

# ST PATRICK SCHOOL



## Irish Messenger

***Jesus is My Leader! In Him, I Trust.***

**December 11, 2020**

*Please join us for a special (and pandemic-friendly!)  
evening celebrating the Advent story!*

**St. Pat's Nativity Story Adventure Trail**  
Thursday, December 17th, 7-8pm



*Load up the family vehicle and arrive at your first stop in  
the St. Pat's church parking lot anytime between 7-7:30pm.  
You will receive a map and program to guide you around town  
to view live scenes from the Advent Story. It will take around  
30 minutes to complete. All are welcome, and hot chocolate  
is encouraged! Car caroling, too!*

*Questions? Contact Meg Johnson at [m.megjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:m.megjohnson@gmail.com).*

**St. Patrick School**  
100 Harvey Street  
Washington, IL 61571  
309-444-4345  
<https://school.stpatswashington.com>  
Facebook: St. Patrick Catholic Parish,  
Washington, IL

### Weekly School Update

Here is the link for the weekly update video:

<https://youtu.be/oL7bfAIdMfo>

Thank you Mr. J Draeger & the 8th Grade

Enjoy!



Hey, did you all see Thomas Mickels and his family  
on The Voice Monday night?

Great Job Mickels Family!

### Important Upcoming Dates

- Mon. Dec. 14: **Grades PreK-8** - Return remote learning packets and pick-up next learning packet.  
**Grades K-2 & 4th** will return this packet on January 4th.  
**Grades 3rd & 5-8** will return their packet on January 19th.
- Fri. Dec. 18: **No Classes**. This will be a teacher-planning day.
- Dec. 19-Jan. 3: **No Classes**. Christmas Break
- Mon. Jan. 4: Remote Learning Resumes (Packets with assignments were handed out December 14 for all grades). 3rd Quarter Begins.  
**Grades K-2 & 4th only** - Return learning packet sent out December 14 and pick-up next packet.
- Fri. Jan. 8: 2nd Quarter Report Cards will be published.
- Mon. Jan. 11: **Grades K-2 only** -Return last week's remote learning packet and pick-up next learning packet.
- Mon. Jan. 18: **No Classes**. Martin Luther King Day.
- Tues. Jan. 19: Return to In-Person learning and Return of Remote Learning Packets.

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and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff, and to teach children,  
with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.

# Humility

This Advent Season we will be focusing on the virtue of **HUMILITY**—The strength to put others before ourselves. God first, others second and ourselves last. In other words **JOY = Jesus, Others, Yourself.**

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to put others before ourselves like You did. This is hard sometimes but we can do all things with Your strength.

Let's practice the virtue of HUMILITY by not over-celebrating ourselves but by celebrating the successes and achievements of our teammates, our classmates and co-workers.



**“Humility, that low, sweet root from which all heavenly virtues shoot.” - St. Thomas Moore**

**“Being configured to Christ means emptying ourselves so that God can fill us.” -  
Father Augustus Tolton**

**“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.” -  
Edmund Burke**

**“Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.” - C.S Lewis**

**“Blessed the man and woman who is able to serve cheerfully in the second rank -- a big test.” -  
Mary Slessor**

**“A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle.” - Fr. James Keller**

**“If all flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her springtime beauty and the fields would no longer be decked out with little wildflowers.” - St. Therese of Lisieux**

**“Reverence, Respect, Responsibility...  
Excellence in Academics and Faith Formation”**

## Virtue of the Week—PATIENCE



### **PATIENCE**

The strength to endure delay, pain, discomfort and disappointment.

**VIRTUE=STRENGTH**  
SPORTSCADE

This week we concentrate on the virtue of **PATIENCE**—The strength to endure delay, pain, discomfort and disappointment. This is one of the most difficult virtues to live, right?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, the virtue of **PATIENCE** is very important for every aspect of our life. It is really, really hard to be **PATIENT**, Lord, and we need Your help in order to live it. You were **PATIENT** with the soldiers who whipped You, spit on You, nailed You to the Cross. You endured all that pain for love of us. May we imitate Your example by enduring the pains, delays, discomforts and disappointments in life for love of You.


## Happy Birthday...

Shelby Matsko—December 11th



**“More than Santa and presents, we’re waiting for Jesus, with hope for everyone.”**

**MATT MAHER**  
*The Advent of Christmas*

 **Dynamic Catholic**

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Are you buying any items from Amazon? If the answer is yes, please consider making your Amazon purchases through the AmazonSmile website. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Patrick School. Everything about the Amazon online shopping experience remains the same, including the prices, shopping cart, wish lists and shipping options. To get started, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once there select St. Patrick Church and School.



**You can support St. Patrick School just by grocery shopping at Kroger! Once you link your Kroger Card to St. Patrick School, a percentage of what you spend will be sent to our school quarterly. It's that easy!**

- Go to : [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)
- Click View Details under I'm a Customer
- Sign In or a Create an Account
- Choose St. Patrick School—HN228

**THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL** is 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.

**Dear St. Patrick Parents, Parishioners, Families, and Friends:**

### **Emotional Well-Being and Good Things Can Come from the Pandemic**

We all know the stress or experience the frustration that has come with the coronavirus pandemic. Juggling with working from home, struggling with children who have a hard time with remote learning, providing child care if we have to work outside the home, time management, worrying about the safety and health of family members one cannot visit, not getting to go to the places or do the things we love, and the list goes on and on and on can test the patience of anyone to the max. Our children depend on us for security and they need to know they will be okay ...and their mom and dad ...and their friends and relatives. We are given this as an opportunity to build our family relationships and our relationship with each child who we so love without being so overwhelmed.

There are resources and tips available to help parents and families. We just need to seek them out. Recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics published suggestions that may be helpful to keep us calm and get us through the challenges. Some of their ideas include:

- ◆ Address our children's fears. It is important to understand when our children are upset or exhibiting behaviors that may be an indication of underlying fears, and even depression. Talking to them why they cannot go or do the things they normally do and why they have to wear a mask or social distance, are a few examples. Answer their questions simply, calmly, and as honestly as possible. Imperatively, we must seek outside help if there are indications of depression.
- ◆ Manage our own feelings. Let your children know how you feel about this pandemic and how you are going to handle your worries such as not being able to visit a grandparent or a friend who may be ill in a positive way. Perhaps, letting them know you are going to call the relative or friend to check up on them often and then do it. It is critical parents remain calm, positive, and be a "guardian angel" for their child.
- ◆ Keep in touch with loved ones and friends. Brainstorm ideas with your children how to visit a grandparent, cousin, or friend who cannot be visited in person such as a *Zoom Call* or a phone call. Several of our teachers are providing *Google Meets* sessions regularly so students can see their friends and teachers in addition to having rich discussions about the lessons.
- ◆ Provide structure and routines to the day every day. The pandemic and remote learning has upset and disrupted many of our normal daily routines, which is unsettling for many children and adults. Even though we may be required to remote learn or stay at home, establishing a schedule that requires getting up at a specific time, going to bed at a regular time, getting dressed for school day, completing assignments for school at a regular time, and taking specific breaks can be helpful to eliminate stress and anxiety. This is not a vacation time.

◆ Provide opportunities for positive family experiences. Taking time to do special activities with our children often bring families closer together. Perhaps try activities that get everyone outdoors such as going hiking or bike riding together. Fresh air and exercise will do wonders for one's well-being and emotional level. Indoor activities can include learning a board game together (especially one that brings about laughter and fun among the family members). During this season of Advent, try some of the Advent activities provided from the Advent Calendar together that was sent home in the *Irish Messenger*, pray a decade of the rosary as a family for an ill family member or friend or the success of finding a vaccine. Even 20-30 minutes of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday evenings at church could be a wonderful way to decompress and give our fears and anxieties to the Lord. Perhaps create "Gratitude Journal" with family members that tells the good things that have come about in our families and lives from going through this pandemic. There are good things, if you just look for them.

- ◆ Special time. Crafts or building something with each other, baking something together, or even reading together are other possible suggestions for special time with family. It is important to include special time with each child one on one. That will mean the world to your child even if it is for 20 minutes every couple of days. Just being with them and making them important and special to you will do more than you can ever know.
- ◆ Take care of oneself. Important to your own well-being is finding ways to unzip from all the stress and multitude of obligations. Take a break! Everyone needs it in these times. Maybe God is trying to tell us something about the excessive "busyness" and priorities of our lives. Try yoga, or a walk/run, read something just for yourself. Eating healthy and exercising is critical to maintaining good health emotionally and physically especially during these trying times....and don't forget your prayer life. The same is true for your children. We will get through all of this but we must place our Trust in Jesus. Reach out to others. We are all in this together. No one has to be alone.

These are just a few ideas and suggestions to help maintain emotional calm and peace in family lives. Promoting good emotional health is critical to the success of peace, calm, and positive well-being in our families. There are many resources available whether online, consulting with doctors, mental health providers, friends and family, etc. We need to seek these out and take advantage of these opportunities.

These are tough times, no doubt! Every person and every generation goes through something. Perhaps this pandemic is ours. (My mother use to tell me no one gets through life without some kind of cross to bear...she was right). Perhaps this is a time God is asking us to take a step back and reflect on what is really important in our lives in particular our families and work on that. We must Trust in Jesus! He is our Leader and He will show us the way if only we allow Him.



**Peace and Blessings. Doreen Shipman**

**"Reverence, Respect, Responsibility..."**

**Excellence in Academics and Faith Formation"**



## Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Please see the attached file relating to the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Please take a few minutes to write to our legislators thanking them for making this program possible and the need to support its continuance in the future in helping make it possible for students to attend St. Patrick School. A sample pre-set letter you may use is below. You can also add your own words if you wish. Addresses are provided below and in the attached document for your convenience. Thank you.

(Sample Pre-Set Message):

Thank you for supporting the Tax Credit Scholarship Program

As my elected official, it's important for you to know how much the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program has meant for so many children across the state, as well as to our school community, especially in a year which has brought great hardship to many families.

While the program is still a pilot, we ask for your support to ensure that this scholarship program is protected and expanded for more kids to benefit. Without this scholarship program, many families in our community would not be able to send their kids to such great schools in our community.

During this holiday season, my family and I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)

### HOUSE DISTRICT 88

Keith P. Sommer (R)

**309.263.9242**

#### Office

121 West Jefferson  
Morton, IL 61550

#### Springfield Office

216-N Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Email: [sommer@mtco.com](mailto:sommer@mtco.com)

### SENATE DISTRICT 44

William E. Brady (R)

**309.664.4440**

#### Office

2203 Eastland Drive, Suite 3  
Bloomington, IL 61704

#### Springfield Office

Senator 44th District  
103A Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Email: [billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com](mailto:billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com)

**THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL is 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.**

In an effort to *raise money* for the parish and *have a little fun*, we are announcing the

# ST. PAT'S Irish Sweepstakes

This raffle will begin October 30, 2020 and will run through December 25, 2020 with a \$100 drawing each Friday through December 18, 2020, a \$500 drawing on Thanksgiving and a \$1000 drawing on Christmas Day. Winners need not be present to win. Purchase or sell the enclosed tickets anytime between now and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. More tickets are available in the parish office or online. All proceeds will go toward our budget shortfall.

There are several ways to buy tickets (\$20 each or 6/\$100):

- Send in your completed tickets or drop in the collection basket with a check or cash
  - Call the parish office to buy tickets or to obtain more tickets
  - Purchase online from our website: <https://stpatswashington.com/>
  - Pay with a credit or debit card by using the form below and return to the parish office
- (If you purchase tickets online or use the form below, the parish office will fill your tickets out for you.)

If you have questions, please contact the parish office at 309-444-3524.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. John*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_ #Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ST. PAT'S IRISH SWEEPSTAKES



705 E. Jefferson St. Washington, IL 61571  
309-444-3524 www.stpatswashington.com

**TICKETS: \$20 Each/6 for \$100**

10 Chances to Win

\$500 Thanksgiving Drawing

\$1000 Christmas Drawing

\$100—8 Weekly Drawings

Drawings Start: October 30, 2020 End: December 25, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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