



Alumni Newsletter

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SAINT PATRICK'S ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUG/SEPT 2017

Dear Alumni,

With the 2016-17 School Year complete at St. Patrick, I am amazed how quickly the year went by. I celebrated my fourth anniversary as pastor of St. Patrick Parish on July 1st. It has truly been a blessing to be here and the Bishop is keeping me here another year! Yea!

I would like to share a couple of stories from the past school year. The first is of a spiritual nature. Some of our coaches have added faith-oriented aspects to their practices and games. The girls' basketball team spent a full day in prayer and service to others and received an indulgence for the Year of Mercy. In November, Fr. Julius spoke to the team at church about the Holy Doors and the Year of Mercy. Fr. Julius heard the confessions of the team before they proceeded to the Cathedral to walk through the Holy Doors and attend Mass. After Mass, the team returned to St. Patrick to offer their services by babysitting children whose parents were attending the Cash Bash for Fr. Julius' Mission. In addition, our boys 5th and 6th grade basketball teams made it their routine to come to Saturday morning Mass after their practice.

These are wonderful examples of witnessing the faith and emphasizing that God always comes first. Another heartwarming story is regarding one of our third graders who had heart surgery this past spring. We held Eucharistic Adoration all day for Lydia especially during the time of her surgery. Each class spent time praying for her. Lydia's surgery was a success and she is doing well now.

This year, our 8th grade gave a class gift to the parish....a new wooden swing to place behind the Rectory! There is a funny story behind this gift. A couple of years ago, I was in the Rectory (probably taking an afternoon nap) when the doorbell rang. I was heading to the door and I heard many children. When I opened the door, I found an entire class of 6th graders. They said, "Sorry, Father, but we broke your swing!" We had an old wooden swing hanging from the tree by chains. I told them not to worry as it was old. Upon graduating, the class remembered this and decided to buy a new swing to replace the broken one. What a thoughtful class.

I am excited for the new school year to begin as we are adding a new Sports Ministry Program to our athletics. The program will help athletes, coaches and parents by putting into action true virtue and faith in their respective sports. Please pray for the success of this program.

Know that you are in my prayers. As always, if you live away from Washington, please feel free to stop by the parish or school anytime you are in town. I hope you enjoyed your summer! May God Bless each day in your future!

In Christ,
Fr. Steve

Hello Everyone!

St. Patrick School completed another successful school year! Twenty-five students graduated May 19th and are excited for their next chapter of life in high school and yet will miss the family-like closeness of St. Patrick School.

Our school is looking forward to a new year when students will be coming back on August 16th. At the time of this writing, St. Pat's is in the midst of the summer annual cleaning and preparations for the next school year. The gym floor gleams and is ready for another season of athletics and events. Classrooms have been cleaned, and several of the teachers have already been in to set up their rooms for the new school year.

The Social Room (aka basement) is undergoing a makeover to be a more pleasant and inviting room for concessions, meetings and special events. The folding door and a wall have been removed to give a more open look. New paint and a rearrangement of the trophy cases will complete the renovation. Additionally the Computer Lab has undergone a major revision with new paint, heavy-duty tables replacing the former set-up and Chromeboxes for the students to use instead of XP workstations. With tablets available to the primary grades and ChromeBooks available to each student in grades 3-8, St. Pat's is now 1:1 technology for each student grades K-8. How exciting this is for the new ways available for student learning in the 21st century!

Our Jr. High Choir continues to develop and provide beautiful music and song at the All School Masses. We will miss Mrs. Clare Tschirn as the director of this choir as she moves on to other commitments. She has done so many wonderful things starting and growing this program, working with the junior high students, and teaching them to sing so beautifully at Mass. We look forward to the continuance of the program as Mrs. Kari Kaps will take her place and keep this beautiful group developing and moving forward.

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WHO'S WHERE, DOING WHAT NOW?

Paul Holthe, 1981

I have fond memories of being a member of Miss Ricca's 3rd grade "law enforcement squad" with Mike Torry, Knute Landry, Daren Epley and others (she must have ended up regretting that decision), and of welcoming Jeff Grawe to our class in 4th grade and Tim Mickna in 5th grade. And I'll never forget the questions Tim Welch asked Mr. Martin in 6th grade Sex Ed class. I also fondly remember going to State as part of the 7th grade basketball team, Paul Adams drawing a mustache on his own face with permanent marker in 8th grade, and Mrs. Mall's square dancing classes where the boys outnumbered the girls 2 to 1 (thankfully Jodi Bearce was my regular dance partner).

Currently, I'm enjoying my rural life with my wife Michelle. We live in the country between Washington and Eureka and we've been there since 2005. I'm a Licensed Architect working for State Farm in the Facilities Management division, and I've been with the company for over 24 years. Also, one of my grade school classmates is now my sister-in-law. Anita Asher is married to my brother Jim. My most enjoyable vacations have been 2 trips to Ireland, which is an absolutely beautiful country with wonderful people. Maybe my fondness for Ireland comes from my 8 grade school years at St. Pat's – Home of the Irish!

My parents (Ray and Donna – both now deceased) had been members of St. Pat's Parish since the early 1950s. I have 2 sisters and 4 brothers, and all of us are St. Pat's alumni. My sister Mary lives in Indiana, Karen lives in Wisconsin, Tom lives in Texas, Steve lives in Missouri, and Jim and Matt are both living in Illinois. Of all seven siblings, I'm the only one to never live outside of Illinois – which is kind of sad now that I think about it. Maybe I'll retire to a new state (or even Ireland). ☺

John Scherer, 1970

Fondest Memories: Walking the mile from home to school with my siblings; with 8 of us, there were always several of us at St. Pat's at one time. In 1st grade I got to be an "angel" (I held one end of an altar cloth as the children knelt and received communion) for my sister Elizabeth's 1st communion. In 2nd grade Sr. Georgeanna selected me to pass out unconsecrated hosts so we could all taste them before our 1st communion. After Vatican II it seemed that we just made collages in religion class more than we studied the catechism; but for Confirmation in 8th grade, we returned to a Baltimore-catechism style, memorizing things in case the bishop asked us questions. I was the captain of the safety patrol in 8th grade—I still have my badge!

What are you doing now: I've been a Capuchin Franciscan brother for 36 years. I work in Chicago in our formation house with the post-novitiate brothers. I am blessed to belong to the Capuchin province of Fr. Solanus Casey who will be beatified in November 2017 in Detroit.

Parents/siblings: My parents have died and are buried in Washington, but no one else lives there now. My oldest sister, Mary, and my brother, Bob, have died also. My sisters Anne and Regina live in IL, Elizabeth in NC, and my youngest sister, Rosalee, lives in Panama (the country). My sister, Joyce, didn't attend St. Pat's because she has Down syndrome. She lives in a group home in Iowa and I'm her guardian.

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Patricia (Lee) Addler, 1965

I loved Mrs. Goebel because she recognized that I could not see and I got glasses! I remember taking dance classes in 8th grade so we would know how to dance for our graduation party/dance!

I'm the oldest of 8 in my family; my parents were Ken & Donna Lee. Siblings are Benjie, Dave, Bill, Mark, Lisa, John & Doug. We grew up in Washington. I married Steve Addler in 1972 and we have 4 kids. In 1987, we left Illinois to buy our resort, Cedar Rapids Lodge, in Tenstrike, MN. We spent 30 years at the resort and recently sold it to our daughter & her family. Lots of family and other friends from Washington, IL, have traveled up to spend a week with us every summer!

We look forward to retirement and time to enjoy our 11 (almost 13) grandchildren! God has blessed us during our 45 years of marriage...we look forward to the next 45!

Did you know....

Congratulations to two 2013 alums who were part of the top ten of the WCHS graduating class of 2017. Mackenzie Olsen graduated #6 and Adam Tiesman was #10.

Did you know continued....

The American Legion Post 100 is having a fundraiser. Mr. Bill Maher, St. Pat's father to Cindy (1963), Susan (1965), Mary (1968), and Tim (1972), created a veterans memorial on the corner of Theodore and Washington Rd. in Sunnyland to pay tribute to local war veterans and outstanding citizens within the East Peoria and Washington communities. He paid for the memorial and up-keep out of his own pocket. Since his passing in 2007, the memorial has received very little attention and is in need of restoration. You can mail donations to the American Legion Post 100 c/o Bill Maher Veterans Memorial Fund. PO Box 83, Washington, IL 61571. If you have any questions or would like your veteran's name engraved on the wall, you can contact Sean Rennau at srennau@austinengineeringcompany.com, visit the Bill Maher Veterans Memorial Facebook Group Page or call Sean at 309-691-0224.

The 8th grade girls volleyball team from Corpus Christi Catholic School in Bloomington won first place at the IESA state tournament. Among the team members was Emma Campbell, daughter to Greg Campbell (1985).

Washington's Plaza Lanes has a new addition to the bowling alley. They've recently added on a large area for laser tag. They continue to have daily specials in addition to bowling leagues and birthday parties.

This year's 8th grade class graduated 25 students on May 19th. The Scholastic Award (top student) and YWCA Award went to Maddi Cave, Spirit Award went to Andrew Rakestraw, Crowning Mary this year was Elizabeth McDougall. The Clarence Linsley Christian Award went to Maddi Cave, Katie Geisz, Kody Hofer, and Andrew Rakestraw. Other award winners were Mark Burroughs Sportsmanship—Kody Hofer; Josephine Goebel Sportsmanship—Ellie McDougall; Angie Linsley Outstanding Volleyball Athlete—Lexi Couri; Evan Knobloch Outstanding Track Athlete and Top Male Athlete of the year—Zech McCue; and Top Female Athlete of the year—Kaitlyn O'Marah and Sallyanne Peek, daughter of Heidi Hackney-Peek (1994).

Sister Mary Ann (former principal of St. Patrick School for 40 years) is now residing at Rosewood Nursing Home. Her address is 1351 N. Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102. Sister's cell phone number is 1-701-893-7078.

The school lunch program has gone high tech! No more punching lunch cards. Each student has a hard card with a bar code. Parents are emailed the menu and can sign up online for whatever their children want for the month, or the kids can sign up daily for hot or cold lunch on the SmartBoard in their classroom. Payment can be taken on-line.

Congratulations to John Vogelsang (1963) and Bill Roper, husband of Joanna (Haas) Roper (1957). They coached the 1973 Metamora football team to an 11-0 record. The team was recently inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame.

This past spring, a wedding dress was returned to its owner, Tiffany Paluska (wife of Scott, 1989). It was blown away in the November 2013 tornado. The finder recalls seeing the white dress hanging in a tree; and because of various life matters (moving, Army deployment, etc.), she was unsuccessful in locating the owner. But she never gave up. One day she decided, before she moved again, to ask a Peoria bridal store to keep the dress for safety. Turned out that the dress had been purchased through that store, and they were able to connect Tiffany with her wedding dress once again.

St. Patrick Parish is having a golf outing on Friday, October 6th at Quail Meadows Golf Course located between Washington & East Peoria. All levels are welcome. If interested in playing, donating or sponsoring a hole, please contact the church office at 309-444-3524.

Recently Ed Mallow, husband to Cathy (Hessling) Mallow (1971) and father to Stephen Mallow (1998), was ordained a deacon with the Diocese of Peoria. He will be serving St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Peoria Heights.

2013 graduates and twin sisters Claire & Kaitlyn Geier have celebrated their 10th year hosting the Backyard Talent Show for St. Jude, held Sunday July 30th. Over the years it has outgrown their backyard and moved to Idlewood Park in Morton. Corporate sponsors include Krogers, Chili's, Papa Murphy's and Culvers in addition to many TV & radio personalities. This year included a rival pie-in-the-face contest between the Morton & Washington football teams. Washington won. 😊

**If you have had an address change, please complete and return this form to St. Pat's School, 100 Harvey, Washington, IL 61571.
You may also email the information to: alumni@stpatswashington.com.**

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Continued from front page:

The "SportsLeader" program is a really special program we are greatly looking forward to implement this next school year. It is my hope we can also include aspects of this program into our P.E. classes and other extra-curricular activities school-wide. Coaches attended an introductory meeting in June. They will be including a "Virtue of the Week" into their athletic program and encourage integration of the virtue in everything the student athletes do for the week. The program includes "Mentoring," "Ceremonies," plus inviting our athletes to participate more fully and enrich their "Catholic Identity." Teams will participate in prayer at the beginning and end of practices and games. They will attend "Team Masses," "Team Adoration," and "Reconciliation" and participate in the "Prayer Warrior" program. Many of our athletes are already participating in extra religious services and doing service as a team. St. Patrick School is the only grade school in the state of Illinois to partake in the "SportsLeader" program. Usually, the program centers on high school athletes. We are really excited to pave the way for the parochial grade schools. We have made a four-year commitment to the program and will be looking forward to sharing how this opportunity develops in our school.

Each new school year brings new adventures and excitement to St. Pat's. We have great staff, families, students, parishioners, and pastors. I am tremendously grateful to have so many wonderful people to work with as we continue to provide St. Patrick students with a wonderful school in which to learn and grow.

Mrs. Doreen Shipman, Principal

Father Julius, Parochial Vicar at St. Patrick Parish, is continuing his pledge to build a premier boarding school in his home country of Uganda. He has been a priest since 1998 and wants to provide a good foundation to the poor children in order to break their generational cycle of poverty. He has established a website—www.buildinghopeinkids.org. The website has much more information. There are many ways you can help. On Saturday, August 26, 2017, Fr. Julius is throwing out the first pitch at the Peoria Chief's baseball game. Discounted tickets are available by calling Ben Milligan at 309-258-8215 or the church office. Fr. Julius has a gofundme page at www.gofundme.com/support-fr-julius-school-uganda. You may also send a donation to Building Hope in Kids-Uganda, PO Box 612, Washington, IL 61571, or simply mail it to the parish office c/o Building Hope in Kids-Uganda. The parish office address is 705 E. Jefferson Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Muriel Graham, parents to Josh (1996), Kathleen (1997), and Brian (2000) have been perennial organizers for decades at the church and school. Both newly retired, their latest project is organizing volunteers to maintain the many garden areas at St. Pat's. There are several beds of different sizes that are being weeded, mulched and pruned around the church and school by a host of volunteers. Never known to sit still too long, Mr. Graham also occasionally drives a bus or helps repair things that need fixed.

Please keep in your prayers those who have recently died: Mrs. Virginia Volk, Mr. Reinhart "Doots" Grebner, Mrs. Lu Essington, Mr. John "Jack" Heiser, Mr. Marty Junk, and Mrs. Eleanor Hallinan. May these families find peace in knowing God's grace.