



THE SHAMROCK

A Shamrock Legacy Publication

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL/PARISH/ALUMNI EDITION

FALL 2026

Shamrocks Shine at State— A Season to Remember

The St. Patrick Track and Field team traveled to Hudsonville on Saturday, May 30, 2026, for the Division 4 State Finals — and they came home with something truly special.

Seven All-State performances. Two new school records. And a State Championship.

The highlight of the day belonged to the girls 4x200 relay team of Siena Schafer, Amelia Lansdell, Jordyn Lansdell, and Lily Sandborn, who ran a season-best time to finish first and claim the title of State Champions. It was a performance that had the entire St. Patrick community on its feet.

The girls 4x800 team of Maizie Pelc, Olivia Lansdell, Julia White, and Siena Schafer delivered one of the most stunning performances of the day, dropping an incredible 21 seconds from their previous best to shatter the school record — finishing in 10:06.26, down from 10:27.50.

Not to be outdone, the boys 4x400 team of Emmet Fandel, Aiden Mosser, Gavin Groothuis, and Ben White also rewrote the record books, lowering the school mark from 3:31.27 to 3:30.78.

This team worked tirelessly all season, and on the biggest stage, they delivered. Every single athlete who wore the green and white this year has made St. Patrick Parish and School incredibly proud.

Congratulations, Shamrocks — what a season!



Shamrocks We're Cheering Your Name!

All-State:

4x200 (1st) - Siena Schafer,
Amelia Lansdell, Jordyn
Lansdell, Lily Sandborn

4x400 (3rd) - Olivia Lansdell,
Siena Schafer, Lily Sandborn,
Amelia Lansdell

4x400 (4th) - Emmet Fandel, Aiden
Mosser, Gavin Groothuis, Ben White

4x800 (5th) - Maizie Pelc, Olivia
Lansdell, Julia White, Siena Schafer

4x800 (5th) - Aiden Mosser, Emmet
Fandel, Ben White, Gavin Groothuis

Discus (8th) - Katrina Chen

4x100 (8th) - Lily Sandborn,
Amelia Lansdell, Olivia
Lansdell, Jordyn Lansdell

Other Finishers:

3200 (12th) - Francis Austen

400 (13th) - Siena Schafer

100 (13th) - Amelia Lansdell

110H (14th) - Teddy Brown

4x200 (15th) - Emmet Fandel, Aiden
Mosser, Gavin Groothuis, Ben White

100 (16th) - Lily Sandborn

4x100 (24th) Teddy Brown, Aiden
Mosser, Gavin Groothuis, James Miller

Academic All-State:

Maizie Pelc, Lily Sandborn, Siena
Schafer, Katrina Chen, Julia White,
Olivia Lansdell, Jordyn Lansdell,
Amelia Lansdell, Ben White,
Aiden Mosser, Gavin Groothuis

A New Journey of Faith

When Ashley Schoenith and her family moved to Portland, they were looking for a place to call home. They ended up finding a spiritual home at St. Patrick Parish.

Ashley grew up in the Gaylord area and was raised Baptist. She was baptized at age 11. She met her husband, Craig, while attending EMT school shortly after high school, and the two married just a year later.

Ashley worked as an EMT before moving into palliative care. Craig's work as a commercial diver took the couple to Hawaii, where they welcomed their first child before eventually returning to Michigan and settling in Portland.

Today, Ashley is a stay-at-home mom to their daughter, Maisie, 3, and son, Jasper, 8 months. Outside of family life, she enjoys bear hunting and cooking.

But Ashley's move to Portland also marked the beginning of a much deeper journey—one that eventually led her into full communion with the Catholic Church. She was a member of the St. Patrick OCIA group welcomed into the Church at the 2026 Easter Vigil Mass.

"Christ was always in my heart, but it felt as if He lay dormant."

The moment I decided to join in full communion with the Catholic Church, my heart poured out with a love I had longed for all my life. The love I already had for the Trinity grew stronger, and a new love for Mary, the saints



Craig and Ashley with their children, Maisie and Jasper. The picture was taken on the day they had their marriage convalidated in the spring.

and the papacy began to flourish.

My heart, mind and spirit have been ignited by the sacraments and fueled by every homily, resulting in a burning new love for Christ and His Church.

My conversion required humility, wisdom, patience and faith—things I thought I had, but soon realized I was severely lacking. The desperate prayers of my husband for my conversion and softness of heart, along with God's grace, were proven deeply effective.

"From the moment I decided to become Catholic, a whole new world was revealed to me."

How beautiful the Church is. How deep the significance is in every detail of the Mass. How spiritually fed I am by every sacrament. It is a joy no one can ever take from me, forever unchanging.

I just couldn't see it. But it was always there. And I have comfort knowing it will always be.

My entire hope and purpose in life have changed completely. The desire to do things that are pleasing to God outweighs all of my selfish desires.

I am so grateful to all those who have helped me along the way—from those here on earth to the saints and angels above—and to all those who have prayed for me and given me counsel.



If you are interested in becoming Catholic, returning to the Church after a time away, or simply learning more about the Catholic faith, contact Mike Kissane, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator at St. Patrick Parish. Whether you have been thinking about it for years or have only recently begun asking questions, you are always welcome to reach out. There is no obligation or expectation — just an opportunity to talk, ask questions, and learn more. Mike is happy to meet you wherever you are in your faith journey and help you discern the next step.

In the Spotlight



Carol Kahn--A Legacy of Love

For more than 30 years, preschool has been an important part of life in our parish. The story began in 1994 with Miss Laura's Wee People, an established preschool that eventually became a parish-sponsored program known as St. Patrick Preschool. Through several locations, changes, and leadership transitions, one thing remained constant: the dedication of the teachers and the love they developed for the children in their care. Carol Kahn tells of her role in the transition.

My formal preschool involvement began in 1994, when Laura Stegenga approached me about the possibility of purchasing and running her established preschool, Miss Laura's Wee People.

I had several years of elementary teaching experience and a dozen years of operating a group daycare home, and I was ready for a change. I embraced this new opportunity and was excited to begin a new chapter in my teaching career.

The first year, I taught at the established location on Grand River Avenue. The following year, we moved to the east wing of the brown building on St. Patrick Parish property. The building had formerly been a convent for the sisters who taught at St. Patrick School, then a nursing home, and was known as the Annex.

The new location offered more space, more storage, and a better layout for preschool use. I especially enjoyed painting and decorating the rooms, turning them into a colorful, cheerful, and welcoming environment for the children. There was something very special about creating a place where little ones could learn, play, and feel comfortable being themselves.

In 2007, we transitioned to a parish-sponsored program and renamed it St. Patrick Preschool. In 2014, the building was deemed unsafe, so we moved to our current location on the lower level of the main school building.

In 2015, I retired as program director and teacher. My sister, Joyce, who had worked with me for many of those years, retired as well. I did return to work part-time for many years, but now I have officially retired. I will greatly miss the smiles, hugs, and little voices that have been such an important part of my life for so many years.

Over the years, there were many changes—schedules, building features, regulations, and finances. Preschool itself also changed in many ways as the years went by. But through all those changes, one thing remained constant: the love planted deep in my heart for those precious little people who taught me as much as I taught them.

There are no greater gifts for a teacher than witnessing a child's growth, watching academic and social skills develop, and seeing the excitement that comes when a child learns something new. It is also a wonderful gift to watch children grow in confidence and independence as they prepare for the next step in their lives.

Most of all, I came to realize again and again that each child is a blessing from a good and loving God, who holds us all in the palm of His hand. The opportunity to be part of those early years in so many children's lives has been a privilege I will always treasure.

I was so blessed, and I am deeply grateful that I was called to this life work.

(More about Carol on page 11)



Carol's family, L to R: Granddaughter Mya, son Matt, Father Troy Nevins, son David holding hand of grandson Brandon, daughter-in-law Silvia holding granddaughter Layla, daughter Amy, Carol.

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. Deadline is March 1, 2027.

BIRTHS

To **James (2010) and Rachel (Miros) Spohn (2010)**, a daughter, Anna James Spohn, born on June 20, 2026.

To **Jared and Amanda Krausz**, a son, Kogan Joseph, on August 24, 2025.

To **Cristin (Stiffler, 2009) and Brandon Bigham**, a son, Sullivan David, on August 28, 2026. He joins three brothers, Emmett (6), Beckett (4), and Callan (2).

BAPTISMS

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

Levi David Spitzley, son of Scott and Ellen Spitzley

Olivia Mea Coyne, daughter of Nicholas and Emily Coyne

Annistyn Nikol Lewandowsky, daughter of Tanner and Erikka Lewandowsky

Nixon Tanner Lewandowsky, son of Tanner and Erikka Lewandowsky

Lydia Margaret Manning, daughter of Jacob and Abigail Manning

Coen Francis Batten, son of Erik and Richelle Batten

Meeka Mary Batten, daughter of Erik and Richelle Batten

Kogan Joseph Krausz, son of Jared and Amanda Krausz

Emery Rose Smith, daughter of Kyle and Hanna Smith

Cooper Andrew Petersmark, son of Andrew and Mariah Petersmark

Emersyn Anne Beard, daughter of Preston

and Lauren Beard

Henrick Anthony Beard, son of Preston and Lauren Beard

Leland Penn Beard, son of Preston and Lauren Beard

Sebastian Timothy Gentile, son of Tory and Victoria Gentile

Carsyn Mari Moyer, daughter of Jacob and Mari Moyer

Myles John Miller, son of Jacob and Shelby Miller

Aidan Thomas Rademacher, son of Bryan and Katherine Rademacher

Hazel Jan Simon, daughter of David and Laura Simon

Anna James Spohn, daughter of James Jr and Rachel Spohn

Cade Thomas Hodge, son of Blake and Jenna Hodge

Elaina Ann Krausz, daughter of Jordan and Brittini Krausz

Scarlett Reese Mason, daughter of James and Sarah Mason

Cash Anthony Meyers, son of Curtis and Katrina Meyers

Max Robert Schrauben, son of Kyle and Samantha Schrauben

WEDDINGS

Emma Trierweiler (2017) and Joseph Murphy were married on March 21, 2026, in Grand Rapids. The newlyweds reside in Norfolk, Virginia.

The following weddings took place at St. Patrick Church:

4/18/26- **Alexander Kissane and Annalise Gunderman**

6/13/26- **Graham Wohlscheid and Tricia Feldpausch**

6/20/26- **Zachary Spitzley and Faith Russman**

6/26/26- **Eric Mollon and Alaina Pung**

7/11/26- **Nathaniel Wilcox and Samantha Teachworth**

8/8/26- **Tyler Coyne and Avery Zimmerman**

8/15/26- **Paul Cook and Cierra Van Ells**

8/22/26- **Brandon Scheurer and Jenna Jeczmonka**

9/12/26- **Ryan Lay and Lydia Gross**

The following convalidation ceremonies took place at St. Patrick Church:

2/5/26- **Craig Schoenith and Ashley Spreeman**

3/18/26- **Jason Hilley and Elizabeth Metzger**

3/22/26- **Ryan Eliasek and Teal Amthor-Shaffer**

3/27/26- **Michael Beno and Courtney Kusnier**

5/1/26- **Matthew Goodman and Alexis Martinez**

7/2/26- **Preston Beard and Lauren Penn**

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dick and Janice Manning (1959) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their family on April 8, 2026.

IN MEMORY OF

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

Valerie Ann (Sunday) David, age 63, passed away on February 2, 2026, in Wyoming, Michigan, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is now at peace, embraced by God in Heaven. Val was born on July 22, 1962, in Lansing, Michigan. Val was preceded in death by her husband, Michael David Sr. and parents, Robert and Rita (Weber) Sunday. Val is survived by her children, Amy Hoppough-Sias, Joshua (Jennifer) Hoppough, Paula Stanton (Sally Glombowski), Michael David Jr., Amy David (Duane Anderson), Patrick (Heather) David Sr., and Anthony (Everline) David; ten grandchildren; siblings, Ken Sunday, William (Jean) Sunday, Debra (Dan) Trinter, Richard (Linda) Sunday, Patti (Steve) Townsend, Eric (Dorothy) Sunday, Sandra Sunday, Vicki (Bill) Mead, John Sunday (Bobbi Sedelmaier), Sue Sunday, and Kay (Rick) Bowling; and many nieces and nephews. Val leaves behind lifelong friends Scott and Laura Weaver and special friend Randy Parker. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations

to St. Mary's Catholic Church (Lowell) or Flat River Outreach Ministries 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.

Todd C. Behovitz, a loving father, grandfather, son, brother, neighbor, and friend, was born on September 1, 1967, in Lansing, Michigan, to Mary Ann and Vincent Behovitz. Todd was handsome, lovable, and charismatic, with a big heart, a gift for connecting with anyone he met, and a vibrant sense of humor. He is now reunited with his beloved parents and his dear friends, Doug and Dane, who preceded him in death. Todd's legacy lives on through his daughter and son-in-law, Jake and Mari Moyer, and his four grandchildren, Peyton, Reese, Lane, and Carsyn Moyer. He is also survived by his siblings, Brian Behovitz, Julie Behovitz, and Vince and Vicki Behovitz, along with many nieces and nephews.

Mathius Cross, 21, passed away unexpectedly, on May 2, 2026, leaving behind a family and community who loved him deeply and will carry his memory with them always. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Clarence and Ardine Robbenolt, Clare and Margaret Cross, Rex and Freida Bennett, and his cousin, Levi Spear. He is lovingly remembered and survived by his mother, Renota; his father, Clayton; his brothers, Chrystian, Michael, Jayden, and Noah Cross; his sisters, Bella Cross and Brooklynn Bowers; his grandparents, Jeanine and Calvin Cross and Dorinda and Robert Martin; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who will cherish his memory always.

Jeffrey Lynn Hoover, age 73, of Ionia, passed away on Monday, May 11, 2026, with his family by his side. He was born on May 10, 1953, in Portland the son of Frank and Vera Hoover. Jeff lived his life the "old school way," he believed in being polite, and a gentleman and was known as a jokester by all. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Frank Dennis (Brenda) Hoover; and sisters, Patricia Gilbert and Norma Jean Hoover. Surviving are his wife, Lisa (England) Hoover; children, Erin Jammer, Jason Herbstreith, and Benjamin Herbstreith; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ionia County Humane Society in Jeff's name.

Kenneth L. Johnson, 94, of Battle Creek, Michigan, passed away peacefully, at Lakeview Assisted Living, after a life well lived on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Ken was born on February 7, 1932, in Norway, Michigan, to the late Albert and Edna (VanDamme) Johnson. He was the youngest of four and grew up in Vulcan, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula, where he was president of the Class of 1950 and an all-state basketball player. Ken began his career as a teacher and coach at St. Patrick High School in Portland, Michigan, where he worked from 1957–1966. He taught high school social studies, math, and science and served as head coach for basketball, baseball, and

cross country. He was also an assistant football coach, golf manager, part-time bus driver, and even a part-time confessor. Ken was preceded in death by his loving wife and partner of 49 years, Marilu, who passed away on February 6, 2003. He was also preceded in death by his daughters, Jeanne Marie Grise and Jackie Kay Garoutte; his son, Michael Kevin Johnson; his brothers, Roland and Ernest Johnson; and his sister, LaVern Solda. He was also predeceased by his second wife, Corky Miller, who passed away in February 2025. Ken is survived by his daughter, Jill (Eric) Petersen; his son, Scott (Sheri) Johnson, both of Battle Creek; and his son-in-law, Patrick Grise, of Battle Creek; eight grandchildren; and nine treasured great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either Pennfield Athletic Boosters, C/O Athletic Office, 8299 Pennfield Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49017 or the Al and Karla Schrauben Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875 (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stppob211>)

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 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.

Mary Louise Martin (Barley), 90, of Traverse City, MI, passed away on May 21, 2026, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Mary Lou was born on December 10, 1935, to Albert C. and Elizabeth J. (Gregg) Barley. She was raised in Portland, MI. She graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1954. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her husband of 33 years, Dennis W. Martin; son-in-law, Ramon Ramirez Jr.; her parents, Albert C. and Elizabeth Barley; sisters, Betsy Barley, Joan Barley, and Gail Nowak; and brother, Larry Barley. Mary Lou is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth G. Ramirez and Laura A. Hehl (Scott); six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Michael Lee Hodge, age 71, of Portland, passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents, Geraldine and Albert Hodge; brothers, Robert and Ronald Hodge and brother-in-law Jim Miller. Surviving are his loving wife, Sherry Hodge; children, Brian (Emily) Morse and Michael (Amanda) Morse; five grandchildren; siblings: Gary (Barbara) Hodge, Irene Miller, William (Barbara) Hodge, Connie (Chuck) Carr, Linda (Douglas) Brown, and Jane (Keith) Pline.

Roxanne "Roxie" Marie (Goodrich) Estell, age 75, of Lansing, passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2026. She was born on August 22, 1950, in Lansing, the daughter of Alfred and Virginia "V.A." (Spohn) Goodrich, Jr. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Public Radio in memory of Roxie.

Brian L. Wohlscheid, age 64, of Portland, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on April 20, 1962, the son of Howard and Verna (Nesbit) Wohlscheid. Brian was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 1980. Preceding Brian in death are his parents and father-in-law, Richard Lawless. Brian leaves behind his devoted wife, Nancy Wohlscheid; sons, Daniel, Blake, and Graham (Tricia) Wohlscheid; sister, Lisa (David) Fitzpatrick; mother-in-law, Shirley Lawless; Lawless in-laws, Kaye (Ron) Bos, Daniel (Denise) Lawless, David (Tammy) Lawless; and many, special nieces and nephews. Those wishing may make memorial contributions to the Portland V.F.W. Post 4090 or the Fr. Flohe Foundation in honor of Brian.

Dennis Sochor (Class of 1970) passed away on July 14, 2026 in Florida.

JoAnn Estelle Spitzley, of Mulliken, passed away surrounded by her loving family on July 16, 2026, at the age of 92. JoAnn was born on February 8, 1934, the daughter of Herman and Caroline (Platte) Trierweiler. JoAnn was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend whose greatest joy was spending time with her family. Preceding JoAnn in death are her beloved husband of 61 years, David Spitzley; her parents, Herman and Caroline Trierweiler; brothers, Stanley (Dorothy) Trierweiler, Donald (Germaine) Trierweiler, Robert (Eileen) Trierweiler, and Gerald Trierweiler; in-laws, Robert (Laurine) Spitzley, Harold (Germaine) Spitzley, Leo (MaryAnn) Spitzley, Roy (MaryAnn) (Alice) Spitzley, Philip (Betty) Spitzley, Jerome Spitzley, Alvin Spitzley, Joan "Sis" (Eddie) Schmitz, Wilma (Rip) Schmitz, and Alice (Louie) Esch. Surviving JoAnn are her children, Sherry (Ron) Kempf, Kim (Ken Merryfield) Hurt, Kelli (Wesley) Waldo, and Scott (Natalie) Spitzley; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and one on the way; sisters-in-law, Jeanette Trierweiler and Rosemary Spitzley; and special friend, Romyne (Ivan) Lay. Those wishing may make memorial contributions to St. Patrick Catholic Church or Corso Care Hospice in honor of JoAnn.

Daniel Joseph Trierweiler was born in St. Johns, Michigan, on November 1, 1936, and passed away surrounded by his family on July 17, 2026, after a courageous battle with leukemia. He led a life of adventure, hard work, generosity, and joy. In both stature and spirit, Dan was truly larger than life.

(Continued on page 17)

School News!

Welcome to the Shamrock Team! New Teachers for 2026-27 School Year

This school year, St. Patrick School is welcoming five new teachers to our staff. Each brings a unique background and experience, but all share a desire to help our students grow academically, personally and in their faith. We are excited to introduce them!



Left to right is Stephanie Spitzley, Cali Tighe, Jill Taul, Sarah Platte, and Jacob Lowe.

Ms. Sarah Platte — Developmental Kindergarten

Sarah Platte joins St. Patrick as our new Developmental Kindergarten teacher. A St. Patrick graduate and longtime parishioner, Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and Early Childhood Endorsement from Western Michigan University. She is certified to teach Pre-K through 5th grade and 6–8 Science.

Sarah has spent much of her career working with toddlers, and many families may remember her from our daycare program or Faith Formation, where she teaches Kindergarten.

In her free time, Sarah enjoys her large, close-knit family, es-

pecially her sisters. She is a proud aunt and godmother and loves to travel. She often looks for a Catholic shrine or site to visit along the way. She also enjoys crafting—although she admits she doesn't always finish her projects!

Sarah is especially grateful to return to St. Patrick. "I was part of the first Kindergarten class that was held in the very room that I'm teaching in now. I'm so excited to be here! I truly have come full circle. There is no place I would rather be."

Mrs. Jill Taul — Kindergarten

Jill Taul joins St. Patrick as our new Kindergarten teacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood endorsement from Western Michigan University. A graduate of Fowler High School, Jill lives in Fowler and is an active parishioner at Most Holy Trinity Church.

Jill and her husband, Tony, have three children. Jonathan, 20, is working in the HVAC trade; Amber, 16, is a junior at Fowler High School, where she participates in volleyball and softball and is taking CCRESA classes in Education. Jill's stepson, Tanner, 19, lives in Monroe and is pursuing a career as an electrician.

Jill is excited to begin this new adventure at St. Patrick. She looks forward to growing in her faith, supporting her students and becoming an active member of the St. Patrick School community.

Mr. Jacob Lowe — 4th Grade

Jacob Lowe joins St. Patrick after 11 years at St. Michael School in Grand Ledge, where he taught middle school social studies and language arts. He graduated from Grand Valley State University with a degree in Secondary Education, focusing on Group Social Studies and Biology.

Jacob is also a familiar face in our parish community. His wife, Beth, is a 2008 St. Patrick graduate and lifelong parishioner, and three of their four sons—Ian, Spencer and Lucas—are Shamrocks. Their youngest, Declan, will join them in a few years. Jacob is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 2168.

Outside of school, Jacob enjoys the outdoors, reading, spending time with his sons, watching the Tigers, Lions, Red Wings and Michigan football, and "playing" golf. He is excited to help his students grow in their faith while allowing them to help him grow in his own faith. Go Shamrocks!

Mrs. Stephanie Spitzley — 4th Grade

Stephanie Spitzley joins our fourth-grade team with a strong background in literacy and student development. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders from Michigan State University, with an emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan in Health Education.

(Continued on page 16)

Student SPOTLIGHT

This month's Student Spotlight features senior Jerryd Scheurer, a three-sport athlete and active member of the St. Patrick school and parish community. His years at St. Patrick have been filled with faith, friendships, leadership, and plenty of athletic success.



Jerryd is the son of Bryan Scheurer (Class of 1996) and Karen Scheurer and brother of Rylee (Class of 2024) and Easton (9th grade). He is a member of NHS and has served on Student Council, visited the homebound, and participated in church ministry as an altar server.

Jerryd began playing high school sports as an eighth grader and is grateful to the older students who

welcomed him to the teams. He has competed in football, basketball, and baseball, and winning back-to-back state championships in football and baseball has been a highlight of his high school career.

"Winning two state titles in back-to-back sports seasons was a dream come true—twice!" Jerryd also credits his teammates, coaches and the St. Patrick community for their support. "Seeing the consistent crowds and the following we bring, especially at MSU and the 'Yoooper Dome,' gives me and my teammates chills and so much adrenaline!"

His athletic accomplishments include First Team All-State in baseball in 2024, 2025 and 2026, along with selection to the 2026 MHSAA All-State, All-Divisions Dream Team. He has also earned honors in basketball and football.

As a senior, Jerryd hopes to stay rooted in his Catholic faith, finish strong academically and continue competing on the field and court. He plans to study business and play baseball at an in-state university next year.

His faith is very important, too. "Being an altar server is special in that I feel it is as close as I can get to God as a student. As I grow older, and hopefully wiser, the importance of my faith continues to steadily climb. I strive to be thankful for the many gifts and talents I've been blessed with and the people who help me reach my full potential. I've also learned to appreciate the challenges that come along the way."

Jerryd says his time at St. Patrick has given him a strong foundation for the future. "I just want to give a heartfelt thank you to St. Patrick and all that it entails for giving me a solid foundation in which to build upon in the future."

St. Pats Mega Rock Raffle

The fourth annual MEGA Rock Raffle is underway! This raffle is the only major fundraiser for St. Patrick Parish, School, and athletic programs, replacing several smaller raffles and fundraisers. In its first three years, the MEGA Rock Raffle has raised nearly **\$800,000** to support our parish, school and athletic programs and help invest in our future.



How It Works

Tickets are \$500 each, with a goal of selling 1,000 tickets. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://onecau.se/mega-rockraffle26> or at the parish or school office. Tickets may also be shared with others to split the cost.

Special Offer

Buy two tickets and receive a third ticket FREE through October 15, 2026!

Prizes

Four MEGA Drawings will be held at parish events, each awarding \$11,250 in cash prizes

- Oct. 16, 2026 — Home Varsity Football Game
- Feb. 20, 2027 — Marriage Gala
- April 23, 2027 — Shamrock Auction
- June 25, 2027 — Parish Festival

The prize breakdown at each drawing:

- \$5,000 Grand Prize
- \$2,500 Second Prize
- \$1,000 Third Prize
- \$750 Fourth Prize
- Two \$500 prizes
- Four \$250 prizes



There will also be ten monthly \$500 drawings, beginning September 25, 2026. You don't need to be present to win, and winning tickets are returned to the drawing for another chance to win.

Questions? Contact Deacon Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.





Browns are Family of the Year

Congratulations to Brian and Nikki Brown, who were named the State of Michigan *Knights of Columbus Family of the Year*! Brian and Nikki were honored at the Knights of Columbus State Convention this spring.

What a wonderful recognition for a family that strives to live and share its Catholic faith. We congratulate the Brown family on this well-deserved honor!



Welcome Dana!

St. Patrick Parish is thrilled to welcome Dana Hengesbach as its new Administrative Assistant!



Dana is no stranger to St. Patrick — she is an active parishioner and a proud St. Patrick School Class of 2014 graduate. She brings a solid background in public service to her new role, having worked for the City of Portland through the AmeriCorps VISTA program and for the City of Grand Ledge as a secretary and utility clerk.

Dana's commitment to community doesn't stop at the office. She serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Portland Area Fire Authority, volunteers with the high school youth group, and is a member of the Ladies in Truth (LIT) group. When she's not work-

ing or volunteering, Dana loves spending time with family and friends and embarking on new adventures.

Dana shared her excitement about the new role. "It is such an honor to serve our parish community and assist our parishioners," she said. "I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to serve and be part of such a wonderful faith community."

We couldn't agree more, Dana — we are so glad you're here!

From a College Assignment to a Published Book

Everyone knows Lori Thelen, who works in the parish office. What many may not know is that Lori and her family run a large dairy farm north of Portland, where her three children grew up surrounded by cows.

While Lori was in college, an English class assignment challenged her to write and illustrate a children's book. Drawing on her life on the farm, Lori created a story about a young boy named Matt who raises a calf for the county fair. Through the challenges of caring for and working with his calf, Matt learns lessons about patience, kindness and perseverance—and discovers an unexpected friendship.



For the original class project, Lori used photographs as illustrations. Years later, when she decided to bring the story to life as a professionally published book, she worked with illustrators from Fulton Publishing to create artwork that matched the story. That process took about a year from the initial decision to publish until she held the finished book in her hands.

Lori's husband knew about the project, but she managed to keep it a secret from their three grown children. Last Christmas, she surprised each of them with a copy of *Matt's Misty*. Her son Matt, now 31, was especially surprised to discover that the story was about him—and that it took place when he was just seven years old!

Matt's Misty is available through Amazon, Walmart and Apple Books.

#shamrockpride



St. Patrick Parish

Continuing Restoration

Contributions by Ken Schneider

At the beginning of Father Weber's assignment to St. Patrick Parish, the Building and Grounds Committee was reinstated to evaluate current and future maintenance and improvement needs and help ensure that our facilities continue to serve the parish well for years to come.

Working with the Finance Council, Father Weber and the committee are developing a long-term plan to fund the upkeep and future needs of our church, school, and other parish buildings. At the same time, necessary repairs and improvements continue to move forward.

Work Around the Parish

Several important projects were completed or advanced over the summer. Bob Lenneman of Portland Poured Walls replaced the badly deteriorated steps leading to the east entrance of the church.

At the school, Tom Dailey of Purus Masonry Restoration completed year four of a five-year plan to repair damaged brick walls. He also restored masonry in the church turret leading to the balcony, repairing long-term damage caused by water infiltration.

Dailey conducted a drone inspection of the church exterior to evaluate the condition of its exterior surfaces. The preliminary assessment found that most of the church masonry remains sound, with the chimney being a notable exception. The inspection also revealed that the Dryvit, or synthetic stucco, between the upper stained-glass windows and the gables above the chapel and confessional will need repair or replacement.

A crane was brought in for a closer evaluation of the chimney and the

original stucco on the steeple. Both areas will require more extensive repairs. Building and Grounds Committee members are evaluating repair options, and updates will be shared in future issues of The Shamrock.

Looking Ahead to Church Restoration

A subcommittee of the Building and Grounds Committee has also been formed to focus specifically on the restoration of the church. The group will develop preliminary plans to address several needs, including increased seating capacity, parish office space, and improved accessibility to the sanctuary and confessional.

The first priority, however, is the exterior. Necessary repairs must be completed so that the church is once again solid and watertight before significant work begins inside.

Once those repairs are completed, attention can turn to the church interior. Any major renovation will require prior approval from the Diocese.

The parish had hoped to begin renovation of the sanctuary before the 100th anniversary of St. Patrick Church in June 2027. Unfortunately, it now appears that timeline will not be possible. While long-term restoration plans are being developed, needed repairs and maintenance will continue. As funds become available, plans include addressing the church floors, refinishing the pews, and improving both interior and exterior lighting.

The committee is also developing a written preventive maintenance schedule for parish facilities. Regularly scheduled maintenance will help equipment and building systems perform as designed throughout their expected life cycles and, ultimately, help reduce repair and replacement costs.

Caring for buildings that have served generations of St. Patrick parishioners is an ongoing responsibility. Thank you for your continued support as we work to maintain them today and plan carefully for their future.

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee

Father Logan Weber
Deacon Randy Hodge

Pat Heckman
Ken Schneider

Mike Bozung
Brian Brown

Tom Dailey
Mary Herblet

Mike Kissane
Brian Lenneman

Luke Schrauben
Mike Theis

Sue Vanlente, Recording Secretary



The photo above shows the deterioration of the church chimney that has occurred over the years. It is important to repair the masonry soon, to maintain the integrity of the structure.

A Journey of Miracles

Sometimes a miracle isn't just one extraordinary event, but a series of moments that seem to fall into place at exactly the right time. For Gerri Ryan, that journey began with a sudden, life-threatening brain bleed in 2008. What followed included a three-month coma, a massive stroke, the unwavering love of her family, and an experience she believes gave her a glimpse of heaven. Ultimately, those miracles brought Gerri and her family home to Michigan—and back to St. Patrick's.

A Sudden Crisis

On February 15, 2008, Gerri and her family were living near Dallas, Texas. It was almost time to pick up her 15-year-old son, Devin, from school when she suddenly developed the worst headache she had ever experienced. Remembering that a sudden, severe headache could be a sign of an aneurysm or stroke, she immediately called 911. The last thing she remembers is unlocking the door so the paramedics could get inside.

The paramedics found Gerri on the floor and rushed her to the hospital. On the way, she flat lined. "I always tell people that an ambulance is a very good place to die," she says. "All the equipment is there, and the personnel are ready to revive you."



She was revived and taken to Baylor Hospital in downtown Dallas, where doctors performed brain surgery to remove blood that was building up next to her brain. She had suffered a massive brain bleed. Gerri would remain in a coma for three months.

During that time, her mother and five sisters took turns traveling from Michigan to Texas, two at a time, spending several days with her. They sat beside her and talked to her, hoping she would wake up.

Eventually, she did. Gerri doesn't remember waking up, but she remembers feeling terrible and knowing something major had happened. Her sister Darlene explained what had occurred. Gerri had to learn to walk and eat again, and then learned that she had suffered a massive stroke while in the coma.

Her sisters had used their vacation time coming to Texas, so once Gerri was awake, they had to return home. "I was bummed that they were gone," she recalls.

A Remarkable Recovery

A year later, Gerri asked her husband, Jim, if he liked living in Texas. "Not really," he answered. Devin felt the same way. They decided to move back to Michigan.

Before leaving Texas, Gerri wanted to thank the paramedics who had saved her life. When she and Jim visited Lonnie and Sam at the firehouse, the paramedics told them they were surprised she had survived. Then came an unexpected revelation.

"You know that you died, don't you?"

"No," Gerri replied. "I mean, how can you die and they don't tell you about it? Seems kind of important!"

Afterward, Gerri began thinking about what she remembered from the time she was dead. She recalls standing at what she calls "God's front porch," in front of a wooden door with a rounded top. When she looked to her left, she saw her father and her brother Todd, who had died at age 16. The three of them talked, although she doesn't remember what they discussed.

Because of her stroke, Gerri has short-term memory loss and has lost years of memories from her life. "It's a miracle that I remember this event," she says, "and it's a miracle that I saw Dad and Todd."

The Miracles Along the Way

There were other miracles along the way. Because of the brain bleed, doctors initially didn't want Gerri to restart her blood thinner, even though she had a mitral valve replacement and needed the medication to prevent a potentially fatal blood clot. Her sisters repeatedly urged the doctors to reconsider.

One doctor told them they needed to think about her brain, not her heart, and that Gerri probably wouldn't survive anyway. Her sister Brenda wasn't having it.

"Do you want to be in a medical journal?" Brenda asked. "Because she is going to survive. She's been through worse things than this."

And she did.

A Journey Home

After time in rehabilitation, Gerri finally returned home. She was home for her birthday on May 13. As the family prepared to move back to Michigan, they knew they needed the support of family and friends.

Gerri remembered St. Patrick's High School in Portland. She called principal Randy Hodge, who welcomed Devin for his sophomore year. When she asked about a first-floor apartment, Randy told her that his father, Gary Hodge, had a vacancy. The family rented it sight unseen.

"Everything fell into place," Gerri says.

Devin went on to attend Aquinas College, where he met his wife, Monika, in a theology class. They have been married for seven years and have three sons—Torin Jude, 4; Felix, 2; and Caspar Theodore, 4 months. They live in Middletown, Michigan, and attend Holy Family Parish in Caledonia.

Looking back, Gerri sees a remarkable series of miracles: surviving the brain bleed and stroke, the devotion of her family, the memory of her father and brother, and the many people who helped her along the way.

And ultimately, those miracles brought Gerri and her family home to Michigan—and to St. Patrick's.



Carol's Legacy of Love Becomes A Lifetime of Lessons

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

by *Preschool Director Aaron Thelen*

What an incredible career for Mrs. Carol! She has been an integral part of the Shamrock community for as long as many of us can remember. She has been an inspiration to so many, myself included, and I feel incredibly honored to have shared a classroom with her for the better part of a decade.

I came to St. Patrick Preschool as a young man with a lot of experience and a lot of confidence, thinking I knew quite a bit about teaching young children. I couldn't have been more wrong—and I am so thankful that Carol was there to gently correct, challenge, and guide me along the way.

The amount I have learned from her over the years is immeasurable. She taught me far more than how to teach preschoolers; she taught me the importance of patience, kindness, faith, and putting your whole heart into the work you do. I will forever be grateful that I had the opportunity to work alongside her, learn from her and, most importantly, call her my friend and colleague.

Thank you, Carol, for a lifetime of lessons, laughter, and encouragement, and for pouring your heart into your faith and the Shamrock community. The impact you have had on countless children, families, and fellow teachers will continue long after you leave the classroom.



Carol Kahn and Aaron Thelen with their preschool class in 2024. The theme was Noah's Ark, so everyone—including the teachers—joined in the fun by dressing as Noah and the animals!

2026 SHAMROCK AUCTION AT A GLANCE

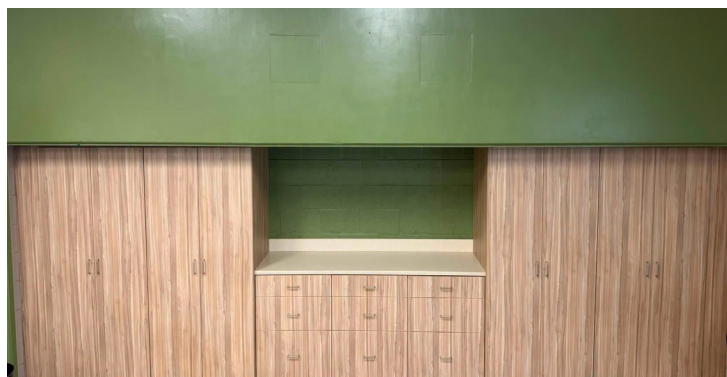
 286 Guests	 88 Teacher Appreciation Tree Purchases
50 Sponsors  Including 5 Platinum Sponsors	\$130,451  Raised for Classroom Cabinet Renovations
 351 Students Supported	Net Auction Profit  \$279,729 
\$149,278  Raised to support academic and athletic programs	

Congratulations to everyone who worked on, attended, or donated to the 2026 Shamrock Auction! As you can see from the information above, it was another great success!

One of the most inspiring moments of the Shamrock Auction comes midway through the evening, when paddles are raised to **Fund the Excellence**. A specific need at the school is identified, and guests are invited to give what they can to help make that project a reality. Over the years, **Fund the Excellence** has helped provide new school bathrooms, new gym bleachers and flooring, and other important improvements.

Funds raised through this year's **Fund the Excellence** were used to remove the old coat closets in the classrooms and replace them with built-in cabinets. The difference is remarkable! The new cabinetry provides much-needed storage while giving the classrooms a clean, modern, and uncluttered look.

A special thank-you to Klein Cabinets and Interiors for their beautiful craftsmanship. The new cabinets look amazing — and thanks to the generosity of our Shamrock Auction supporters, they are another wonderful improvement to our school!



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

alumni news

Reunion Reports



The *Class of 1966* met for a luncheon reunion at the Wagon Wheel on Thursday, August 20. Eighteen class members attended.



The *Class of 1981* met at Confluxcity on Saturday, September 12, 2026 to celebrate their 45-year class reunion.



Attention Class of 1977

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 11, 2027.



St. Pats *Class of 2006* celebrated their 20-year class reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2026. The class celebrated Mass together, then went to Confluxcity for dinner and drinks. We had three special guest teachers. Pictured with the class are Mrs. Sue Little (1st grade teacher) and Mrs. Kelly Arens (2nd grade teacher). Not pictured, but present was Mr. Tom Little (high school English). The class had a great evening catching up with classmates who live both near and far. Many classmates were missing from the reunion because of previous engagements.



The *Class of 2011* met at the Wagon Wheel for dinner. Ten of the 20 classmates were in attendance. It was a nice evening of catching up, looking at yearbooks and talking about memories.

Reunion Alerts

Some class reunions were held too late to make it into this edition:

Class of 1986: Saturday, September 12, 2026. Mass at 4:30 followed by dinner at Keith and Shayla Schneider's home.

Class of 2001: Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Portland Country Club.

Classes who graduated in years ending in 2 and 7 should be planning reunions for next year. When you have the details nailed down, send them to shamrockeditors@gmail.com so that they can be printed in the next issue of *The Shamrock*.

Keith Schrauben Inducted Into Hall of Fame



On June 19, 2026, St. Patrick alumni Keith Schrauben (1971) was inducted into the MHSFCA 44th Annual Hall of Fame. Keith coached football at Belding (1973), Lansing Catholic Central (1978-1999), Portland High School (2000-2002 and 2008-2025), and Portland St. Patrick (2003-2007). He is currently in his 50th year of coaching, and continues to serve as the Varsity Assistant Football Coach at Portland High School.



Catholic Education Makes a Difference



CONGRATULATIONS,
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS' CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GRADUATES OF 2026!

99%
Graduation Rate

333
Graduates

306
plan to attend
college

15
joining
the trades

9
entering
the workforce

2
entering
the military

1
discerning
religious life

\$12,528,664
Total College Scholarships
Accepted by Graduates

Catholic education is thriving in the Diocese of Grand Rapids! The Class of 2026 is a wonderful example of what happens when students are given an education rooted in faith, academic excellence and a strong sense of purpose. With a 99% graduation rate, 333 graduates and more than \$12.5 million in college scholarships accepted, these young people are heading into the next chapter prepared to make a difference.

Whether continuing their education, entering the trades, joining the workforce, serving in the military or discerning a religious vocation, they carry with them the foundation they received through Catholic education. Catholic schools are making a difference—and these graduates are proof that the future is bright!

Former Teacher Celebrates Jubilee

Sister Jacquie Wetherholt celebrated her 70-year Jubilee on July 26, 2026.

Sister Jacquie taught at St. Pats three different times: 1961-63 (Junior High), 1969-70 (High School Math and Religion), and returned in 1970 to become the Director of Religious Education.



So Much Good at St. Patrick Parish

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE • TOGETHER

Faith, Friendship, and a Place to Belong

Sometimes the best things happening in a parish aren't the things that draw a crowd or make a big splash. They happen quietly — around a table, over an open Bible, during a holy hour, or in a circle of friends who have learned to pray for and support one another.

Take a closer look at St. Patrick, and you'll find many of these small communities of faith. Some have been meeting for decades, while others are more recent. Some gather around Scripture, some around a shared life experience, and some simply around a desire to grow closer to Christ. What they have in common is something worth celebrating: people making room for one another, sharing their faith, and discovering that none of us has to walk the journey alone.

Woven Women

You Don't Have to Walk This Road Alone

When Carol Kahn lost her husband, Steve, suddenly in 2019, she found herself navigating a grief unlike anything she had known. God placed something on her heart — an idea, a calling — and she brought it to parish representative Carolyn Heckman. Together, they prayed it through, and from that conversation grew one of St. Patrick's most quietly cherished ministries.

The name Woven Women comes from Psalm 139:14-15, reminding us that God wove each of us together in our mother's womb. That image continues in this group — women woven together in widowhood, sharing faith, friendship, and support.

The group was once asked to include widowers, but after prayer and reflection, it remained women only. Men and women often grieve differently, and there is something uniquely healing about women walking this road together.

Between meetings, members stay connected through a text group called Widows Together, where Carol shares prayers and members exchange intentions, songs, photos, and encouragement. There is no pressure or commitment — come when you can, and join the conversation when you're ready. And sometimes, the group simply gathers for lunch, because sisterhood deserves good food, too.

These women are, quite simply, God's gift to one another. They cry together, laugh together, and hold each other up in prayer. Somewhere in that circle, healing happens.

All widows are warmly welcome, no matter where you are in your journey. Woven Women meets every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Carol at 517-331-1276.

Women of the Word (WOW)

Gathering Around the Sunday Readings

For more than 10 years, Women of the Word has provided another place for women of the parish to grow in faith together.

Each gathering begins with a song and prayer before the group turns to the liturgical readings for the coming Sunday. Members read, share, and discuss the Scriptures, bringing their own experiences and perspectives to the Word they will soon hear proclaimed at Mass. They also share blessings and prayer intentions before ending their time together in prayer.

Along with their regular gatherings, members occasionally participate in additional activities for those who wish to join in.

WOW is open to all women, and newcomers are always welcome. The group meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the school. For more information, call the Parish Office at 517-647-6505.

Ladies in Truth (LIT)

Different Ages, Different Perspectives, One Faith

On Saturday mornings, another group of St. Patrick women gathers to look ahead to Sunday — and to learn from one another along the way.

Ladies in Truth was formed about eight years ago and includes women from a wide range of ages, from high school students to women in their seventies. That range of ages and life experiences is part of what makes the group special.

Although LIT has evolved through the years, its current



format centers on the readings for the following day's Mass. The women read the Scriptures together and use them as the basis for discussion. It can be eye-opening to hear how the same passage speaks differently to someone who is 17, 40, or 70 — and how each perspective can help someone else see the Word in a new way.

The group ends with a somewhat unusual prayer practice. Women can be very good at praying for everyone else while forgetting to pray for themselves, so at the end of each meeting, members are asked to name something they need prayers for personally.

Ladies in Truth meets Saturdays from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. There is no invitation required and no need to wonder whether you'll fit in. Stop by any Saturday morning, and you'll find a group of women ready to welcome you with open arms.

St. Patrick Men's Group

Support, Study, and Live the Faith

Twenty years ago, a group of St. Patrick men began meeting with a straightforward goal: to help one another live the Catholic faith in a world that doesn't always make that easy.

The group was founded on three pillars — support, service, and study. Over time, its focus has shifted primarily to study and support, recognizing that most men already have plenty of demands on their time and don't necessarily need another activity on their calendars.



What they do need, however, is a place to talk about faith and life.

The Men's Group meets every Saturday morning from 6:30 to 8:00 in the Parish Hall. Each meeting begins with prayer and the readings for Sunday Mass, followed by a short audio reflection. From there, the meeting becomes an open discussion about the readings and how Catholic men are called to respond to them in everyday life.

Sometimes that discussion takes a different turn. A man may be dealing with something difficult and need to talk. When that happens, the agenda can wait. The group makes room for the conversation and offers the support he needs.

Attendance has ebbed and flowed through the years, but during the past several months, approximately 20 to 25 men have been gathering each week. They range in age from 15 to men in their seventies — another reminder that faith has

something to teach us at every stage of life.

Every few months, the group also holds a men's breakfast, when one of the members shares his faith journey. The group has offered short catechetical presentations on Church topics in the past and, with attendance growing, hopes to begin doing so again.

Whether you are 15 or 75, there is a chair at the table.

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Praying for Father Weber, One Day at a Time

Every day of the week, someone from St. Patrick Parish is praying specifically for Father Weber — and someone has been quietly doing so since 2019.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate began in Minnesota in 2011 and has since spread to parishes across the country and around the world. The concept is simple: seven women each commit to one day of the week and offer a holy hour of prayer for their parish priest. When possible, that hour is prayed before the Blessed Sacrament — in an adoration chapel or in the presence of the tabernacle.

The result is a continuous rhythm of prayer. Every day, one woman is specifically interceding for the parish priest.

It is a quiet ministry, mostly invisible to the rest of the parish. Priests carry many spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, and the women of the Seven Sisters Apostolate support their priest with one of the most meaningful gifts they can offer: devoted, faithful, and consistent prayer.

St. Patrick's chapter was founded in 2019 by parishioner Donna Sines, who learned about the apostolate from her cousin in Pewamo. Her vision and dedication have helped the ministry continue at St. Patrick.

The Seven Sisters currently praying for Father Weber are Donna Sines, Anne Russman, Gloria Gunderman, Judy Clark, Nancy Nyenhuis, Noel Bennett, and Betsy Rogers.

And seven doesn't have to be the limit. Donna notes that a parish can have more than one group of Seven Sisters. An additional group might pray for another priest, the bishop, or the pope.

If you feel called to learn more or become involved, contact Donna at 517-526-2320.

Maybe It's Your Turn

Five groups. Five different ways of gathering, praying, learning, and supporting one another. And all of them are happening right here at St. Patrick.

It can be easy to come to Mass each week without realizing how much is happening beyond Sunday morning. But look a little closer, and you'll find people opening Scripture together, women helping one another through grief, men talking honestly about faith and life, generations learning from one another, and parishioners quietly praying for their priest.

Perhaps the best part is that none of these groups exists only for the people who are already there.

There just might be a place for you, too.

St. Patrick Trap Team Wins Fifth Conference Championship

The St. Patrick Trap Team has done it again. The Shamrocks claimed first place in the Spring Trap 1A-Conference 9 — their fifth conference championship overall and another impressive chapter in what is becoming a dynasty.

Individual Standouts

Darren Hengesbach earned top male shooter honors in the conference with a 23.2 season average — remarkable in a field of 150 conference shooters — and finished 59th in the state out of 2,168 competitors.

Kiley Hengesbach claimed top female shooter in the conference with a 19.6 season average.

Additional top finishers included Gavin Darling and Will Hengesbach, who tied for 4th in the conference; Logan Howe, 7th; and Ben Smith, 10th. Among the women, Hallie Davis finished 9th and Maizie Pelc 10th.

Perfect Scores

Three shooters, Ben Smith, Peyton Schafer, and Gavin Darling, achieved the ultimate mark — a perfect 25 straight — during the season.

A Team Effort

These individual achievements are a testament to the dedication of the entire team. Every shooter contributed scores that moved the needle toward this championship. Congratulations to all — coaches, shooters, and families alike!



NEW STAFF (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Before joining St. Patrick, Stephanie worked as a literacy specialist, helping students strengthen their reading skills while building confidence. That experience fostered a passion for literacy and helping children discover their strengths and become lifelong readers and learners.

Stephanie enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, reading, puzzles, family games, and planning their next adventure.

She feels blessed to teach at St. Patrick and hopes to create a classroom where students feel known, valued, and encouraged to challenge themselves. She looks forward to helping her students grow academically, socially, and spiritually while reaching their God-given potential.

Ms. Cali Tighe — DK-12 Art

Cali Tighe is a recent graduate of Northern Michigan University's Art Education program and is excited to join St. Patrick as our DK-12 visual arts teacher. Originally from Fresno, California, Cali completed her teaching internship at a high school in Holland, Michigan. Some of her most formative years were spent among the redwoods around Yosemite Valley, where she developed a love for the majesty of God's creation.

Cali earned her Eagle Scout award as the second female in Michigan to receive the honor and continues to volunteer with local scouting programs. She especially enjoys teaching Cub Scouts to rappel and watching them realize they can succeed even when something is scary or difficult.

She hopes to bring that same philosophy into her art classroom, encouraging students to take risks, push boundaries, and expand their abilities. "It is only when we stop trying hard things that we stop growing."



WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Frederick and Theodora (Klein) Trierweiler; his sister, Judy Sorenson; and his brother-in-law, Bill Sines. He will be lovingly remembered by his children, Licia Miller, Eric (Becky) Trierweiler, Tonya Trierweiler, Brock (Rebecca) Trierweiler, and Zane Trierweiler; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his special grandchildren-in-law. Dan is also survived by his first wife and mother of his first four children, Julia Lucia; sisters, Bonnie (Rich) Schmitt, Carolyn (Bill) Bengel, Barbara Sines, Marlene Green, and Janice (Daniel) Beech; his brother-in-law, Don Sorenson; and many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his memory may be made to Mel Trotter Ministries, 225 Commerce Ave. SW., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or online www.meltrotter.org.

Patrick David Goodman, of Portland, passed away on August 27, 2026, at the age of 73. Pat was born in Portland on September 16, 1952, the son of Alfred and Lucille (Miller) Goodman, Sr. He retired from TRW after many years of service. Pat is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Luane (Holly) Goodman; son, Rhet (Jenny) Goodman; one grandson; siblings, Louise (James) Gensterblum, Peter (Ruth) Goodman, Alice Bills, Nancy Yeager, Neil (Keri) Goodman; and Denny Goodman; sisters-in-law, Carol Goodman, and MaryAnn Goodman. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alfred Sr. and Lucille Goodman; siblings, Michael Goodman, Alfred Goodman, Jr., Liz Seal, James Goodman, and Denise Goodman; in-laws, Gordon Seal, David Bills, and Theresa Goodman.

Laurita Marie (Snitgen) Showerman went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 31, 2026 at the age of 74. Born in Lansing on September 8, 1951, to Anthony and Catherine (Freund) Snitgen. Laurita grew up in Portland, Michigan, and was affectionately known as "Reetsie" by her family and friends. She married the love of her life, Robert Showerman in 1970, and they lived in many places throughout Michigan, eventually settling back in Portland in 1981. She leaves behind her son Jonathan (Denise); three grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings, Steve (Rita) Snitgen, Donna

Sines, Julie (Denny) Pung, Tom (Rose) Snitgen; brothers-in-law Ralph (Kathie) Showerman, Paul (Patty) Cline, and countless cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anthony and Catherine Snitgen, her loving husband, Robert, and her brother-in-law, Dick Sines; and sisters-in-law Louise (Bill Hill) and Joyce Showerman. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Portland Civic Players and the American Battlefield Trust in memory of Laurita.

Joseph Leon Pohl passed away peacefully on Monday, September 14, 2026, following a very brief illness. Joe is survived by his three daughters, Angela (Chad) Potts, Heather Leonard, and Katy Swift; his stepdaughter, Marki Keusch; his three grandsons, Ethan Potts, Tristan Potts, and Nicholas Leonard. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Hunter Leonard. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Betty and Harry Pohl; five siblings, Richard (Dee) Pohl, Kathy (Bob) Hann, Pat (Don) Stump, Gary (Jan) Pohl, and Colleen Pohl. He was an uncle to many nieces and nephews. Joe was a dairy farmer for much of his adult life and a lifelong resident of Portland. For the last several years, he enjoyed being a groundskeeper at Danby Cemetery where he continued his love of "driving tractor." If you feel called to make a donation, please direct it to Chosen Vision Inc. who operates adult group homes in mid-Michigan.

George John Lehman, of Bath, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on September 12, 2026, at the age of 88. He was born in Portland, Michigan, on February 4, 1938, the son of George and Lola Lehman. George attended St. Patrick High School and joined the U.S. Navy on November 30, 1955. He proudly served his country and returned home with many stories from his time in Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Vietnam. He was honorably discharged on June 16, 1957. George is preceded in death by his parents, George and Lola Lehman; sisters, Beverly Mellstead and Mary Ellen (Vern) Schrauben; father-in-law, Vernon Whitacre; mother-in-law, Alvina (Carl) Cole; sister-in-law, Ruby Davids; and brother-in-law, Donald Whitacre. Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of almost 66 years, Georgia Lehman; sons, Jeffrey S. (Dawn) Lehman and George V. (Kim) Lehman; five grandchildren; siblings, Thomas (Linda) Lehman, Barbara (Ron) Foote, and Larry (Noura) Lehman; brother-in-law, Bob (Arbutus) Whitacre; and sister-in-law, Joan (Wayne) Foote.

A Gift for Generations

When you include St. Patrick Catholic School in your estate plan, you become part of something that outlasts any single school year — a tradition of forming minds, bodies, and spirits in the Catholic faith, right here in Portland. Your gift helps ensure that families in our community continue to have access to the quality education St. Patrick has always offered.

Planning a gift is often simpler than you might expect. Our team is available to guide you every step of the way — answering your questions, sharing resources, and helping you find an option that fits your life and your wishes.

Thank you for investing in the future of St. Patrick School and the students who will benefit for generations to come.

Simple steps to help you determine how to plan your gift are available on the school website: <https://portlandstpats.com/school/your-gift-matters/>



Answer to Shamrock Trivia

This art project that was shown in the last issue was done by the students of Sr. Mary Swartz (Cecelia) during the 1965-66 school year. They are members of the Class of 1973. It currently hangs in Deacon Randy Hodge's office.



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

Upcoming EVENTS

First Mega Rock DrawingOctober 16, 2026
Shamrock Legacy Winter Issue.....End of November, 2026
 Christmas Break..... December 19, 2026-January 4, 2027
 Catholic Schools WeekJanuary 31-February 6, 2027
 Marriage Gala February 20, 2027
Shamrock Legacy Spring Issue..... End of March, 2027
 Spring Break April 3-April 12, 2027
 Graduation May 23, 2027
 Summer Fest.....June 25-26, 2027
 Class of 1976 50-Year ReunionSeptember 11, 2027
Shamrock Legacy Fall IssueEnd of September, 2027

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
 Parish website: 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
 Alumni site: 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 need your help! Please take a look at the list below, to see if you recognize any of the names. If you know where any of these people are, please call Dana at the Parish Office, 517-647-6505, ext. 410. Thank you!

1953 Roy Bauer	1983 Steve Lehnert
1956 Rita (Bauer) Cummings	1983 Rich Strang
1961 John D Pung	1983 Kirk Noren
1961 Donald Mleko	1983 Marilyn Tallmadge
1965 Steve O'Leary	1983 Dale Fedewa
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	2000 Jeffrey Pung
1976 Cathy Cook	2002 John Carter
1977 Fredrick Talladge	2004 Donald Vollman
1977 Richard (Rick) Bailey	2004 Cara Monks
1980 Angie Young	2005 Anthony A. Fedewa
1982 Jeff Strang	2013 Dakota Bonter



The Word Search Puzzle below contains 29 words that came from the articles in this issue of The Shamrock. Find all of those words, and the letters that are left over will spell out a phrase. Though school had been in session for several weeks, the words in this hidden message are still important to remember, every day of the year!

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 NOVEMBER 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: _____

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

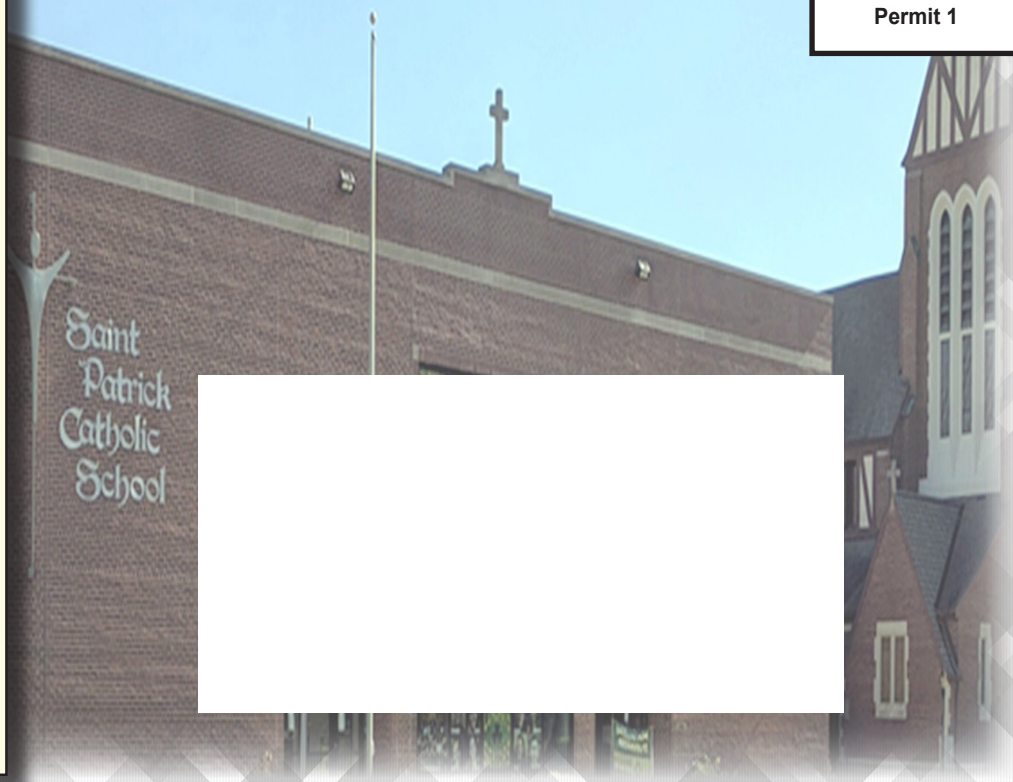
AARON	CONFLUXCITY	JOURNEY	MISTY	STUCCO
ALUMNI	CONVERSION	JUBILEE	MRS CAROL	TEAMS
AUCTION	EVENTS	KEITH	OCIA	TRACK
BAPTISMS	FACEBOOK	LESSONS	QR CODE	TRAP
BRICKS	GIVING	MASS	REUNIONS	TRIVIA
CHAMPS	JOHNSON	MIRACLES	STAFF	

The hidden phrase in the last issue was *LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE*. Linda Huhn was the lucky winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries. She received \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Linda.

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- Preschool through 12th grade on one campus
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- Leading standardized test scores
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- Low staff turnover
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- 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!