



# THE SHAMROCK

*A Shamrock Legacy Publication*

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL/PARISH/ALUMNI EDITION

SPRING 2026

## Shamrock Football Claims State Championship



On November 22, 2025, the Portland St. Patrick Shamrocks captured the Division 2 8-man football state championship with a perfect 13–0 season, capping off one of the most dominant runs in program history. The title was especially meaningful after several close calls in recent years, including state final appearances in 2017, 2018, and 2020.

This season, however, was different.

The Shamrocks delivered a perfect 13–0 campaign despite playing a very tough schedule. According to Coach Pat Russman, the team's success came down to "good chemistry, good practices, good players, and hard work." Only Morrice came within 21 points of the Shamrocks all season.

Along the playoff path, St. Patrick

earned several impressive wins, including a 42–16 victory over Division 1 runner-up Blanchard Montabella, a 51–22 win over Mendon (ranked No. 1 in the final poll), and a 36–15 victory over Deckerville, the previous year's Division 2 state champions.

The season concluded in Marquette at the Superior Dome, where the Shamrocks captured the state title and completed their undefeated run.

In the championship game, the offense was led by Hudson King (10 carries, 121 yards, 2 TDs), Brady Leonard (10 carries, 57 yards, 1 TD), and Caleb Pline (6 carries, 37 yards, 1 TD). Defensively, Aiden Mosser led with 11 tackles, Augustus Teachworth added 8 tackles, 2 sacks, and 2 tackles for loss, and Ben

*(cont'd on page 8)*

### Two St. Patrick Coaches Earn State Honors from MHSFCA

Two St. Patrick School football coaches were recently honored by their peers for an outstanding 2025 season.

Head coach Patrick Russman was named State Coach of the Year for MHSAA 8-Player Division 2 by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. Assistant coach Aaron Thelen was also recognized as one of the organization's 2025 Assistant Coaches of the Year.

Coach Russman, a St. Patrick alumnus who has led the Shamrocks since 2007, has guided the program through many successful seasons, including multiple playoff runs and regional titles. He was quick to point out that the award reflects the work of his players, coaching staff, and the strong support of the St. Patrick community.

Coach Thelen, also a St. Patrick graduate, has been part of the coaching staff for 10 years. He credited his fellow coaches, school leadership, and the energy and support of Shamrock fans for helping make the season such a success.

The recognition caps off a memorable year for the Shamrocks, who finished the season 13–0 and captured the MHSAA 8-Player Division 2 State Championship.

## Parishioner Wins Grand Prize at 2025 ArtPrize

St. Patrick parishioner Mark Lewanski was awarded the \$100,000 grand prize at the 2025 ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids—one of the most recognized public art events in the country. For Mark, the win was both a surprise and the culmination of years of preparation, creativity, and quiet determination.

Mark has lived in the Portland area since 2002, moving from Ithaca, Michigan. He and his wife, Mary Simcox-Lewanski, have built their life here with their two sons, Augustus (14) and Ignatius (13). He says they settled in Portland in part because of the historic building on Kent Street that now serves as both their home and art studio.



His passion for art began early in life. “I remember being about four or five years old and looking through art books filled with master painters and sculptors,” he said. “I felt this sense of awe and inspiration, and I decided even then I wanted to devote my life to making art.” Drawing quickly became a constant in his life, and art remained his favorite subject throughout school.

After studying metallurgy and working as a materials engineer at Chrysler, Mark transitioned into art full time in 2000. Over the years, he developed a reputation for innovative glasswork. Many parishioners may remember his earlier “glass box” pieces, but about 13 years ago he began exploring a more complex process known as glass weaving. “You can only make so many thousands of boxes before you start to go a little nutty,” he joked. “I needed something more challenging.”

That drive eventually led him to ArtPrize. Although he had considered entering for nearly a decade, he waited until he felt ready to present a fully realized, large-scale work. “I didn’t want to just enter something small,” he explained. “I wanted to create something closer to a magnum opus.” In 2025, with the experience and resources finally in place, he did just that.

When the announcement came, Mark was already aware his piece had gained strong attention. “I knew I had a good shot,” he said. “People were talking about it, and the response was very positive. But you never really know.” At the ceremony, as awards were announced one by one, the anticipation built



Merry Christmas! I am still missing all of you!

I am still following what is going on with my Rocks and Rockettes of St.Pat’s. I follow from afar, kept abreast by faithful Amy, as now I am living in Italy. Italy is nice to visit, but America is still home! I miss America and all the experiences.

But most of all I miss Portland Saint Patrick’s. Bishop Rose got me out of Saint Patrick’s in Parnell, two years into a five years total renovation program. “I need you in Portland,” the good Bishop told me.

It ended up a ministry of love, heart, and mind! St. Pat’s is harbored deep in my heart. I truly love you all! Keep me connected even if electronically.

I could really sing, that I left my heart in Portland’s Saint Patrick’s!

Father Julian Reginatto

until his name was finally called. “It felt like walking through a dreamscape,” he said. “Everything went a little numb.”

Mark describes his winning piece as a work meant to inspire wonder. “I wanted to create something so large and intricate that people would just stop and stare,” he said. “Something that might inspire a child years from now to create something of their own.”

A full-time artist since 2000, Mark often reflects on his faith as part of his creative life. “I believe my abilities are God-given,” he shared. “I feel honored to take even a small part in expressing the creativity God has already placed in the world.”

For the St. Patrick community, his achievement is a proud and joyful moment—celebrating both artistic excellence and a long-time parishioner whose work continues to inspire.



Mark’s winning piece, ARRAS, measures 10’ X 7’ and weighs over 400 pounds. It is comprised of thousands of delicate glass fibers that he wove together by hand

# In the Spotlight



## Jim and Carol Wilcox

### A Legacy of Faith, Family, and Community

For Jim and Carol Wilcox, St. Patrick Church and School have been more than just places; they have been the foundation on which a life of faith, family, and community was built.

From the very beginning, their lives were deeply intertwined with St. Patrick Parish. Both were baptized there, educated within its classrooms, and later exchanged their wedding vows at its altar. Over time, they watched their children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren receive those same sacraments, creating a legacy that continues to grow with each generation.

Jim often reflects on stories passed down from his grandfather, on how he and other local farmers came together to help build St. Patrick Church brick by brick. That same spirit of dedication and shared purpose has carried through the generations and is reflected in the life Jim and Carol built together.



Whether at a St. Patrick School sporting event, after Mass, or simply around Portland, many have experienced their genuine kindness. Their presence has long been steady and welcoming, marked by a warm smile, a kind word, and a deep sense of connection with those around them.

Lifelong members of St. Patrick Parish and the Portland community, Jim and Carol embody what it means to live a life centered on faith and family. Their commitment to one another and to their vocation of marriage is evident not in grand gestures, but in the quiet, faithful ways they have lived each day.

Jim, born in 1937, to Ivan and Bernita Wilcox, is one of five brothers. His connection to St. Patrick runs deep. His mother, Bernita, was among the first students to attend the original St. Patrick School, where education ended at 8th grade. Jim followed in her footsteps, becoming one of the first students to graduate from St. Patrick High School in 1955, after it expanded through 12th grade.

Carol (Webert) Wilcox, born in 1941, to Dean and DeRua Webert, was the oldest of five siblings. Raised in the St. Patrick Parish, she developed a strong appreciation for education early on. She graduated as valedictorian and vice president of the St. Patrick School class of 1959, a reflection of both her intelligence and love of learning.

Though they knew each other during their time at St. Patrick School, their story truly began after graduation. Jim recalls seeing Carol laughing with friends one evening while he was working at his father's restaurant, Ike's Drive-In. Drawn to her joy and warmth, he decided to call and ask her out. That simple moment marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership rooted in love, faith, and shared values.

Jim later enlisted in the Navy, gaining experiences beyond the Portland community he loved. He then went on to build a successful career as an electrician. Carol pursued a career at TRW and continued to demonstrate her lifelong commitment to learning. She eventually returned to college to obtain her degree years later and, at one point, even shared a class with her youngest daughter, Susie.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of The Shamrock, please send it to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com). Deadline is August 20, 2026.*

## BIRTHS

To **Amber (Wieber, 2014) and Collin Trierweiler**, a daughter, Lawson Amy, on June 23, 2025.

To **Heather (Wieber, 2007) and Dennis Goodenough** of Greenville, MI, a daughter, Rose Heather, on August 15, 2025. She joins siblings, Oliver (10), Myla (8), and Emberly (3).

To **Johnathan (2008) and Kelsey Johnson**, a son, Hezekiah Samuel on September 24, 2025. He joins sister, Perpetua Magdalene (2).

To **Abby (Pearson, 2018) and Jacob Manning**, a daughter, Lydia Margaret, on November 21, 2025.

To **Hannah (Thelen, 2016) and Seth Sundberg**, a daughter, Wrenley Jo, on March 6, 2026. She joins sister Soulie (21 months).

To **Nicholas (2016) and Emily (Miros, 2016) Coyne**, a daughter, Olivia Mae, on January, 26, 2026.

To **Joshua (2011) and Stephanie (Miros, 2012) Haga**, a son, Everett James, on February 20, 2026.

## BAPTISMS

*The following baptisms took place at St. Patrick Church between August 2025 and March 2026:*

**Leah Florence Schafer**, daughter of Justin and Adrienne Schafer

**Warren William Schmitt**, son of Casey and Julia Schmitt

**Brynn Susan Smith**, daughter of Ryan and Kennedy Smith

**Lawson Amy Trierweiler**, daughter of Collin and Amber Trierweiler

**Ava Mae Hengesbach**, daughter of Eric and Samantha Hengesbach

**Pierson Collin Lay**, son of Collin and Elisse Lay

**Tatum Marie McLaughlin**, daughter of Jacob and Sydney McLaughlin

**Charlie Steven Wilcox**, son of Kyle and Jaclyn Wilcox

**Theodore William Fox**, son of Matthew and Molly Fox

**Hadley Mae Hoppes**, daughter of Alex and Maddison Hoppes

**Claire Juliette Simon**, daughter of Michael and Katelyn Simon

**Adaline Noelle Clough**, daughter of Trevor and Natalia Clough

**Sawyer James VanDenHeuvel**, son of Jeffrey and Melanie VanDenHeuvel

**Kellan Joseph Cook**, son of Joseph and Lindsey Cook

**Molly Rose Barton**, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Barton

**Lucy Susan Beckman**, daughter of Paul and Michelle Beckman

**Elliott Andrew Hoppes**, son of Seth and McKenzie Hoppes

**Gunner Michael Hilley**, son of Jason and Elizabeth Hilley

**Maisie Katherine Schoenith**, daughter of Craig and Ashley Schoenith

**Jasper Anthony Schoenith**, son of Craig and Ashley Schoenith

**Paige Joan Wambaugh**, daughter of Joshua and Stephanie Wambaugh

**Brantley Marshall Bell**, son of Kaleb and Kortney Bell

**Emma Grace Hengesbach**, daughter of Tom and Mary Hengesbach

**Lincoln David Rembowski**, son of Ryan and Austyn Rembowski

**Jackson Charles Sober**, son of Joseph and Emily Sober

## WEDDINGS

8/23/2025 - **Michael Russman and Christina Cote**

8/30/2025 - **Philip Wernet and Kendra Stoeper**

9/13/2025 - **Jacob Hickling and Samantha Weber**

9/20/2025 - **Evan Erickson and Grace Thelen**

10/11/2025 - **Jacob Schafer and Christina Pauken**

10/18/2025 - **Jack Dalman and Samantha Leonard**

## IN MEMORY OF

*Complete obituary information for the deceased who were local can be found at <https://www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com/>.*

**Douglas Edward Goodman**, 70, of Rockford, IL, passed away on June 27, 2025. He was born on June 20, 1955, to Carl and Rita (Hengesbach) Goodman. He attended St. Patrick's grade school. He is survived by his wife, Judi; stepchildren, Diane Wagner and David Clark; step grandchildren, Isaac and Kenzie; siblings, Barb and Larry (Colleen) Goodman; nephew, Jeff (Amy) Goodman; niece Lori (Brock) Lamphere and great nieces and nephews.

**Joyce Gertrude (Schrauben) LaFleur**, age 86, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2025. Joyce was born on October 17, 1938, at home in Fowler, Michigan, the oldest child of Isadore and Esther (Feldpausch) Schrauben. Soon after her birth, the family moved to Portland to the farm on Grand River Ave, best known for the New Era silo. Joyce grew up in Portland and started her schooling in a one-room school house until 4th grade, when she transitioned to St. Patrick School, where she graduated with the Class of 1957. She met Joseph LaFleur at a bowling alley in May of 1963, and they married on January 4, 1964, eventually moving to East Lansing. Joyce is survived by her daughters, Janean Karpus (Mark) of Mattoon, Illinois, Janette Guile (Kevin) of Fenton, Michigan, and Janell Henderson of Nampa, Idaho; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; siblings, Karen Wirth (Ken), Gene (Donna), Gary, Marvin, Charlie (Kathy), and Al (Karla); sister-in-law Ann Hallenbeck; brother-in-law Bob Lezovich; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe; her parents; infant brother, Roy; sisters-in-law Nancy Schrauben, Pat Lezovich, Elizabeth "Betty" Mc-

Castle; and brothers-in-law Bill Hallenbeck and Harold McCastle. Memorial donations may be made to: U-M Sparrow Hospice (1210 W. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48915) The Soup Project (P.O. Box 282, Portland, MI 48875) or the donor's choice.

**Carole Reisbig**, beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and aunt, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2025, in Greenville, South Carolina, at the age of 82. Born on April 6, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois, Carole developed a love for dance, music, and art early in life—passions that became integral to the fabric of her life. Carole's love for the performing arts led her to inspire generations through her work as a dedicated dance instructor. She was the proud owner of Portland Academy of Dance in Portland. Carole is survived by her devoted husband, Gary Reisbig; her daughter, Lynette Greenway; her son, Erik Reisbig (Sarah); her brother, Russell Yuhas; nephews Jason Yuhas (Amy) and Joshua Yuhas, and eight grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Minette and Alexander Yuhas.

**Adeline Helena Bryner**, age 101, of Portland, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29, 2025. She was born on February 9, 1924, to William and Anna Thelen. Adeline lived a long and meaningful life filled with love, dedication, and creativity. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, George; son William and infant son Gary Lee; her parents; sister Lourine Schafer; and brother Lee Thelen. Adeline is survived by her children: Carol (Jim) Wlodarczack, Daniel (Annette) Bryner, Terry Bryner, and Pam Bryner; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Dr. George Harvey Burgoyne**, age 86, of Fenwick, MI, passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family on Friday, September 12, 2025. Harv was born in Flint, Michigan, on June 5, 1939, the son of George Herbert and Mildred (Smith) Burgoyne. Harv attended Flint Technical High School, graduating class of 1957. Working in hospitals to pay his way, he attended both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. He was the world expert on botulism, rabies and anthrax. Preceding Harv in death are his second wife, Eileen E. (Trierweiler) Burgoyne; granddaughter, Elizabeth Pearl Burgoyne; parents, George Herbert and Mildred Mae Burgoyne; sister, Joanne Hoornaert; and in-laws, William Benyak, and Omer Hoornaert. Left behind to treasure and celebrate his memory are his loving wife, Diana (Trierweiler) Burgoyne, his daughters, Michelle (Daniel) Duffy, Michelle Burgoyne, and Toni (Scott) Klus; sons, Michael Burgoyne, Jeffrey (Kimberley) Burgoyne, William (Carolyn) Burgoyne, Jerry Popma, and George Heath (Amanda) Burgoyne; sister, Donalie Benyak; 12 grand-

children; and four great-grandchildren.

**Sara Lynn Barnes**, of Portland, passed away far too soon on September 17, 2025, at the age of 48. She was born in Lansing on January 3, 1977, the daughter of Jimmy and Linda (Frazee) Barnes. Sara was a graduate of St. Patrick High School, Class of 1995, and she went on to build a successful career at the State of Michigan. Sara is preceded in death by her grandparents, Ernie and Kate Frazee; grandfather, Jack Barnes; and uncles, Leo and Gerald Frazee. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Hunter (fiancé, Fiore Manso-Coats) Hoppes and Madelynn (Kole Parks) Hoppes; grandchildren, Hudson Parks and Ember Dugan; parents, Jimmy and Linda Barnes; brother, Jeffery (Journey Schultz) Barnes; grandmother, Barbara Gearhart; uncle and aunt, John and Linda Boreck; partner, Johnny Moore; former husband and father of her children, Tim Hoppes; and many special nieces and nephews, and close friends.

### PLEASE NOTIFY US OF DEATHS

If your friend or loved one passes away and the funeral is held anywhere except Portland, please send a notice to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com) or contact the parish office at (517) 647-6505.

This applies to former students, former teachers, or anyone who was part of St. Patrick Parish in the past.

**Rebecca Ann Cook**, of Portland, age 74, passed away on Monday, September 29, 2025. She was born on July 11, 1951, the daughter of Gerald and Georgia (Rowe) Cook. Becky was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, she was one of the Seven Sisters who offered daily prayer for the Pastor and was committed to an hour of adoration each week. She worked for many years at Amaco in Portland. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Bruce Cook; and infant sister, Anna Cook. Surviving are her brothers, Gary Cook and Mike Cook; sisters, Maria Cook and Bonnie Cook; sister-in-law, Sheila Cook; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Right to Life of Michigan in memory of Becky.

**Phyllis Beard**, 96, of Portland, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025. After a faithful 27-year wait, she is finally reunited with her beloved husband Jack. Her daughter, Jacklyn, also preceded her in death in 2021. Mrs. Beard leaves behind her two sons, Michael (Carole) of Portland and

Dennis (Bill) of Grand Rapids. Phyllis was a proud grandmother of four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Phyllis leaves a legacy of service to her Faith, Family, Friends and Community. Throughout her life she was a devout member of St. Patrick's Parish in Portland, often volunteering to help with the various church functions and fundraisers. She served her community as a member of the Portland VFW Post 4090 Ladies Auxiliary, contributed and volunteered at the Portland Community Fund, and worked as an election official. Donations can be made to McLaren Hospice.

**Roxanna Lee (Balderson) Feldpausch**, born July 10, 1943, surrounded by love, was called home to the Lord on October 9, 2025. She was greeted with love and reunited with her husband in eternal peace. She was married to Jack for 44 years, separated only by his death. She had four children, sons John Feldpausch Jr., Mark Feldpausch, and daughters Penelope (Scott Slagle) Christensen-Slagle and Patricia (Chip Weygandt) Feldpausch. She was loved by several grandchildren and greatgrands; many nieces and nephews; brother, Joe (Sue) Balderson; and sisters-in-law Barb (Tim) Beech and Judy (Jim) McCarthy. She was also loved, but preceded in death by sister Pat (Balderson) Jones and brother and sister-in-law H. Thomas and Marilyn Balderson. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to West Michigan Hospice or to cancer research, as these both touch close to home.

**Alice "Terri" Boyd**, age 86, of Dimondale, passed away on Friday, October 17, 2025. She was born on March 2, 1939, the daughter of James and Leta Flynn. Alice received her B.S. in Nursing from Ferris State University and spent her career as a registered nurse specializing in wound care. Alice was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard Boyd; brother, William Andrews; and grandson, Zach Holloway. She is survived by her brothers, Michal Flynn and Donald Flynn of Charlotte; sons, Richard (Yvonne) Boyd of Idaho, James (Pagamas) Boyd of Lowell, MI, and John (Hyang) Boyd of Virginia; daughters, Mary (Rick) Bowers of Port Hope, MI, and Sue Pakkala of Nashville, MI; eight grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

**Steven Richard Huhn**, age 73, of Portland, passed away on Sunday October 19, 2025. He was born on June 5, 1952, the son of Herman and Mathilda (Kowatch) Huhn. Steve retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 33 years of service to his local community. He enjoyed bowling, golfing, driving his corvette, and working in his yard. He cherished his family and spending time with his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

*(Continued on page 16)*

# School News!

## Quiz Bowl Team Wins League

On December 15, 2025, the St. Patrick Quiz Bowl team wrapped up a historic season by winning the league tournament for the first time in at least 17 years. The Shamrocks entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed after finishing 13–1 in league play—also a first in at least 17 years.



After earning a first-round bye, the team defeated Fowler, Bath, and then Bath again in the championship match to secure the title.

A special shoutout to Francis Austen, who led the league in scoring and anchored the team throughout the season. Congratulations also to Augustus Lewanski, who finished 7th in JV league scoring, and Patrick Austen, who placed 10th.

## St. Patrick Students March for Life

November 6, 2025 was a beautiful day to stand for life, as 66 high school students from St. Pat's traveled to Lansing to participate in the *Michigan March for Life* at the State Capitol.

They joined thousands from across the state in celebrating to the dignity and worth of every human life from the moment of conception. The day also provided an opportunity to show compassion and support for mothers facing difficult circumstances, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

Students found it especially meaningful to walk alongside so many others—particularly fellow high school students—who share a commitment to life and to living out their faith with conviction and care. The day was a powerful reminder of the strength found in community and shared purpose.



## Shamrock Rocket League Finishes Third in State

St. Patrick School was well represented at the Fall 2025 State Finals for the Michigan High School Esports Federation. University of Michigan-Flint hosted the event on December 13, 2025.

Two middle school Rocket League teams qualified for the eight-team playoff, with one team advancing to the in-person finals and earning an impressive third-place finish in the state. Gentry Rockey, Noah Schneider, and Larry Rogers represented St. Patrick Catholic School at the State Finals.



Coach Ross Schneider said that the team's success reflects the students' dedication to developing strong communication and critical thinking skills throughout the season. He noted that it was their hard work that led them to the program's first in-person Esports finals appearance.

The spring season began on February 9, with State Finals scheduled for April 25.

# Student SPOTLIGHT

Our student spotlight is on Mattie Honsowitz. Mattie is the daughter of Scott and Keelie Honsowitz.



Mattie is an active member of the school and parish community, participating in volleyball, basketball, and softball. She also serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society, volunteering her time to assist teachers and support school activities.

A varsity athlete since her freshman year, Mattie faced a major challenge just five games into her senior basketball season when a second knee injury ended her high school athletic career. With encouragement from her coaches, she stepped into a new role as an assistant coach, continuing to lead and support her teammates during their run to a state runner-up finish.

Through this experience, Mattie has grown in leadership and in her faith. She has learned that while plans may change, God's purpose remains constant. Her faith has guided her through uncertainty and strengthened her in all areas of life. She is also a role model to her younger brother, Rhett, and served as his Confirmation sponsor.

During her recovery, Mattie discovered Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, where she plans to study software development. After visiting the campus, she knew it was the right place for her

Mattie's journey reflects perseverance, faith, and purpose, showing that even through challenges, God is leading the way.

## Class of 1975 Celebrates 50-Years



Back row: Bryan Simon, Charlie Barker, Bruce Pung, Steve Stiffler, Ron Smith, Joyce Pline, Judy Smith, Denny Willemin. Front row: Susan Wenstrom, Sharon Albaugh, Cindy Jaye, Shiela Cook, Kathy Hermelyn, Carol Kramer, Mary Mleko.

Each September since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted a special celebration honoring the St. Patrick High School graduating class marking its 50-year reunion.

On Saturday, September 6, the Class of 1975 returned to campus for their milestone celebration. According to the class composite outside the office, 43 students graduated in 1975, and 15 were able to attend the reunion. Many had not been back to the school since graduation and were surprised by how much had changed.

Classmates gathered at the school at 2:30 p.m., where high school principal Deacon Randy Hodge led them on a tour. They shared memories, reflected on what had changed—and what hadn't—and enjoyed reconnecting with one another. Classmates and their spouses spent the afternoon reminiscing and catching up on old times.

Following the tour, the group attended the 4:30 p.m. Mass together. Afterward, they traveled to the Wagon Wheel, where they enjoyed a delicious prime rib and chicken dinner. The evening gave classmates time to relax, socialize, and share favorite memories from their days at St. Patrick.

Deacon Hodge shared that "these tours have become a highlight for me. As guests tell their own stories, they help me learn more about the history of the school. It's always a joy to welcome them back. It's a reminder that each person who enters our school has a story to tell."

He added that hearing from former students reinforces what makes St. Patrick such a special place.

Congratulations to the Class of 1975 on their 50-year reunion, and thank you for a wonderful evening. May God continue to bless you.

*Members of the Class of 1976 are invited to save the date for their 50-year reunion, scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026.*

## Honoring a Longtime Supporter

On their way home from the State Championship game in Marquette, the football team made a special stop in Manistique to visit the grave of longtime Shamrock supporter John Vallier, to share their championship trophy with him.

John grew up in the Upper Peninsula and was always proud to introduce his Shamrocks to old friends whenever the team traveled north for big games. It is easy to imagine him watching this victory from his seat in heaven, dressed in green and white, smiling and cheering them on.



## FOOTBALL TEAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

White contributed 7 tackles, 1 sack, and 1 tackle for loss.

As always, Shamrock fans showed up in force, traveling to the Upper Peninsula in large numbers to support their team—something that has become a hallmark of the school's athletic program. After the victory, the team was greeted back home with a police escort and hundreds of supporters lining the road from I-96 to Father Flohe Field for a loud and proud welcome.

## Coach's Reflection on 1992 Championship Team

*Chris Schrauben (1979) was the head coach for the Shamrock football team that won the state championship in 1992. He reflects on that team and congratulates the new state champs.*

Our 1992 success actually began in 1991. The combination of a hungry group of seniors and a strong group of juniors led us to several close victories and built belief in our team. The players carried that momentum into 1992.

There were 24 players on the 1992 team, and everyone contributed to our success. The non-starters worked hard in practice to make the starters better. That, in turn, led to many big wins and allowed the backups to see significant playing time in the second half of games. The players worked extremely hard in the weight room to "close the gap" with Frankfort, and it paid off.

Practices were very demanding, but they made for fun Friday nights. The players deserve all the credit for their focus and determination to be the best. Great players make good coaches, and that was certainly the case for our staff at St. Pat's.

Congratulations to Pat Russman, his coaching staff, and the team on an incredible 2025 season. My favorite game was the Mendon game—after that, I knew we were the best team.

After 45 years, I retired from coaching last year. I would like to thank all the players, coaches, parents, and fans who have supported our teams over the years. Championships and victories are wonderful, but the most special aspect of coaching is the impact on student-athletes and the lifelong relationships that are built.

Thanks for the memories, and God bless!



## Shamrock Football Earns Additional Postseason Honors

The St. Patrick Shamrock football team earned numerous postseason honors following their 2025 Division 2 8-man state championship season.

The team was named **Academic All-State First Team** in Division 2 8-Man by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, an honor given to only the top four teams in each division for excellence in the classroom.

Three Shamrocks also earned **MHSFCA All-State** recognition: Brady Leonard, Augustus Teachworth, and Aiden Mosser.

In addition, several players and coaches were named to the **Lansing State Journal All-Area and Dream Team** selections, including:

Brady Leonard – Dream Team (8-Man Player)  
Hudson King – RB, 8-Man All-Area  
Aiden Mosser – OL, 8-Man All-Area  
Augustus Teachworth – DL, 8-Man All-Area  
Charlie Thelen – DL, 8-Man All-Area  
Ben White – LB, 8-Man All-Area  
Jerryd Scheurer – ATH, 8-Man All-Area  
Brody Beckhold – K, 8-Man All-Area  
Coach Patrick Russman – Dream Team Co-Coach

The recognitions highlight both individual excellence and the depth of talent across the Shamrock program during an unforgettable championship season.



## Shamrock Football Team Completes Pilgrimage

The Portland St. Patrick football team has a strong devotion to Archbishop Frederic Baraga, a missionary whose life and witness in the Great Lakes region continues to inspire the program. Known as the “Snowshoe Priest,” Baraga is remembered for his tireless work across Northern Michigan and is currently declared “Venerable” in the process toward sainthood.

On Thursday, November 20, 2025, the Shamrocks made a pilgrimage to his final resting place at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette. The journey began the night before with an extended opportunity for Reconciliation with Fr. Weber, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. The next morning, the team headed north by bus, praying rosaries and reflecting on Baraga’s life along the way.

Once in Marquette, the players attended Mass at St. Peter Cathedral, entering reverently in dress clothes alongside the school community. Their presence clearly made an impact, with one parishioner sharing how moved she was by the faith and reverence of the young men.

While in the area, the team also visited the Baraga Education Center and Museum, where they learned more about his life and mission in Northern Michigan. They even spent time helping the museum staff with small service projects—simple tasks that became a big help with a group of 25 hardworking players pitching in together. The experience gave them a chance not just to learn about Baraga, but to quietly serve in his spirit as well.

Later, the Shamrocks met with campus ministry at Northern Michigan University for prayer, talks, and conversation about living out the Catholic faith in everyday life. It was a chance for the players to hear from others and reflect on their own journey as young Catholic men.

Throughout the season, the Shamrocks focused on building their team around Catholic virtues like faith, hope, charity, and fortitude—values they tried to carry into both football and daily life. That foundation was clearly present as they went on to finish the season undefeated and capture the State Championship.

In the end, the trip and the season together reflected more than wins and losses. It showed a team growing in faith, unity, and character—something that left a strong impression on everyone who encountered them.

# #shamrockpride

# Girls Basketball Team Finishes as State Runners Up



The Portland St. Patrick girls basketball team delivered a season to remember, finishing as Division 4 state runner-up and making its deepest tournament run in two decades.

In just her second season as head coach, Michelle Smith guided the Shamrocks back to the championship stage at the Breslin Center—continuing a tradition she once helped build as a player on the program's state title teams in 1999 and 2000.

"I just wanted to make sure I didn't mess things up," she said with a smile. Instead, she helped lead one of the program's most memorable seasons in years.

The Shamrocks closed the season with a 23–6 record and their first state finals appearance since 2006. Along the way, they showcased a relentless defense and strong team chemistry that carried them through the postseason.

St. Patrick punched its ticket to the finals with a dominant 49–26 win over Onekama in the semifinal. The Shamrocks set the tone early with a 14–2 run and never looked back. Freshman Macie Leonard led the way with 18 points and eight rebounds, while junior Gracelyn Rockey added 17 points and 12 boards. The team's defensive effort was especially impressive, holding five postseason opponents under 30 points.

"Our energy and confidence were high right from the start," Macie said. "We were locking in on defense and playing together."

That teamwork and defensive intensity defined the Shamrocks' season. They controlled the boards, shared the ball, and embraced their roles—qualities that carried them all the way to the championship game.

Gracelyn Rockey's impact went far beyond the postseason. The junior earned Michigan Sports Writers second team all-state honors in Division 4 and reached major career milestones this season, surpassing 1,000 points and 500 rebounds.

In the state final, St. Patrick faced a strong Ishpeming team and fell 48–28. After battling to within one point late in the first quarter, the Shamrocks ran into a scoring drought that allowed Ishpeming to pull away.

Despite the loss, the accomplishment was significant. The runner-up finish marked the program's seventh in history and its best finish in nearly 20 years.

"It's been a great journey," said senior leader Mattie Honsowitz. "We worked as a team all year—rebounding, communicating, and trusting each other. We're very proud of what we accomplished."

Honsowitz, who was sidelined early in the season with a knee injury, remained a key leader alongside fellow senior Lily Sandborn. Their leadership helped unify a young roster that featured mostly underclassmen.

"Our seniors have been incredible leaders," Coach Smith said. "They've helped this group come together, understand their roles, and truly care about one another."

With nearly the entire roster expected to return next season, the future looks bright for the Shamrocks. The experience of this tournament run could serve as a foundation for continued success.

"This group is young," Coach Smith said. "Hopefully this shows them what's possible when you trust each other and play as a team."

For a program rich in tradition, this year's team added another proud chapter—and may have set the stage for even more to come.

## From a Mom's Heart

*Senior Mattie Honsowitz was slated to be one of the leaders on this year's girls basketball team. But an injury early in the season which required surgery put her on the sidelines instead of the court. The coaches and the team embraced Mattie in her unexpected role, while allowing her to participate and remain a member of the team. Mattie's mom, Keelie Honsowitz, wrote the following note of appreciation:*

"What an amazing finish to the end of Mattie's basketball career. This season didn't look the way we all imagined but she proved that an injury never took her heart out of the game or this team.

"A huge shout out to the coaches (Michelle, Jocelyn, Danielle, and Avery) for allowing Mattie to step into a new role of coach and mentor. Watching her lead, support, and grow in a completely different way has been just as special as anything we've seen on the court.

"It has been such a joy to watch this group of girls truly play for each other in every sense of the word. From watching these girls play in Gus Mackers to playing in the Breslin Center, we couldn't be more proud of all of you. And a State Runner-Up finish? That's just the icing on the cake.

"As we close out our time with the St. Patrick girls basketball program, what I will miss most is the family atmosphere (and maybe some Winning Wednesday's too). The players, the coaches, the parents, and everyone involved make this program something truly special."



St. Patrick himself took time away from his busy schedule to cheer on the Shamrocks on March 17, 2026.

# How Can You Support St. Patrick School?

by Deacon Randy Hodge

The administration of St. Patrick School is often asked how individuals can support Catholic education or assist families who need help affording tuition. In response, the school has developed a growing list of funds that help sustain and strengthen St. Patrick School now and in the future. Available Funds (listed in no particular order):

**Father Flohe Foundation Fund (1988)** – Established by community members to help keep Catholic education accessible, this independently managed fund distributes about 4% annually to support school expenses. Since its founding, it has received nearly \$2.5 million in gifts and has contributed approximately \$2.4 million to the school. Annual support of \$129,000. Current balance: \$3,500,000.

**Alvina Sandusky Fund (2017)** – Established through the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, this fund provides unrestricted support for school operations and scholarships. Current balance: \$37,000.

**Former Pastors Scholarship Fund (2022)** – Also established through the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, 4% of this endowment fund will provide tuition assistance. Current balance: \$157,300.

**Stanley and Jane Gross Scholarship Fund (2024)** – Created in memory of longtime parish members, this endowed scholarship fund supports Catholic education at St. Patrick. Current balance: \$36,023.



**Al and Karla Schrauben Endowment Fund (2024)** – Established as an endowment, 4% of the funds will support the school's athletic programs, with the goal to fully support those programs. Current balance: \$258,300.

**Tuition Angels Scholarship Assistance Fund** – Provides immediate tuition assistance for families facing unexpected financial hardship. Unused funds roll over each year.

Endowment funds are invested so that the principal remains intact while a portion of earnings is used annually to support school needs. We encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting any of these existing funds. Each must reach a certain level before it can fully benefit the school and parish as intended. Thank you in advance for your support of these legacy funds.

Donations may be made by check and mailed to the school or parish office, in the Sunday collection (marked for a specific fund), online, or through stock transfers. Donors may also consider including these funds in their estate planning.

For more information, please contact the parish or school office.



## JIM AND CAROL WILCOX (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

They were married at St. Patrick Church in April of 1961, beginning a life together grounded in faith. They raised three children, Debbie Wilcox (Miros) (Class of 1980), Mike Wilcox (Class of 1982), and Susie Wilcox (Moyer) (Class of 1987), all of whom attended St. Patrick School. Today, that tradition continues, as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren follow in those same footsteps.

Carol passed away in August of 2024, but the life she and Jim built together continues to shape those around them.

Their greatest legacy is not found in milestones or accomplishments, but in the family they nurtured and the example they set. Through decades of steadfast faith, quiet generosity, and unwavering devotion, they created something truly lasting: a close-knit family, a strong faith, and a community strengthened by their presence.

Their story is a reminder that a beautiful legacy is built through the small, consistent acts of love and faith lived out in everyday life.

Education at St. Pat's is centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values.

# alumni news

## Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1959* met at the Wagon Wheel on October 14, 2025, to celebrate 66 years since graduation. Thirteen classmates attended. It was an afternoon enjoying each other's company and catching up. A fun time was had by all.



The St Patrick High School *Class of 1965* held its 60-year class reunion on September 20, 2025, at the Wagon Wheel. They reminisced, perused old photos, and enjoyed a memorable evening. It has been suggested that the class meet annually, perhaps for a luncheon, to stay in touch, rather than to wait for the usual five years. If you would like to plan such an event or have suggestions, please contact Carol Kahn.



The *Class of 1970* gathered at Ken Schneider's house on September 7, 2025, to celebrate their 55-year reunion. It was a beautiful fall day, which allowed the classmates to mingle outside, enjoying a meal catered by Olivera's, and then reminisce for several hours.



The *Class of 1980* reunited for their 45-year reunion on September 7, 2025 on the outdoor deck at the River House in Portland. Twenty of the 34 classmates were in attendance and spent the afternoon surrounded with laughter, memories, and good company.



The *Class of 1985* celebrated their 40-year reunion on November 8, 2025. Classmates gathered at Portland St. Patrick Church for the 4:30 mass in honor and memory of Rich Fox and Amie Fernholz Stephens, before heading to the Wagon Wheel for dinner and a great evening of catching up, reminiscing, and discussing their favorite memories. The class also celebrated the Portland St. Patrick Varsity football team's Regional Championship win that same day...Go Green! A great time was had by all.



The Portland St. Patrick *Class of 1995* gathered for their 30-year reunion at the Wagon Wheel on October 4, 2025. Fifteen classmates came together to reconnect, share memories, and reflect on their time together. A collection was taken up in remembrance of three classmates who have passed, Jaime Huhn, Joe Barker, and Sara Barnes. The funds were shared with each family, allowing them to honor and remember their child in a way that felt most meaningful to them.



Class of 2000

This past October, ten members of the *Class of 2000* gathered at ConfluxCity Brewery for an evening of good conversation and catching up. Attendees made their way from as far as Vancouver, Canada with one classmate joining virtually from Tennessee. Stories were shared, life updates exchanged, and it was a genuine pleasure to reconnect with familiar faces after so many years apart.

*May blessings outnumber the  
shamrocks that grow, and  
trouble avoid you wherever  
you go. ~Irish Blessing*

## Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1966* will have a lunchtime reunion on Thursday, August 20, 2026. Exact details will be forthcoming.

The *Class of 2006* 20-year class reunion will be Saturday June 6, 2026. There will be reserved seating at the 4:30 Mass, followed by dinner/drinks at ConfluxCity at 5:30. For additional information, please contact Jennifer Brown at [brownjenc@gmail.com](mailto:brownjenc@gmail.com).

The *Class of 2011* will hold their 15-year reunion in September, though a specific date has not yet been determined. Contact Richelle Batten at [vallierrc@gmail.com](mailto:vallierrc@gmail.com) for more information.

*Classes who graduated in years that ended in 1 or 6 should be planning reunions this year. Send information to [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com), and we'll help you get the word out. Deadline for the fall issue is August 20, 2026.*



### Attention Class of 1976

Mark your calendars now so that you are able to attend your special 50-year reunion celebration next fall. The date is tentatively set for the Saturday after Labor Day, September 12, 2026.

## Big Dreams, Bright Lights, and Banana Ball

After graduating from Michigan State University in May 2025 with a degree in marketing, St. Patrick alumna Jamelyn Forist (Class of 2022) set her sights on a career in sports, determined to find her place in the industry. After months of applications and interviews, she discovered an opportunity with Fans First Entertainment—the organization behind the wildly popular Savannah Bananas and the Banana Ball Championship League, known for its high-energy blend of baseball and entertainment.



Despite stiff competition, Jamelyn applied in August and soon found herself in a unique and memorable interview process. “It was bananas,” she said, recalling creative questions that reflected the organization’s fun and unconventional culture. After three months, she received a video message from founder Jesse Cole offering

her a position as an In-Game Promotions Intern—an opportunity she immediately accepted.

By January, Jamelyn had relocated to Savannah and began preparing for the season. Her role quickly became hands-on and fast-paced. As a stage manager on game days, she helps plan and execute on-field promotions, coordinate fan participation, organize props, and work closely with players to keep the energy high throughout each game. She also collaborates with teammates behind the scenes to ensure each event runs smoothly from start to finish.

Since the season began, she has traveled to cities across the country, helping deliver unforgettable experiences to packed stadiums. One of her most memorable moments came in New Orleans, where the team performed before a sold-out crowd at the Caesars Superdome. “It was surreal,” she shared. “I never imagined that just a year after graduation I’d be part of something like that.”

What has meant the most to her, however, is the sense of community. “It truly feels like one big family,” she said. “Everyone works together to create the best possible experience for the fans.” Grateful for the opportunity, Jamelyn credits the experience with teaching her invaluable lessons and creating memories she will carry with her for years to come.

# P · A · R · I · S · H NEWS

## A Grateful Goodbye to Amy Smith

After more than a decade of dedicated service, parish secretary Amy Smith will retire from St. Patrick Church on June 30. Amy began her role in 2012 under Fr. Larry King and has since served three pastors, each bringing a unique leadership style. "I always tried to adapt," she shared, "though I admit I can be a bit of a 'mother hen.'"



Throughout her years at St. Patrick, Amy has played an essential role behind the scenes, particularly in developing and maintaining the parish database—an accomplishment she is especially proud of despite its many challenges. She also helped maintain the parish website and digital communications, keeping parishioners informed and connected.

Amy and her husband, Mark, who retired last August, are looking forward to this next chapter of life. Their three children are all married, and they have three grandchildren. Amy hopes to spend more time relaxing and traveling, including an Alaskan cruise planned for this fall.

Reflecting on her years at St. Patrick, Amy said the best part of her job has been the people. "I would like to thank all the parishioners that had faith in me and supported me during my years here," she shared. "I truly feel blessed to have met so many caring people I now consider friends."

The parish community is grateful for Amy's years of dedication and service. She will be greatly missed.

## Shamrock Trivia

It's Shamrock Trivia time again! The art piece at the left hangs in Deacon Randy Hodge's office. From what we have been told, it was made by one of the elementary teachers, a few decades ago.

1. Who was the teacher?
2. Which graduating class members are shown on Jesus' robe?
3. What year was this masterpiece created?

Send your answers to: [shamrockeditors@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockeditors@gmail.com) or mail to Shamrock Contest, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875.



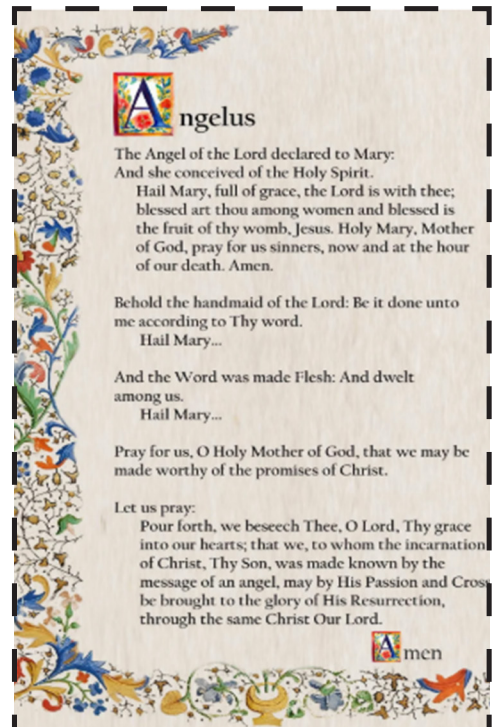
## Church Bell Tolls Again

In early 2024, the church bell at St. Patrick Church fell silent for the first time in 97 years, after an inspection revealed several serious issues. It was recommended that the bell not be rung until repairs could be completed.

In August 2025, the bell was sent to the Verdin Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, for a complete overhaul and upgrade. As part of the restoration, it was converted to an automated system, allowing it to be programmed to ring at designated times.

The bell was returned to the tower last fall and is now ringing regularly once again. It chimes every hour on the hour, from 8am to 9pm, and also rings five minutes before each Mass, serving as a "call to worship." We now have the ability to toll the bell at the end of weddings and funerals too!

Traditionally, Catholics pray the Angelus at 6am, 12pm, and 6pm. Out of consideration for our neighbors, we have decided to keep the bell silent for the 6am time, while the bell is scheduled to chime a particular Angelus tune at 12pm and 6pm as a reminder of this tradition. Please consider learning this beautiful prayer and joining in when you hear it ring!



## Alum Assumes Role of Adult Faith Formation Coordinator

Please welcome Mike Kissane to our St. Patrick staff in the role of Adult Faith Formation Coordinator. Mike brings his passion for the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith to his new role.

For the last five years, Mike has been facilitating a 22-week Bible study, which he created, that focuses on salvation history with an emphasis on typology and how we enter the story. At St. Pat's, Mike has been working with the OCIA program, and he and his wife Ann also serve one of our church's sponsor couples for those going through the marriage preparation program.

Mike has served St. Patrick in many ways over the years, including serving on Finance Council, Pastoral Council, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and on the Fr Flohe Foundation board. Mike and Ann were also previous co-chairs of the Shamrock Auction.

Mike is a life-long member of St. Patrick Church, as well as a St. Pats alumnus. The Kissanes have six children and three grandchildren. Mike recently retired from Granger Construction.



## Lenten Soup Supper Coordinators Stepping Down



After returning to Portland from Alaska in 2007, Ken and Karen Schneider became actively involved in many areas of parish life at St. Patrick. She became the Bell Choir Director, a Faith Formation teacher, took communion to the homebound, and got involved with prison ministry. He joined the KC's, went on mission trips, headed the group that restored the old altar, renovated the Adoration Chapel, and recently helped resurrect the Building and Grounds Committee. Together they coordinate the parish garage sale.

17 years ago, they introduced the idea of hosting Lenten Soup Suppers following Stations of the Cross, something that their Alaskan parish had done.

Since 2009, they have faithfully coordinated this effort, helping turn it into a well-loved parish tradition. Attendance at Stations of the Cross has grown from about 20–25 people to 75–100, with some evenings now drawing more than 150 participants. The suppers have also supported Operation Rice Bowl, raising an average of \$500 each year, for a total of \$8500.

As Ken and Karen step away from this role, the parish is seeking a new coordinator (or team) to continue this meaningful Lenten ministry. They are willing to help guide and train anyone interested to ensure a smooth transition and will work with the new coordinator at the first suppers next year. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the parish office.

## Catechumens and Candidates Initiated Into Church at Easter Vigil



Eleven people were fully initiated and welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil service on April 4, 2026.

Front row: Kelti Dziewiatkowski (current 5th grade student at St. Patrick School), Roman Keusch (current 6th grade student at St. Patrick School), Bailee Rux, Kylee Perkins, Father Weber, Owen Smith, Teal Amthour-Shaffer, Ashley Schoenith

Back row: Jason Hilley, Mark Vroman, Kaleb Dziewiatkowski (current 12th grade student at St. Patrick School), Michael Beno

## WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

his parents; brothers, Duane, Ron, Jim, and Jon; sister, Mary LaRose. Surviving are his beloved wife of 52 years, Linda Huhn; son, Craig (fiancée, Gretchen) Huhn; daughter, Lindsey (Chris) Spitzley; three grandchildren; and siblings, Bob Huhn, Ken (Vicki) Huhn, Marleah (Jim) Quinby, and Sharon Goodman.

**Josephine Clara (Theis) Fox** was born on March 9, 1932, to Joseph and Catherine (Schmitt) Theis in Westphalia, and died at age 93, in Portland on October 23, 2025. Josephine married James O. Fox on June 17, 1957. She was a devoted Catholic, a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and prayed the rosary daily. In later years when she wasn't able to walk outside, she would pace her home, praying her rosary. She was preceded in death by her husband, James, in 2008; son Richard in 1993; siblings, Henry Theis, Ed Theis, Mary Smith, and Catherine Haeck. She is survived by her son, Robert "Bob" (Sharon), two granddaughters; one great-grandson; and sisters, Rose Kolp and Christine Smith. Donations may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland, Michigan (140 Church St.).

**Michael William Gross**, age 86, of Eagle, passed away on Friday, October 24, 2025. He was born on July 20, 1939, the son of Frank and Elsie (Noffsinger) Gross. Mike was a member of St. Patrick Church. He was an avid Tigers fan; enjoyed playing cards, camping, and Facebook; and cherished time spent at the family deer camp. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wallace (Jean) Gross and Walter (Gloria) Gross; sisters, Bernice (Richard) Miller, Marie Edwards and Mary Lou Barnhart; in-laws, Jack Jackard, Paul Pung, Richard (Judy) Pung, Jr., Peter Pung, Roger Pung, and Donald Schafer. Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Mary Theresa; children, Michelle (Dave) Bowen, Melissa (Mark) Hill, Brian (Cinzia) Gross, Sharon (Mark) Rademacher, and Dean (Ann) Gross; 11 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; sisters, Joan (Julio) Almanza and Irene Jackard; in-laws, Pauline Schafer, Helen (LaVern) Carr, Dennis (Julie) Pung, and Connie Pung; many nieces and nephews.

**Eugene "Joe" Hoppes** passed away peacefully on Friday, November 7, 2025, surrounded by his family. Joe was born on March 17, 1939 to Leo and Philomena (Huhn) Hoppes. He later married, Alice (Noren) who preceded him in death. Joe retired from Tri-County Electric after 31 years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Hoppes; parents; infant

granddaughter, Angel; brothers, Stan (Joan) Hoppes, Leon (Gerry) Hoppes, Dick (Carol) Hoppes, Jim (Sharon) Hoppes, and Jerry (Mary) Hoppes; his sisters, Colleen (Bill) Trierweiler, Virginia (Oscar) Townsend, and Alice (Dick) Kelly; in-laws, Carl (Shirley) Noren and Jean Ellen (Leonard) O'Bannon. He is survived by his children, Gordy (Colleen) Hoppes, Amy (Brad) Parkhouse, and Denny (Pam Fedewa) Hoppes; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, Tom (Jill) Hoppes and Larry (Dee Dee) Hoppes; sister-in-law, Jill Smith; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Delores "Dee" Lynn Gross**, age 83, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Dee was born on March 20, 1942. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a registered nurse for over 40 years. On August 13, 1960, she married Donald Gross and together they spent 64 wonderful years together. She was preceded in death by her parents George and Sue Lehman; husband Don; brother, Gordon Lehman; brothers-in-law, William Schrauben, Thomas Zimmerman, and Stanley (Jane) Gross; sister-in-law, Annie (Wayne) Schrauben; grandson, Joshua M. Heminger; and parents-in-law, Arnold and Martha Gross. Dee is survived by her children, Susan Heminger, Robert (Stacy) Gross, Elizabeth Gross, Thomas (Robin) Gross, Craig Gross, and Scott (Rachel) Gross; 14 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; sister, Patricia Ann Ollar; and in-laws, Marie Schrauben, Rita (Steve) Snitgen, Alice Zimmerman, Mary (Rocky) Beckhold, and Gary (Carolle) Gross; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing in memory of Dee.

**Judy Lynne Kramer**, 67, passed away on November 23, 2025. She was born June 16, 1958 in St. Johns, Michigan, to Simmy and Revella Smith. Jude and Fred Kramer were married June 9, 1984 and shared a total of 46 beautiful years together, building a life rooted in love, devotion, and family. They raised two sons, Zachary and Jacob, and their triplet daughters, Mariah, Morgan and Mallory. She poured her whole heart into motherhood—nurturing, protecting, and celebrating her children every step of the way. Jude was preceded in death by her parents, Simmy and Revella; and her parents-in-law, Jerry and Janette Kramer. Surviving are her husband of 41 years, Fred; children, Zach (Abby) Kramer, Jake (India) Kramer, Mariah (Andy) Petersmark, Morgan (Travis) Zellers, and Mallory (Kyle) Huhn; five grandchildren; siblings, Glenn (Marie) Smith, Sharon (Ken) Miller, Donna (Bruce) Devereaux, and Amy (John) Miller; in-laws, Doug (Lynne) Kramer, Sue (Stacey) Bosworth, Kathy (Sharon Bretton) Kramer, Jean (Jon) Shattuck, Ken (Kim) Kramer, Karen (Tony) Trierweiler, and Mary

(Ken) Cook; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

**Harry Klein Jr.**, age 98, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. He was born on December 20, 1926, and was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and VFW. Harry was a World War II veteran. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Agnes Klein; brothers, William and Robert Klein; sister, Maryanne Klein; daughter-in-law, Jane (Michael) Scollon; and sister-in-law, Patricia (Joseph) Klein. Harry is survived by his son, Michael Scollon; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and brother, Joseph (Klein). Those wishing to make contributions can do so by donating to Walking with Moms in Need at <https://ccwestmi.org/donate/>

**Donald Robert Pohl**, 85, of Portland, MI, passed away on January 4, 2026, at Hospice House of Lansing. Born on May 25, 1940, in Westphalia, MI, he was a devoted husband to wife of 60 years Kathleen (Gross) and a loving father to Jeff (Kim) Pohl, Amy (Shane) Coan, and Brian (Sara) Pohl. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He took pleasure in having a house full of family. He is survived by his wife and children as well as sisters, Jeanne Jones, Marie Pohl, and Loretta Esch; in-laws Germaine Gross, Jane Pohl, and Dennis (Denise) Gross; and seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by siblings Adeline, Bernard (Harriet) Pohl, Helen (Gerald) Pohl, Joseph, and Richard Pohl, Cecilia (Al) Gensterblum; and in-laws Don Jones, Eugene Gross, and Harold Esch. Donations can be made to Shriner's Children Hospital or St. Patrick Parish.

**Ronald Vincent Shinaver, Sr.**, of Portland, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2026, at the age of 83. Ron was a devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. On August 22, 1964, Ron married the love of his life, Carol Goodman. Together they shared 61 wonderful years of marriage. Preceding Ron in death are his parents, Gerald Shinaver, Alice Jarvis Shinaver, and Reva Shinaver Bell; father and mother-in-law, George and Dorothy Goodman; son, Ronald Vincent Shinaver, Jr.; siblings, Terry Shinaver, Rosemary Shinaver, Jayne Simmons, Bill Shinaver, Tom Shinaver, and Dan Shinaver; in-laws, Bill Clark, Don Pohl, Norman Goodman, Jerry (Jane) Goodman, Bill Curns, and Jerry Fernholz. Surviving Ron are his beloved wife, Carol Shinaver; daughter, Danna Shinaver; grandson, Vincent (fiancée, Kaitlyn) Shinaver; siblings, Jerry Shinaver, Jim (Nancy) Shinaver, Judy Clark, Steve (Lisa) Shinaver, Wendy Pohl, Mary (Tom) Dryzga, Pauline Holton, Kathy Mikesell, and Joy (Victor) Cardenas; in-laws, Marilyn Shinaver, Jean Shinaver, Ken Simmons, Sherry Shinaver, Joyce Curns, Gene

(Letha) Goodman, Ron (Jane) Goodman, and Gladys Fernholz; and many nieces and nephews.

**Casey J. Eckert**, born April 24, 1979 left this world on January 23, 2026 at the age of 46. The cherished son of Lu (Barry) Hoffman and Jack (Darlene) Eckert will forever be missed by his parents and siblings, Rebecca (LaWalt) Johnson, Janna (Ken) Hosford, Quinn (Sarah Howes) Hoffman, Kenzee (Bryant) Trierweiler, Jennifer Elceser, A. J. Eckert, and Cale Eckert. Casey is survived by his paternal grandfather Oliver Eckert, his uncles, Tim and Mike Eckert, treasured cousins, and many precious nieces and nephews. Preceding Casey in death were his maternal grandparents, Robert and Edna Kenworthy; his maternal aunt, Kim Kenworthy; and his paternal grandmother, Eleanor Eckert. Casey was blessed with friends who were essentially family, Louise (Brad), Clay and Derek Foltz who added fun and joy to his life. Casey also had a gift of the extended families of his stepparents, Barry Hoffman and Darlene Klein Eckert. Memorial contributions may be given to the Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906

**Thomas Benjamin Graft**, age 57, passed away February 2, 2026, surrounded by his family. Leaving behind a life defined by love, loyalty, and the deep connections he shared with those closest to him. Tom was a devoted and loving husband to his wife, Karen, whom he cherished deeply. He took immense pride in his grandchildren, who brought him endless joy. Tom was a family man. His kindness, strength, and steady presence left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. Though he will be deeply missed, his memory will live on in the love he gave and the lives he touched. Surviving are his wife of 22 years, Karen; children, Scott (Erica Hoppes) Lanz, Dawn (Tom) Hodge, Keri (Scott Flint) Simon, Angela (Anthony) Weber, and Corey (Tara) Lanz; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings, Jill (Brian) Foreback, Kaye (Dave Groen) Thelen, Jackie (Tom) VanDer-ske, and David (Samara) Graft; special friend, Chris (Jodi Francis) Teachout; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Carol Graft and in-laws, Leo and Caroline Rockey.

**Terrence Lawless**, of Crystal Twp, Michigan, passed away after a short battle with Leukemia. Terry was preceded in death by his parents Perry and Kate Lawless (Portland), his sister Kay, and his wife, Victoria. Terry leaves behind his wife, Donalyn; three children, Ryan (Amy) Lawless, Nick (Brandi) Lawless and Mandy (Ryan) Johnston; step-children, Corey (Carrie) Sandborn, Carrie Sandborn, Stacey (Burt) Brown, and Daralyn (Cody) Clark; 19 grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. Terry, even in his

last days, was able to make those around him laugh, and when words would fail, hand motions worked! He always led with a generous and grateful heart and made everyone around him know how appreciated they were. He was a true kind spirit, and will be very missed as he leaves this earth and joins his loved ones in Heaven. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Wheatland Music Organization.

**Robert Louis Pline**, of Portland, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2026, at the age of 82. Bob was born in Westphalia on December 16, 1943, the son of Ferdinand and Marian (Thomas) Pline. Bob was a longtime member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2168. Preceding Bob in death are his parents; brothers, Donald and Richard Pline; sister, Betty Weese; and brothers-in-law, Lyle Braley and Daniel Reichley. Surviving are his loving wife of 56 years, Linda Pline; children, Steve (Lori) Pline and Karen (Joseph) Jonaitis; four grandchildren; sister, Judy Braley; sisters-in-law, JoAnn Pline, Sue (Robert) Dingus, Rebecca Long, and Lynn Reichley; and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to the American Diabetes Association or the Wounded Warriors Project in honor of Bob.

**Sandy (Nowak) Johnson**, of Lansing, passed away on February 21, 2026, from cancer. Sandy was born May 26, 1956, the daughter of Jim and Pauline Nowak. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Steve Nowak. She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Jim Johnson; her sister, Linda Armstrong; her brother, Doug Nowak; and her sister-in-law, Ava Nowak.

**Gary Reisbig**, 85, of Piedmont, South Carolina, passed away on March 11, 2026. Born November 3, 1940, in Detroit, Michigan, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, and public servant. Gary proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1963 and remained active in supporting veterans through the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a dedicated member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the Lions Club, and the Knights of Columbus. He also served as Danby Township Supervisor and as a Board Director for PFCU Credit Union. Gary was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59 years, Carole Reisbig. He is survived by his daughter, Lynette Greenway; his son, Erik Reisbig (Sarah); brother-in-law Russell Yuhas; sister-in-law Maylene Reisbig; nephews Jason Yuhas (Amy) and Joshua Yuhas; eight grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

**Richard Norman Brown**, of Portland, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on March 18, 2026, at the age

of 83. He was born in St. Johns, Michigan on January 9, 1943, the son of Norman and Mary (Torok) Brown. Weighing just 2 pounds, 11 ounces at birth, Dick was a fighter from the very beginning, going on to live a full, faithful, and wonderful life. Dick retired from General Motors after 37 years of loyal service. A devout Catholic, he was a long-time member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. He prayed countless rosaries and made over 30,000 rosaries to give away to others to use. On July 13, 1968, Dick married Mary Lue Schneider and she survives him. Also surviving are his sons, Scott (Sharon) Brown, Eric (Carol) Brown, Randy (Niki) Brown, Jason (Sara) Brown; 12 grandchildren; siblings, Patricia Baldwin, Ronald (partner, Karen) Brown, Dennis (Suzi) Brown, and Karen Brown; in-laws, Betty Brown, Joane Platte, Judy (Clare) Koenigsknecht, Dennis (Ann) Schneider, Ken (Karen) Schneider, Ed (Janice) Schneider, Jay (Kathy) Schneider, Frank (Rose) Schneider, Patrick (Ann Marie) Schneider, Kevin (Teresa) Schneider; along with many special friends, nieces, and nephews. Preceding Dick in death are his parents; brother, Gary Brown; father and mother-in-law, Richard and Marian Schneider, and brother-in-law, Armon Platte. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation or the Al and Karla Schrauben Fund in honor of Dick.

**Robert "Bob" Elvert Mosser**, 82, of Portland passed away Sunday, March 22, 2026 peacefully slipping away to be with his Lord following his battle with Lewy Body Dementia. Bob was born in Portland on October 25, 1943, the son of Elvert and Esther (Hile) Mosser. He married Rose Densmore on January 30, 1965, at St. Patrick Church, and they spent 61 years together building a beautiful family in Portland. A devout Catholic, his example instilled a deep love of Christ in his children and grandchildren as a man of faith. Bob is preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law, George and Aileen Densmore; sister-in-law, Barb Densmore; and brother-in-law, LaVern Densmore. He is survived by his wife, Rose; children, Dennis (Beth) Mosser, Craig Mosser, Tammy (Rick) Bengel, Andy (Nikki) Mosser, and Nicole (Jack) Hoedeman; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law: Herb and Jan Mosser; sisters and brothers-in-law: Delores and Ron Frazee, and Leon Densmore; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to St. Patrick Athletics or Corewell Health Hospice.

**Cristina L. Anderson**, age 53, of Ishpeming, MI, passed away on Wednesday March 25, 2026 at her home. Cristina was born in

*(Continued on page 18)*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Lansing, MI on September 27, 1972, daughter of William Burnham and Roxanne Hoppes. She grew up in the Portland area and was a graduate of the St. Patrick Catholic School with the class of 1990. Cristina furthered her education at Northern Michigan University where she graduated with a degree in sociology. She married her husband of nearly 21 years on May 21, 2005. Cristina is survived by her husband, Brandon Anderson; children, Laine (fiancée Lexie Olson) Larson, Grace Anderson, Marra Anderson; father, William Burnham; mother, Roxanne Burnham; sisters, Emily Burnham, Melissa Hebel-Burnham, and Tonya (Chad) Burnham-Pitsch; her best friend, Shawn Hodges; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Cristina was preceded in death by her grandparents, Stanley and Joan Hoppes and William Burnham Sr. and Joyce Pauley; mother-in-law, Lorraine Anderson; and loving parent, Gerald Scheurer.

**Thomas E. Leik**, age 83, of Portland, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026 at home. He was born on March 5, 1943, and grew up in Portland, Michigan. Tom attended and graduated from Portland St. Patrick's School in 1961. He received his Bachelors in Business degree from Ferris State College, and married Mary E. Addison in January, 1968. Tom had a lifelong passion to be a self-employed entrepreneur, and used that passion to own and operate several successful businesses. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry M. and Mary Rose Leik; his sisters Ellen T. Leik and Mary Anne (Leik) Ferrari; and his nephew Allen Ferrari. He is survived by his wife Mary; brother Philip Leik; sons Andrew Leik, Anthony Leik (Leigh Ann), Martin Leik (Elizabeth); four grandchildren; and niece Annie Douglass (Scott). Those who wish may make a memorial contribution to Father Flohe.



Tickets are still available for the 4th Annual Mega Rock Raffle. This raffle supports the parish, the school, and the athletic program. In its first three years, it has netted \$660,000!



## Upcoming EVENTS

**Graduation** ..... May 17, 2026  
**Summer Fest** ..... June 26-27, 2026  
**Class of 1976 50-Year Reunion** ..... September 12, 2026  
**Shamrock Legacy Fall Issue** ..... Mid-September, 2026  
**Homecoming** ..... TBD

## 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

### CONTACT US:

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)  
 Alumni site: [www.portlandstpats.com/schoolalumni](http://www.portlandstpats.com/schoolalumni)

Information can also be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Shamrock Newsletter. To prevent errors, we require all information to be submitted in writing. Be sure to mark it **ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS**.

*The Shamrock newsletters are published three times annually and are mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick alumni, St. Patrick parishioners, and upon request.*



## Lost Sheep

We're doing well at reducing the number of Lost Sheep! If you know where any of these people are, please call Amy at the Parish Office, 517-647-6505, ext. 410.

1953 Roy Bauer	1983 Rich Strang
1956 Rita (Bauer) Cummings	1983 Kirk Noren
1961 John D. Pung	1983 Marilyn Tallmudge
1961 Donald Mleko	1983 Dale Fedewa
1965 Steve O'Leary	1985 Scott Osmar
1966 Michael Feldpausch	1991 Christel (Lawrence) Lanz
1973 Mary F. Brooks	1993 Darcy (Hinds) Vandecar
1975 Susan Thelen	1996 Paul Theuerkauf
1975 Patricia (Cook) Leppo	1997 Jennifer Barbosa
1976 Cathy Clark	2000 Jeffrey Pung
1977 Fredrick Talladge	2002 John Carter
1977 Richard (Rick) Bailey	2004 Donald Vollman
1980 Angie Young	2004 Cara Monks
1982 Jeff Strang	2005 Anthony A. Fedewa
1983 Steve Lehnert	2013 Dakota Bonter



# PUZZLE time

The Word Search Puzzle below contains 25 words that pertain to articles in this issue of *The Shamrock*. Find all of those words, and the letters that are left over will spell out a phrase that came from Jesus himself. Remember, Jesus didn't talk like we do today, so this might be a little tricky!

### ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by email, fax, or mail (see page 18) or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by JULY 1, 2026. Cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner who will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries. You must be 18 or older to enter. Limit of one entry per person.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L N S M I T H E E F N A R C R Y  
 T E T H E L I T O A N U T O U R  
 T W L E C H T O I G N I L N S A  
 D Y R E N E T L E N B C O T S U  
 M O E T U B U L E E A O M E M T  
 E R A Q A J U R N D S E D S A C  
 O K R L N S S O T H K P T T N N  
 I A L N S U M G R E E N O I D A  
 M E R T P H H U E M T F O R H S  
 R B A N A N A S L T B A M Y T W  
 N I L S E R B M H A A E K I M S  
 L W O B Z I U Q R E L K I N G D  
 A R T P R I Z E O O L M O F H E  
 C H A M P S A V E N C B E L O N  
 F O U N D A T I O N S K G S T O  
 S U C H A S L L E B T H  E S E

ALUM

BELL

FOUNDATIONS

QUIZ BOWL

WHITE

AMY

BRESLIN

GREEN

RUNNERS UP

ANGELUS

CHAMPS

JULIAN

RUSSMAN

ARTPRIZE

CONTEST

MARQUETTE

SANCTUARY

BANANAS

ESPORTS

MIKE

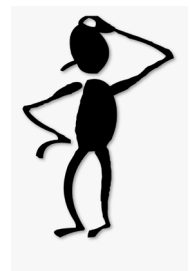
SHAMROCKS

BASKETBALL

FOOTBALL

NEW YORK

SMITH

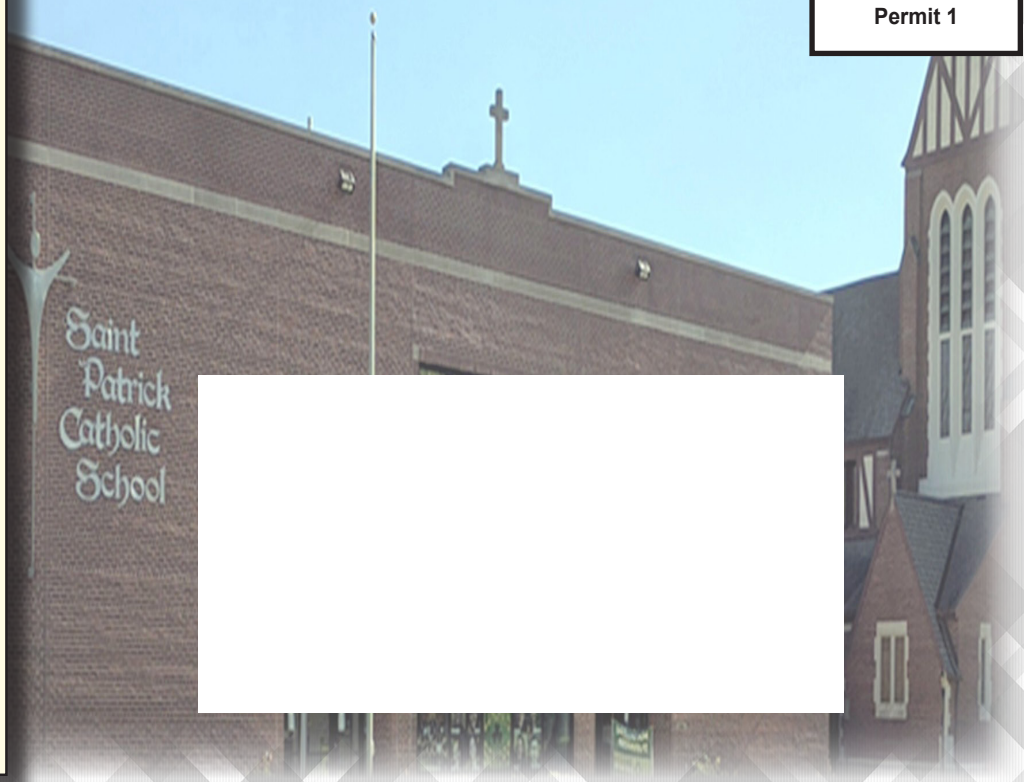


The hidden phrase in the last issue was *GETTING OLD IS LIKE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN. YOU GET A LITTLE OUT OF BREATH, BUT THE VIEW IS MUCH BETTER.* Diane Burgoyne, was the lucky winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries. She received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Diana!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SHAMROCK

Football State Champs .....	1
Parishioner Wins at ArtPrize.....	2
Spotlight on Jim and Carol Wilcox....	3
What's Happening .....	4-5
School News & Info.....	6-7
Class of 75 Reunion.....	7
Girls Basketball Runners Up.....	10
How to Support St. Pat's .....	11
Alumni News .....	12
Going Bananas! .....	13
Parish News.....	14-15
Lost Sheep.....	18
Upcoming Events .....	18
Contact Information .....	18
Word Search Puzzle.....	19

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Grand Rapids MI  
Permit 1



## Why St. Patrick Catholic School?

- Preschool through 12th grade on one campus
- The only Catholic High School in Ionia County
- Leading standardized test scores
- College credits through dual enrollment classes
- STEM curriculum
- Safe and supportive environment
- Low staff turnover
- Inclusive clubs, activities, and athletic teams for all students
- Education centered around virtue, respect, prayer, and traditional family values.

Come and see for yourself. 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 where a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is fostered.

Schedule a private tour by contacting  
Deacon Randy Hodge or Mrs. Casey Lenneman  
randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or 517-647-7551  
caseylenneman@portlandstpats.org or 517-647-7551



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