

St. Patrick School Alumni Newsletter



Faith...Family...Tradition

Alumni are a part of our tradition and our legacy as a Catholic school. The purpose of this newsletter is to reconnect the alumni with the happenings of our parish school, past and present. Our goal is that when our graduates become our alumni, they, too, will become a part of the rich history of St. Patrick School. A history that stands on the foundation formed under the tutelage of Sr. Mary Ann Schmitz, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, the parish priests, principals, teachers and staff members who have faithfully served and continue to serve at St. Patrick School. We need our alumni to be engaged and help our students and families to remember the past; to continue the traditions; and to pray for and support the **mission** of St. Patrick School.

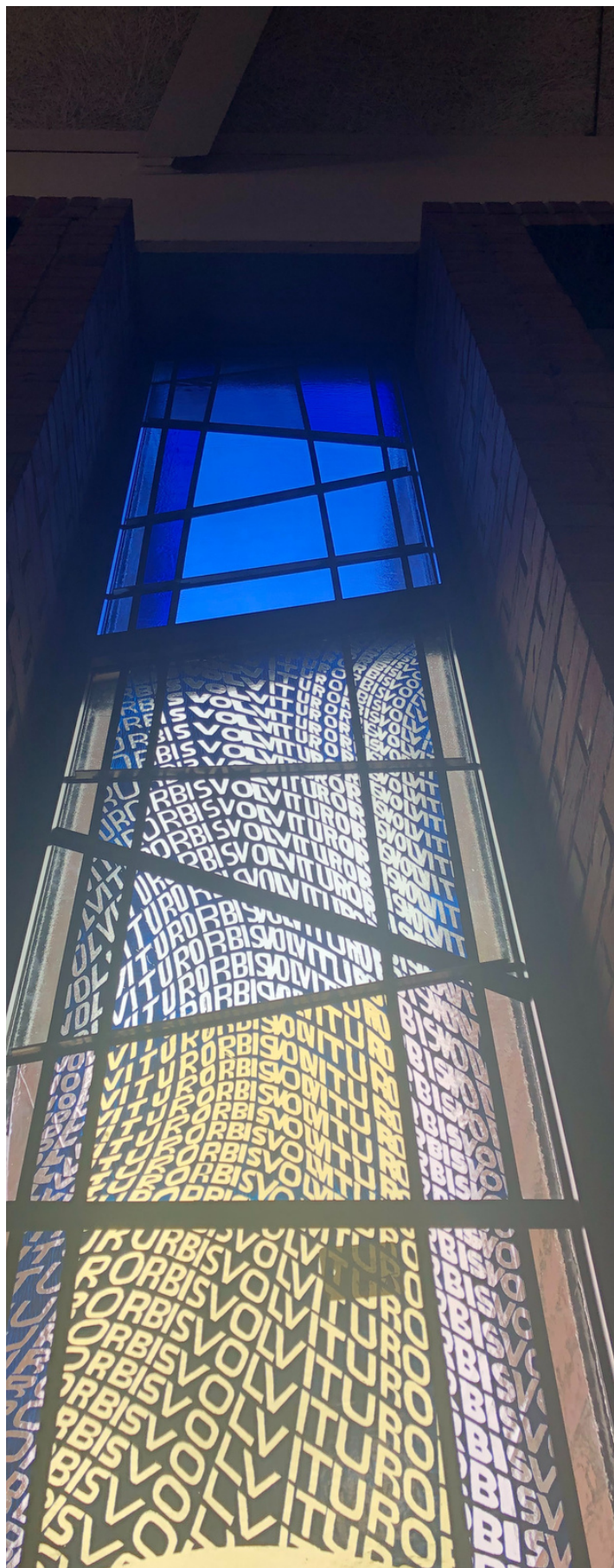
To assist with this worthy goal, an Alumni Office has been established in the school, and an alumni strategic plan has been written with goals and objectives for the next three years. You will find this plan on the 'Alumni' tab on the school's website.

It is important that we have your current contact information: name (*and maiden name, if applicable*), address, phone number, email, and year of graduation from St. Patrick School. Please contact the Alumni Office at **alumni@stpatswashington.org** or via the school's mailing address with any updates in order for newsletters, events, and other information to reach you. Thank you.

Notes from the Pastor...Fr. Johnathan Steffen

This past July, we began some renovation work on the church interior, and it is almost complete. Our initial plan was to begin replacing the stained-glass windows throughout the church. Many panes of the original glass had broken or cracked throughout the years, and the outside protective panels were starting to fall out of the channels. The family of Marty and Rosemary Kloet, long-time parishioners and supporters of our Parish and School, offered to match donations made for our church renovations, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Not only did we raise enough money to replace stained-glass windows throughout the church, but we were also able to begin work on other interior projects, such as flooring. We hope the entire church project will be complete by Thanksgiving! Please come visit us if you have not yet seen the changes. We plan on inviting the Bishop, donors, and laborers to come for a special mass and celebration in the near future, so please stay tuned for more information.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Fr. Johnathan Steffen



Notes from the Principal Mrs. Cassi Smith

Dear St. Patrick School Alumni

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new principal of St. Patrick School. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of so many inspirational leaders: Sr. Mary Ann, Dr. Weiss, Mrs. Shipman. My commitment to St. Pat's started twelve years ago when I was hired as a fifth grade teacher and from there my love for the school blossomed. In addition to having taught at St. Pat's, I have also been a parish member along with my husband, Mike, and our son, Caden, who graduated from St. Pat's last school year.

It is my hope that the relationships I have built with the parishioners, families, and community members, along with our exceptional faculty and staff, will allow me to lead our school with faith, joy, and love. Our school year has already been full of blessings. I hope to continue the many traditions we have come to adore and to create new ones that will build memories that last a lifetime. I look forward to continuing to build our students' faith and knowledge with you, our alumni.

You are living examples of our Catholic school product. I'd love to believe that a large part of your formation and readiness was established at St. Patrick School. I'd like to invite you to join in celebrating and discovering, once again, St. Patrick School.

Thank you and God Bless,
Mrs. Cassi Smith
Principal



Notes from the Alumni Office...Dr. Sharon Weiss

Dear Alumni,

The good work of Mrs. Sue LaHood should be recognized and applauded for keeping the Alumni of St. Patrick School well informed across the years. When Mrs. LaHood decided to “pass on the torch,” there was a huge gap that remained. With my retirement from the Diocese of Peoria in January 2023, I offered to assist in this worthy effort. I have a deep love for the school having served as Principal from 2003-2013. After I left St. Pat's to become the diocesan Superintendent of Schools, I experienced firsthand the many challenges that face our Catholic schools, specifically, enrollment and financial issues. I often spoke to our diocesan principals about the importance of connecting with their alumni in order to seek support for their Catholic school. When Fr. Steffen asked if I would be interested in continuing the *Alumni Newsletter*, I readily accepted.

In preparation for this new role, I submitted a 3-year strategic plan as a guideline for what could be achieved by sharing our most proud accomplishment in Catholic education: our students. We have the privilege of watching them grow “in age, wisdom, and grace.” What a tremendous testament to the good work of the pastors who have ministered at St. Patrick Parish; the long-time and faith-filled service of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation; and the dedication of the teachers and staff who have kept and continue to keep the hope of Jesus Christ alive in the hearts and minds of our children. Please join us in praying for our parish, our school, and our mission “...to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff; and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.”

The Alumni tab on the school website (www.stpatswashington.com) is *in progress* and will be the location for alumni news, prayer intentions, newsletters, and any other news in order for our graduates to stay connected with St. Patrick School.

Many blessings to you and your families.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sharon Weiss
Alumni Office
St. Patrick School



Thank You!



Mrs. Doreen Shipman retired as Principal at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. She served as a teacher, assistant principal, and as principal of St. Patrick School from 2013-2023. This summer, Doreen moved to Geneva, IL to be near her four daughters- all St. Patrick School graduates - and their families. *Thank you, Mrs. Shipman, for your commitment and dedication to St. Patrick Parish and School.*

Mrs. Shipman is pictured here with Bishop Louis Tylka when he visited the school last spring.

Sr. Mary Ann Schmtz, SMP, passed into eternal glory on November 8, 2021 in Fargo, ND. In the Diocese of Peoria, Sister Mary Ann served as a teacher and principal at St. Patrick School from 1963 to 2003. In 2011, Msgr. John Prendergast, pastor, recognized her 40+ years of faithful service to the school and honored her by naming the school gym the Sister Mary Ann Schmitz Gymnasium. *Thank you, Sr. Mary Ann and the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, for your love and dedication to St. Patrick School.*





Please send any contact information updates to:

Dr. Sharon Weiss

Alumni Office

St. Patrick School

100 Harvey Street

Washington, IL 61571

alumni@stpatswashington.org



**St. Patrick School Alumni Program
Strategic Plan
2023-2026**

I. YEAR ONE: 2023-2024

1. Create alumni office in school.
2. Review current alumni database.
3. Establish local alumni advisory team.
4. Focus: communication and connection with school.
 - a. Alumni newsletter: Fall, CSW, Spring.
 - b. Quarterly alumni office reports for pastor and principal.
5. Create alumni survey regarding an alumni organizational committee, alumni fund appeal, adopt-a-student, planned giving, etc.
6. Plan alumni event for spring or summer 2024.
 - a. Welcome alumni back to their grade school with tours & food.
 - b. Initiate “soft” annual alumni appeal/adopt-a-student.

II. YEAR TWO: 2024-2025

1. Continue communication outreach from Year One.
2. Create alumni organization committee and review surveys.
3. Establish annual alumni appeal, adopt-a-student.
4. Host an all-alumni event, date TBA.
5. Planned giving focus: via mailings and/or on site.

III. YEAR THREE: 2025-2026

1. Continue communication outreach from Year One and Year Two.
2. Continue alumni organization committee meetings.
3. Continue annual alumni appeal/adopt-a-student.
4. Host an all-school alumni reunion or class reunions based upon Year One survey and ongoing feedback from alumni organizational committee.

**St. Patrick School
Alumni Contact Information
Update Form**

Name:

(Please include maiden name, if applicable).

Address:

(Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Year of Graduation from St. Patrick School:

Telephone Number:

(Home & Mobile)

Email Address:

*Please complete this form and email the updates to:

alumni@stpatswashington.org

*or via U.S. mail at:

Dr. Sharon Weiss
St. Patrick School
Alumni Office
100 Harvey Street
Washington, IL 61571

Thank you!