE AND VISIT OUR PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE**

For any donor who wishes to give online instead of mailing in a check or using a credit card, please feel free to use our online option. To give online, please go to our school webpage at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/stppob211>. If you do not wish to make a donation from any of the drop-down menu options, please make your donation under Miscellaneous Donation and make a notation in the comment section on what you may want it to go to specifically.

Please visit our planned giving website at <https://spsfoundation.mylegacygift.org/>.

If you have any questions about advancement and development for St. Patrick School, please feel free to contact Randy Hodge at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).



## **A SHAMROCK LEGACY CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST**

Each year, St. Patrick School sends out a Christmas card to all our school benefactors. You should be receiving your card from 2020 in the mail soon if you have not already received one. Our new art teacher, Mr. Art Araujo, designed this year's Christmas card.

For next year's Christmas card (2021), we wanted to try something new. We've decided to have a contest to determine which grade will have the winning Christmas card design. Each student at every grade level designed a card. One card was selected from each class and was submitted to this edition of *A Shamrock Legacy*.

**How will the winning card be decided?** When a donor returns the envelope included in this mailing, they can pick one grade level they think should be the winning design (if you select kindergarten as your choice, please specify which class you are choosing). Each dollar donated will count as a vote for that specific design. If you are unable to donate at this time, you can select which grade level you think should be the winner, and that will count as your vote. For those who are unable to donate, we ask that you please keep St. Patrick School in your prayers.

The design with the most votes will be the cover of our 2021 Christmas card.

***CHECK OUT THE AWESOME CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGNS ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES AND CAST YOUR VOTE!***



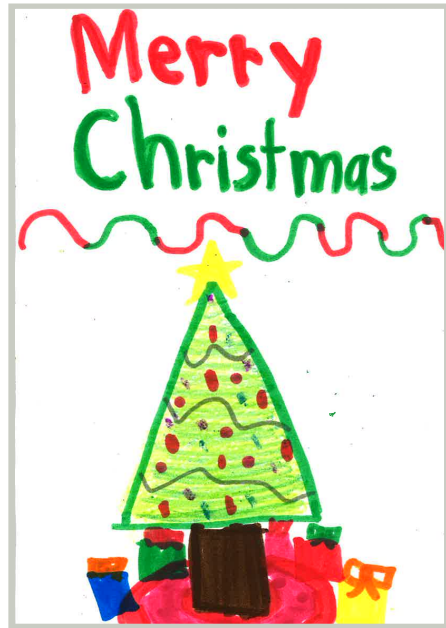
KINDERGARTEN - WEEMS



KINDERGARTEN - RUSSMAN



1ST GRADE



2ND GRADE



3RD GRADE



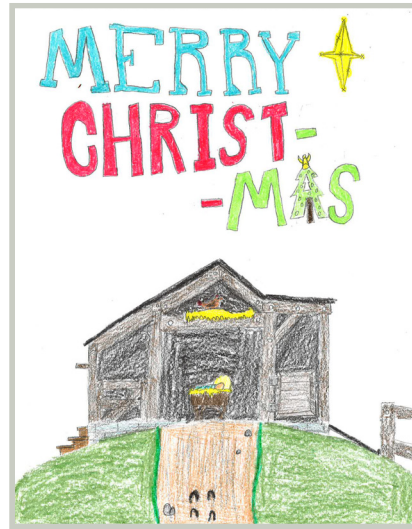
5TH GRADE



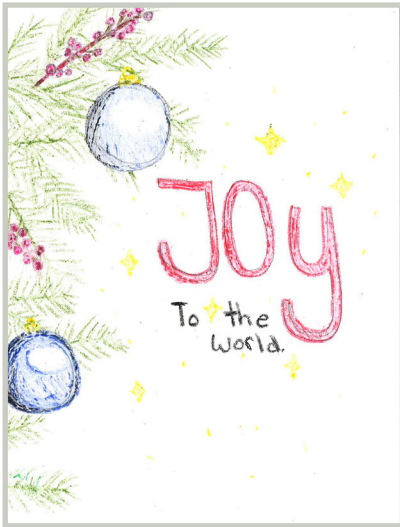
4TH GRADE



6TH GRADE



7TH GRADE



8TH GRADE



9TH GRADE



10TH GRADE



11TH GRADE



12TH GRADE

## ***SUPPORT YOUR PASSIONS WELL INTO THE FUTURE***

Everyone has something they are passionate about. Is St. Patrick School that special place that holds an important spot in your heart, a cause that is near and dear to you? Did you know that you can ensure your support of our organization and mission even after your lifetime while also receiving tax benefits for yourself? You can—with a planned gift.

### **Popular Planned Gifts:**

#### **Include a gift to St. Patrick School in your will or living trust.**

- Your benefit: Retain control of your assets and have the flexibility to change your mind at any time.

#### **Name St. Patrick School a beneficiary of your retirement account.**

- Your benefit: These assets pass to us tax-free, allowing us to use the entire amount to support our mission. If given to your loved ones, they would have to pay income tax when distributions are made from the account.

#### **Transfer appreciated stock to St. Patrick School.**

- Your benefit: You qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the current fair market value of the securities and are exempt from paying capital gains tax on any increase in their value.

#### **Create a life income gift.**

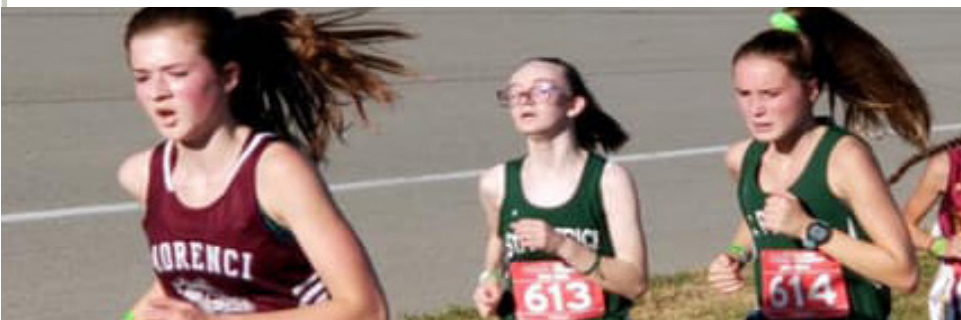
- Your benefit: Depending on the type of gift you choose, you can receive a stable income for life or a period of up to 20 years. You may also qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction in the year you make the gift.

#### **Need Help Making a Planned Gift?**

- There are many ways you can ensure your support for our organization continues for years to come. Contact us by phone or email today to learn more about planned giving or for help finding the perfect gift for you.

For more information please visit our planned giving website at: <https://spsfoundation.mylegacygift.org/>

The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.



***Cozette Brown and  
Laynie Meredith running  
in the State Final Meet.***

# HELPING MEET THE NEEDS OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL



*“No one has ever become poor by giving.”—Anne Frank*

We want to continue to update you on our specific needs at St. Patrick School, which include the following:

- The need to **remodel our bathrooms** has become direr. Our drains have been experiencing issues, and our bathrooms are in desperate need of an extreme makeover. These are the restrooms we have been using for almost 70 years. The project will include remodeling the bathrooms in the original part of the school on the first and second floors, and the bathrooms outside the school gymnasium, and installing two new staff bathrooms. The estimated cost for the project is \$600,000. We are currently unable to have our capital fundraising campaign. To make this project a reality as soon as possible, we need the support of very generous donors.
- We are still in need of funding to **update our phones to a digital system**. An unreliable phone system has caused glitches in our communication network and compromises the safety and security of our students and staff. Approximately \$10,000 is needed to complete this project, and we currently have \$4,000 in donations. We hope to have this project completed before the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- We will soon need to **replace our staff's laptop computers**. We will do this in phases, replacing those that are the oldest and the poorest condition first.

Tuition scholarship assistance: We currently have three ways of supporting our students who may not be able to afford the total cost of tuition to attend St. Patrick School. They include:

- **\*Shamrock Scholarship Endowment Fund**—100% of funds go to an endowment fund with only a portion of the interest being used for scholarship assistance.
- **\*Shamrock Scholarship Fund**—100% of the funds go to help students who are attending St. Patrick School for the current scholarship. Any money left in this fund at the end of the school year will roll over to the next school year.
- **\*Tuition Angels Scholarship Assistance 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 (i.e. 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.

\*Please note that these funds allowed three families who thought they were going to have to leave St. Patrick School to return and helped eight new families to attend. It also helped close to an additional 20 students attend St. Patrick School.