



# THE SHAMROCK

*A Shamrock Legacy Publication*

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



## A Season of Success and Service at St. Patrick School

We wrapped up a successful first marking period on Friday, October 17. This has been a year of many changes, especially with our school having a new administrator, the parish having a new pastor, and the Diocese of Grand Rapids having a new superintendent, Sarah Grey. Everyone has adapted quickly, and we are incredibly pleased with how our school year has unfolded thus far, with many successes in the classroom, community, and on the sports court and field.

In just the past few weeks, our school has accomplished the following:

- Held our annual Pay it Forward Community Service Day, where students served throughout the community.
- High school students participated in the Michigan March for Life.
- Hosted our annual Veterans Day ceremony, welcoming 40 veterans.
- Boys Cross Country qualified for the state meet for the first time in over 60 years, and our football team advanced to the state championship game.
- We began preparing for the upcoming Advent season.

These accomplishments, and all we've achieved this school year, would not be possible without the support of our students, school families, parishioners, donors, and benefactors.

While we celebrate these successes, we also recognize that our work is far from finished. Thank you to everyone who continues to support St. Patrick School; your generosity and prayers make everything we do possible.

We invite you to consider supporting St. Patrick Church or School through the remittance envelope included in this mailing. Your generosity helps us continue our mission each day.

You may also explore a planned gift to St. Patrick. Planned or legacy giving allows you to make arrangements now for a meaningful gift that will have an impact well into the future. These gifts extend your values and support beyond your lifetime. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please visit our planned giving website: <https://spsfoundation.mylegacygift.org/>.

If you would like to discuss planned giving with a school representative, please contact Deacon Randy Hodge by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or by calling the school at (517) 647-7551.

# School News!

## Cross Country Boys Team Has Historic Season

This fall, the St. Patrick High School boys' Cross Country Team celebrated a truly historic season. The team finished second at their regional meet, just behind eventual State Champion Holland Calvary Christian, earning a full-team qualification to the state finals for the first time in 60 years!

At the state meet at Michigan International Speedway, the boys entered ranked 15th and rose to the challenge, finishing 12th overall. TJ Chamberlain led the Shamrocks with an impressive 32nd place finish, missing All-State honors by just two spots. He climbed 14 places from his pre-race ranking and posted a six-second personal record (16:52). Strong performances followed from the rest of the team:

- Francis Austen placed 57th (17:16)
- Isaac FoxElster finished 109th (17:56)
- Levi Knoop finished 155th with a five-second personal best (18:31)
- Logan Howe rounded out the scoring in the 204th (19:46)
- Patrick Austen closed the lineup, placing 244th with a 14-second season best (23:26)

The team's success in the states culminated in a standout season. Earlier in the fall, they claimed first place at the Saranac Invitational, topping 11 teams and bringing home a well-earned trophy. All five scoring runners finished in the top 30, earning individual medals. They also added another trophy to their collection with a third-place finish in the Division 3 and 4 race.

Congratulations to the entire team on an exceptional season and a milestone year for St. Patrick Cross Country!



## Blood Drive Results

Our September 23, 2025, Red Cross Blood Drive was a great success, with 29 units of blood donated—surpassing our goal of 27. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this lifesaving effort. We also hosted a second drive on November 18; the results will be shared soon.

If you are interested in donating at one of our upcoming blood drives on January 20, March 17, or May 19, 2026, we encourage you to sign up at [AmericanRedCross.org](https://www.AmericanRedCross.org).

## Soctober Success



St. Patrick School students partnered with the Michigan State Police Training Division to collect 2,768 pairs of socks for the Homeless Angels Shelter.

# Marie Schrauben Faith & Family



For more than nine decades, Marie Schrauben has been a proud part of the St. Patrick community, and her family's story has become woven into the fabric of the school. Pictured here with 22 of her great-grandchildren, who are carrying on a tradition of faith she began long ago, Marie and her family have created a beautiful legacy of love and devotion that will continue to bless St. Patrick School for years to come.



St. Patrick School is no stranger to having big and/or extended families attending. At 93 years old, Marie Schrauben is definitely no stranger to St. Patrick. Marie's life has been firmly rooted in faith and family. She is a lifelong parishioner, and many evenings, when there is a St. Patrick School sporting event, you will find her attending and cheering on the Shamrocks.

Marie, the oldest of eight, attended St. Patrick School through the eighth grade. This was before St. Patrick had a high school. Her siblings were able to graduate once the high school was added. Her brother Stanley was a member of the first class to graduate from the high school.

In 1952, Marie married William Schrauben, who also attended St. Patrick School through 8th grade. Together, they raised eight children who all graduated from St. Patrick School. Even during tough economic times, providing a Catholic education for children was a priority. So when the parish established the Father Flohe Foundation in 1988, Bill and Marie became members of the original board.

Bill passed away in February of 2005, but Marie's family and the legacy of faith continue to grow. Nineteen of Marie's grandchildren have graduated from St. Patrick. She currently has 17 great-grandchildren enrolled in grades DK-12, with an additional 3 in preschool, 2 in daycare, and several waiting in the wings to join the St. Patrick family.

She currently has the following great grandchildren attending: Logan Krieger (12), Morgan Krieger (10), Westin Schrauben (7), Nick Brown (6), Grace Pung (6), Peyton Campbell (4), Ada Schrauben (4), Lena Wambaugh (4), Lane Pung (3), Eli Brown (2), Jacob Sandborn (2), Baylee Campbell (2), Kennedy Schmitt (1), Charleigh Brown (1), Kenzie Wambaugh (1), Kaylee Sandborn (K), Lyndon Schmitt (DK), Dylan Campbell (PS), Camden Brown (PS), Lee Pung (PS), Andrew Schmitt (DC), and Warren Schmitt (DC).



Pictured here is Marie Schrauben on the day of her First Communion, May 25, 1939.

# Student Spotlight The Lansdell Triplets



In this edition of *The Shamrock*, our student spotlight features not one, but three students: Amelia, Jordyn, and Olivia Lansdell. Daughters of James (Class of '94) and Debra Lansdell, and older sisters to sixth-grader Evan, these triplets have made a name for themselves both in the classroom and on the field.

The Lansdell girls are active athletes who participate in volleyball, basketball, and track. Last spring, as eighth graders, they were key contributors to the high school track team, helping it qualify for the State Finals.

Their individual accomplishments are equally impressive:

- **Amelia** qualified for states in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays, earning All-State honors in the 4x200, and competed at Nike Nationals, placing 8th in the SMR relay. She also finished the volleyball season as a JV outside hitter with 113 kills.
- **Jordyn** earned All-State honors in the 4x200 and 4x400 relays, qualified for states in multiple relays, and competed at Nike Nationals, placing 8th. On the volleyball court, she plays varsity middle hitter and blocker, advancing to the district semifinals.
- **Olivia** qualified for states in the 800, 4x100, and 4x400, and earned All-State recognition in the 4x400. She played JV libero with 186 digs and also plays point guard in basketball.

Beyond their athletic achievements, the Lansdells are dedicated students and loyal sisters. Being a triplet comes with unique challenges and joys. As Olivia explains, "It's competitive in a good way, and we always have each other to practice sports with and help with school because we are learning the same thing."

Jordyn adds, "I am never very lonely because I am usually always around Amelia and Olivia." Their experiences at St. Patrick School have shaped them all academically and spiritually.

Amelia shares, "At St. Pat's, the help from teachers, the encouragement from coaches, and the leadership of upperclassmen create a supportive environment. Everyone knows each other, and we can make lasting friendships." Jordyn adds, "Teachers and coaches all encourage and push me to be the best person that I can be. St. Pat's has brought me closer to God and has shaped me into who I am today." Olivia echoes, "The teachers and coaches care about each person and push us to be the best we can be. Overall, St. Pat's has given me experiences that have shaped who I am and taught me the value of hard work."

Whether on the track, the court, or in the classroom, Amelia, Jordyn, and Olivia Lansdell continue to shine, showing that a combination of talent, determination, and family support makes for a winning formula.

## 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

## Coach Lawless Announces Retirement As Cross Country Coach

Sixteen years ago, Dan Lawless approached the school administration, eager to restart and rebuild our long-dormant cross country program at St. Patrick High School. He did, with our boys' team having one of their most successful seasons in potentially 50-60 years. This fall, coach Lawless announced that he will step down as our high school cross country coach.

In announcing his decision, he shared that he has been impressed by the faith and maturity of the student athletes he coached over the years. Throughout his tenure as cross country coach, St. Patrick had six years of male runners qualify for states and had a female runner qualify nine times, culminating with a record-setting boys cross country season this fall with our boys team qualifying for states (see the separate article on our boys team in this edition of The Shamrock Legacy).

After announcing that he is stepping down as our high school cross country coach, athletic director Pat Russman said, "he was accepting his resignation with hesitation and expressed that he appreciates the service that Coach Lawless has provided to our student athletes and our cross country program." High School Principal Deacon Randy Hodge said, "He has done an amazing job over the past 16 years building our program, and his efforts are truly appreciated."

St. Patrick School extends its deepest gratitude to Coach Lawless for his dedication and leadership of our parish school's cross country teams. His guidance, kindness, and passion have left a lasting impact on our athletes and community. We wish him all the best in retirement and thank him for the remarkable legacy he leaves behind.



## 6th Grade Attends Camp at Our Lady of the Fields

The 6th grade students attended camp this year on Monday, October 20, and Tuesday, October 21. They had two wonderful days during their annual overnight retreat at Our Lady of the Fields. Not only was the weather beautiful, but so was the time they were able to spend being present with each other and with our Lord.

The days were filled with so many memorable moments, including spending time with our Lord in adoration, conquering fears on the zipline/rock wall and high swing, learning about each other, and learning fun games to build teamwork! They were challenged in adoration to reflect on this experience, to see the gifts God has given them, the graces He has allowed them to experience, and the opportunities to grow through Him.



*We Pray.  
We Learn.  
We Achieve.*



# MEGA Rock Raffle Update

To date, we have sold 628 tickets. This includes the free ticket for those who purchased two tickets and received a third ticket. To date, we have grossed approximately \$240,000. Both the number of tickets sold and the gross amount are similar to those from the previous three years of our raffle.

Tickets continue to be available online for \$500 each (There are still 37 opportunities to win) at the following website: <https://onecau.se/megarockraffle25>.

Listed below are the winners from our first MEGA drawing:

## Fall MEGA Winners:

\$5,000 – Lois Adams

\$2,500 – Charlotte Maurer

\$1,000 – Sara Smith

\$750 – Gary and Janet Fedewa

\$500 – Gary and Barb Hodge

\$500 – Charlotte Maurer

\$250 – Diane Hafner and Michael Hoppes

\$250 – Mike/Rita and Mark/Renee Owen

\$250 – John Schrauben

\$250 – Keelie Honsowitz

## Our Monthly \$500 Winners:

September – Connie Mallek-Fedewa

October – Kathleen Spitzley

There will be three more drawings with Mega prize winners being announced at the following events:

- Marriage Gala (February 14, 2026)
- Shamrock Auction (April 24, 2026)
- Parish Festival (June 26, 2026)

We would like to remind you that there will be cash prizes totaling \$11,250 at each one of these events. The breakdown of cash prizes at each drawing are as follows:

Grand Prize: \$5,000

2nd Prize: \$2,500

3rd Prize: \$1,000

4th Prize: \$750

5th Prize \$500 (2)

6th Prize: \$250 (4)

Finally, winning tickets will be returned to the drawing each time, so it is possible to win multiple times. All our stakeholders must support this raffle as it will go a long way in helping our parish, school, and athletic budgets.

If you have any questions about the MEGA Rock raffle, please contact Deacon Randy Hodge by calling the school at (517) 647-7551 or by email at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org).



## St. Patrick Students Take A Stand for Life In Lansing

St. Patrick Catholic School in Portland, Michigan, made a powerful statement of faith and unity by sending its entire high school to the March for Life in Lansing. The event, held annually at the Michigan State Capitol, gathers thousands of people from across the state to advocate for the protection of all human life. For St. Patrick students, this wasn't just a field trip — it was an opportunity to live out their Catholic values in a tangible and transformative way.

"This is an incredible opportunity for students and staff to grow in the virtues of justice and fortitude as we stand for those who cannot stand up for themselves, and we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. This is why we march! This is also a chance for our high school students to see that this world is much greater than the four walls they are beautifully surrounded by each day. There are real injustices in this world, and it is our call to fight those injustices. They witnessed a sea of people whose common goal is to stand for human dignity and defend life at all stages. And what a powerful moment it is for them," said Nikki Brown, Youth and Campus Minister at St. Patrick.

The decision to bring the whole high school demonstrates St. Patrick's deep commitment to forming students who are not only strong in academics but also rooted in faith and service. The March gives students the chance to witness, pray, and stand for the dignity of every human life alongside others who share their convictions. "I am attending the March for Life because it is an opportunity to show that there is a large culture of young women who see the importance of protecting life from the moment it begins. By attending the March, I am advocating for a change in attitude toward the sanctity of life and motherhood," said Maizie Pelc ('26).

St. Patrick is not alone in this mission—all five Catholic high schools in the Diocese participated in this year's March for Life on November 6. Seeing hundreds of young people standing together for life is a moving testament to their faith and courage. Their presence offers a glimpse of hope for the future of our Church and our country, reminding us that the next generation is ready to lead with conviction, compassion, and a deep respect for the dignity of every human person.



## St. Patrick School Is In Need of More Bus Drivers

St. Patrick School is thankful for the top-notch bus drivers who volunteer to get our students to all their field trips and extracurricular activities. We want to thank the following for serving as our drivers:

- Bill Vallier
- Pat Schneider
- Dan Rockey
- Deacon Randy Hodge
- Joe Mackowiak
- Terry "Chopper" Schrauben
- Don Gunderman
- Gary Fedewa
- Jeff Fedewa
- Ben Cross

If you see any of these drivers, please thank them for their service to St. Patrick Parish and School. While these gentlemen do a great job serving our school and sports teams, we still need more drivers.

To become a driver, one needs to pass the state-mandated tests at the Secretary of State to get Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements on their driver's license, as well as their Air Brake Restriction. One also has to sign up for and take a bus-driving class with an approved trainer. Once they have passed the tests and the class, a road test needs to be completed and passed. A driver also needs to get and pass a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) physical every two years.

Once everything is completed with the Department of Motor Vehicles, a Beginner Bus Driver class must be completed with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to earn the bus driver certification. An individual must complete 18 hours of instruction before earning their certification.

Once everything is completed and the driver is licensed and certified, the only continuing education requirements are to complete a course every other year and to ensure the driver keeps their license and MDOT physical up to date.

If you are interested in becoming a licensed and certified school bus driver, please get in touch with Deacon Randy Hodge at [randyhodge@portlandstpats.org](mailto:randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or by calling (517) 647-7551.



# Alumni Spotlight Sophia Schrauben

## Alumni Sophia Schrauben Named Ionia Free Fair Queen

The Ionia Free Fair, also known as the “Ten Best Days of Summer,” was extra special for St. Patrick High School Class of 2024 graduate Sophia Schrauben. Schrauben was named as the 2025 Ionia Free Fair Queen.

Sophie has been a long-time 4-H participant and a regular fairgoer her whole life. She began 4-H at the age of 7 as a Cloverbud. She has been involved with dairy goats, foods, crafts, international studies, community service, and knitting. Sophie has competed in Sweepstakes many times after winning her showmanship class and won twice, once as a junior and once as an intermediate showman. Through 4-H, she has worked at IM Kids, fundraised for Heifer International, participated in the Ionia County Crop Walk, and mentored younger club members.

Through 4-H, her experiences at the Ionia Free Fair, and now her service as Queen, Sophie has developed meaningful relationships and friendships. She has also strengthened her cooking and baking skills and broadened her understanding of cultures and lifestyles from around the world.

It has taught her responsibility and time management, and has enhanced her skills in leadership, communication, and management. It has taught her to be caring, compassionate, and eager to give back to her community. These skills, combined with the knowledge and experiences she has gained during her years at St. Patrick School, have empowered her to take on and succeed in many important commitments throughout her life.



One of the essential commitments she fulfilled with these skills was entering and being crowned the 2025 Ionia Free Fair Queen.

As the Ionia Free Fair Queen, she represents many communities throughout Ionia County. Some of the things she has done as Queen include participating in parades in different towns, singing the national anthem at various events, attending social events, walking in the Ionia County Crop Walk, and speaking at the Ionia County Board of Commissioners meetings on behalf of the 4-H program.



She is currently attending Aquinas College and is running in their track program. You may also see her on occasion singing at St. Patrick's Parish weekend Masses. Sophia is the daughter of Greg (Class of 1984) and Kimberly Schrauben. Her siblings are Nicole Easlick (Class of 2006), Katrina Meyers (Class of 2008), and Amelia Hodge (Class of 2018).



## Future St. Patrick Parish and School Museum

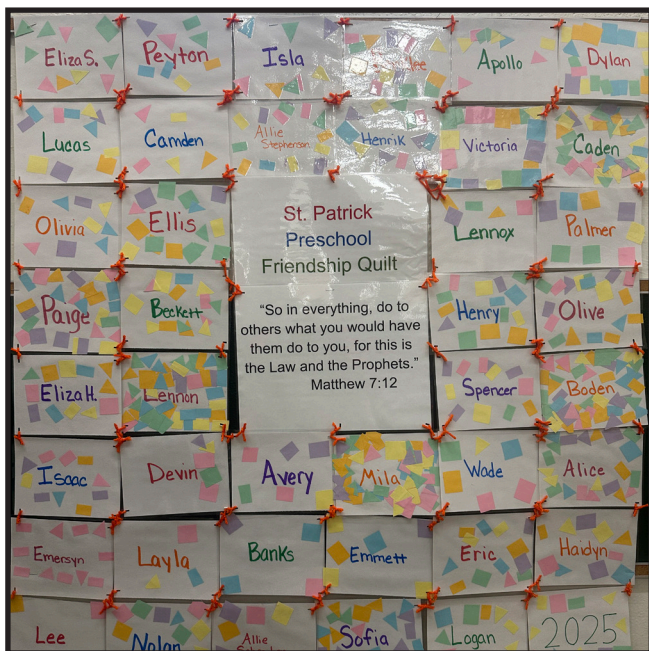
Our current grade 6-12 principal, Deacon Randy Hodge, has been slowly but surely collecting items for a future St. Patrick Parish and School Museum. The largest donation came from Ron C. Smith, a member of the St. Patrick Class of 1975.

At the Father Flohe Foundation 50-year reunion, Mr. Smith donated original tiles from St. Patrick Church to the future museum. His father, Carl Smith (1919-2004), attended the 'early' St. Patrick School and was a member of the Church, Knights of Columbus, and VFW.

During the construction of the church roof, Carl brought home some of what are believed to be the original rectangular clay tiles and stored them. Ron surmised that his father, "probably wanted a physical piece of history connected to the building that connected with him, and its impact on him and his life, along with many others in the community and surrounding area."

Other items currently in the future museum are a gym bag donated by Herb Schrauben, the varsity letter of Theresa Meyers Lancaster, a perfect attendance pin donated by Kathleen Spitzley, the name plate of Fr. Flohe, a vintage "Yell-a-Phone" donated by Tom and Sandy Meitler, and a postcard of the original St. Patrick School donated by Don Cavanaugh.

To donate items, please contact Deacon Randy Hodge.



St. Patrick's Preschool classes created a friendship quilt with squares designed by the students.

## Commendation For Our Football Team



At the time of printing, our football team is headed to the State Championship Game at the Superior Dome! We're pleased to share the message below from a Bellaire High School parent regarding our team's game on October 4th.

*"Good Morning- I wanted to extend a heartfelt shout-out to your football players and coaching staff for the incredible class and sportsmanship they showed on Saturday. Your coaches were true to their word; kind and respectful. They went out of their way to keep the score respectable, and that did not go unnoticed. We truly appreciate it, and they received numerous compliments from our families and fans.*

*Some of your players arrived early on Friday and stopped by our field during our Homecoming festivities. They were polite, engaging, and an absolute pleasure to interact with. It was great to see the positive side of athletics when that is not always the case.*

*Portland St. Patrick should be incredibly proud of the way its team represents its school and the community. They certainly gained several new fans from up north."*

## Go Shamrocks!!



## IRS Allowed Contributions Increased for 2026

The IRS recently announced higher retirement contribution limits for 2026. Here's a quick summary:

**401(k), 403(b), and similar plans:** You can contribute up to \$24,500 (up from \$23,500). If you're aged 50 or older, the catch-up limit rises to \$8,000, bringing the total to \$32,500.

**Special catch-up for ages 60–63:** Starting in 2026, individuals in this age range can make an additional catch-up contribution, bringing their total annual 401(k) limit to roughly \$35,750, depending on plan rules.

**Traditional and Roth IRAs:** You can contribute up to \$7,500 (up from \$7,000). If you're age 50 or older, the total catch-up is \$8,600.

These increases give you more room to save toward retirement in a tax-advantaged way.

If you're aiming to maximize your contributions, remember to adjust your payroll contribution rate at the start of the year to stay on track with the new limits.

If you're still looking to maximize your 2025 IRA contributions, you can do so up until the tax deadline of April 15, 2026.

### A Simple Way to Make an Impact – Beneficiary Designations

Designating a charity as a beneficiary of a retirement or other account is one of the simplest ways to make a legacy gift. It offers potential tax advantages and allows you to support the causes you care most about.

With a beneficiary designation, you can specify the individuals and charities you want to support. You also have the flexibility to list a charity as sole, percentage, or contingent beneficiary.

### Why consider naming a charity?

- **Tax Benefits:** Charities are not subject to income tax on distributions from retirement accounts, and charity gifts may also reduce the taxable value of your estate.
- **Simplicity and Flexibility:** You can update your designation at any time without revising your will or trust, and you retain access to your assets during your lifetime.

- **Meaningful Impact:** A beneficiary designation lets you create a legacy that reflects your faith and values.

To set up or update a beneficiary designation, request a Change of Beneficiary Form from your policy or plan administrator.

Please consider designating St. Patrick Parish or School as a beneficiary. If you have already designated St. Patrick Parish or School as a beneficiary, please let us know. We'd love the opportunity to thank you and recognize you during your lifetime.



St. Patrick's Preschool students decorated turkey feathers this month and shared what they are thankful for.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

**-1 Peter 4:10**

# Shamrocks In Action: Highlights & Happenings



Students have fun decorating their hallway for our annual homecoming spirit week.



St. Patrick School 8th-grade students after serving the community during Pay It Forward Day.



The St. Patrick School Varsity Volleyball Team. Coaches are proud of this young team! Despite challenges, these girls consistently showed they could compete with anyone.

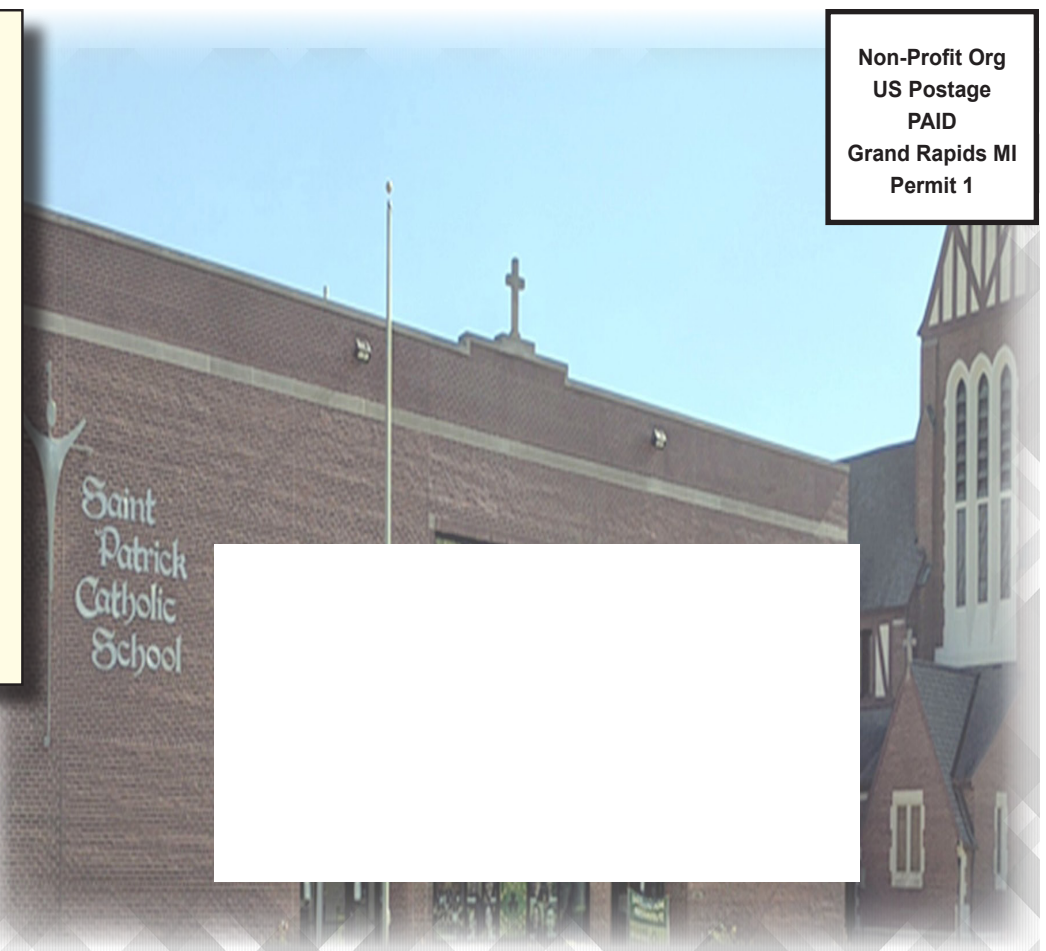


Our National Honor Society students helped beautify the community by picking up trash at the park-and-ride as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program.

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