



Alumni Newsletter

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SAINT PATRICK'S ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Dear Alumni,

As we begin a new year, there have been some changes at the Rectory. Fr. Julius graduated from ISU in December with a Doctoral Degree. On December 28, 2017, we said goodbye to him as he returned to his home in Uganda. As you know he is building a grade school and plans to name it after our own St. Patrick School in Washington. His non-profit organization is called Building Hope in Kids – Uganda. Check out his website: <http://www.buildinghopeinkids.org/>

Serving two Parishes, we needed a new Parochial Vicar. So on January 15, 2018, Bishop Jenky assigned Fr. Thaddeus Tran to our Parish. Fr. Thaddeus was ordained for the Diocese of Peoria in 1992. He is getting settled in and has already been helping out at the school and meeting the students. (Find more information about Fr. Thaddeus on pg. 4.)

Lent has begun; and we are reminded of the words we heard when we received ashes on our forehead during Ash Wednesday Mass, “Repent and Believe in the Gospel” or “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” The season helps us re-focus on God’s Merciful and Sacrificial Love for us. He died that we may live. When Holy Week begins (March 25th), I encourage you to attend the beautiful Liturgies. On Palm Sunday, we welcome the Lord into Jerusalem. The Easter Triduum begins with Holy Thursday and ends on the Easter Vigil. During these three days, our Liturgies hold so much beauty as we enter into the Passion of Our Lord, beginning with washing of the feet on Thursday and a procession of our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist to our Garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday, we enter into His death on the Cross. Saturday evening we welcome our new members in the Church. Make this Lent the best ever so you can rejoice with the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

Thank you for all your prayers for the Parish and School. Know that you are in my prayers. May God Bless you during this Holy Season of Lent and Easter.

In Christ,

Fr. Steve

Dear Alumni,

Busy and exciting is St. Patrick School this eventful school year! We celebrated one of the most successful Catholic Schools Weeks. The students had a blast at our week’s kickoff Family Fun Night with the spaghetti supper, dancing all evening to the music from the DJ, and getting those fun balloon twists. We celebrated 11:00 Mass on Sunday in a filled church with students doing the Mass parts and our Jr. High Choir performing the music. Our grandparents and parents packed the gym three times for the annual breakfast and visits to the classrooms on Monday. The Jr. High filled Easter eggs at the Park District, while 3rd and 4th grades visited area nursing homes and the primary grades made cards for Ufring Chevrolet in the aftermath of their fire, all as service projects for our community. Our House groups in grades 5-8 hosted relay games while the younger students cheered their teams on. We prayed for our nation and leaders on Nation Day and kicked off a fundraiser for the “Greater Peoria Area Honor Flight.” That fundraiser reaped \$5,076.22 for veterans to participate in the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity visiting the memorials in Washington, D.C., and being honored for their service to our country. Students were also treated to an ice cream social with a red, white, and blue theme. We prayed for vocations and for our priests and religious on Vocation Day. Students performed in the annual Talent Show, and we ended the wonderful week with an All School Mass and with a show of appreciation to all our teachers and staff.

The 7th Grade Boys Basketball Team made history! They won the 2nd place trophy in the State Basketball Tournament this year. This is the first for the boys team. The boys lost to Lovejoy School district (near East St. Louis) 44-22. However, our boys won so much more than 2nd place in their show of great sportsmanship, compassion, and perseverance. They made good choices in the face of challenges. Their coaches Mr. Jeff Draeger, Mr. Mike Aydt, and Mr. Dyllan Foster (a 2013 graduate) are to be commended for leading these boys and showing them how to take the high road and how to be people of character. The team and their classmates contributed meals and State shirts to the opposing team for their trip home. Special thanks go to the community, fans, and even the local TV station that came to the game and supported our team.

In other sports and activities, 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team went to State and lost in their first set of games. The 7th Grade Girls Basketball went undefeated in their regular season; and 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team was very close to going to State as well but lost in the Sectional game. St. Pat’s Girls Cross Country Team went to State last fall for the first time and did well in their perfor-

Continued on next page

mance for our young team. This year for the first time, we had one student advance to State in Golf. We are now in the midst of Volleyball and Scholastic Bowl and will be moving forward with Track soon.

Mrs. Cassie Smith, 5th/6th English, Language Arts teacher, was recipient of a PNC Bank Grant recently and will use the funds to purchase the novel, *The Great Chicago Fire* for her 6th graders. The novel study will enable the students to cover all of the informational reading standards while making connections to familiar sites in the city. This year the foundation received 92 applications and awarded 28 grants totaling \$20,000.

On March 11 our 8th graders will receive Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 3:30 pm, and 2nd graders will receive their First Communion on May 5th at 1:30 pm in the Church. Graduation will then be around the corner on May 18th.

We are now in the midst of enrolling students for the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to planning for another great year. The support of our school families, parish, and community is immensely appreciated, and we thank each of you very much.

God Bless!

Mrs. Doreen Shipman, Principal

WHO'S WHERE, DOING WHAT NOW?

Rebecca Clark-Seaborn, 1987

Some of my fondest memories are of the 4 years of track. It built character, developed determination and created some long-lasting friendships. I loved that our graduating class was a perfect match of 8 boys and 8 girls. It was a small, close knit group. Singing in church with the choir developed my love of singing.

I married my high school sweetheart, R. Derek Seaborn, and traveled the world for 21 years while he served in the U.S. Air Force. My favorite places we lived were Germany and Alaska. We had 6 children—one passed away at 1 month. My life revolves around the other 4 boys and 1 girl. They are the light of my life. Aside from them, I spend my time working at the Farmington Area Public Library District as the Assistant Director. We have lived in Yates City, IL, since November 2012 when Derek retired from the Air Force.

My parents still reside in Washington and continue to attend St. Patrick's Parish. We are blessed to be able to attend Mass with them on occasion and see some of those I went to school with and their families. My mailing address is 710 S. Burson St., Yates City, IL 61572. You can email me at cborn91@yahoo.com

Did you know...

The St. Patrick boys basketball program had a remarkable season. The 7th grade team won Regional and Sectional titles, and it was the first time in 38 years that they made it to the IESA State Tournament which was played in East Peoria. They were undefeated Conference champions and undefeated County champions, and they received 2nd place in the Catholic Schools Tournament in Peoria. This Irish team (23-4) won a pair of blowout games to earn their spot in the IESA Class 1A state championship game playing hard but eventually losing to Lovejoy of Alton, IL. The 8th grade boys went 17-8 and were undefeated Conference champions and undefeated County champions, and they also earned 2nd place in the Catholic Schools Tournament. They have won the Regional title 2 years in a row and have a record of 35 wins over the past 2 years.

St. Pat's Annual Pot O'Gold Parish Auction was held on Saturday, March 3. Live and silent auction items were sold as well as raffles. Live music followed the auction. The \$60 ticket included dinner, drinks and a whole lot of fun! Last year's auction earned enough funds to provide Chrome boxes in the Computer Lab and replaced old workstations. This year's goal is to provide enough ChromeBooks for K-2 instruction. One day the school may need to upgrade from cable modem to fiber. History & social studies texts are entirely internet-based for grades 5-8. The school is very grateful for the support they've received over the years.

Last July, the 1977 girls basketball and softball teams from Washington Community High School held a special reunion. Forty years ago, both teams made trips to the Illinois State Tournaments. Many of the same girls played softball on the 1977 Northern Tazewell Rec. Assoc. softball team winning the ASA Girl's State Tournament and traveling to New York for the National Tournament. Two of the teammates attending the reunion were Jane Grebner (1973) and Bettina Schaefer-Foster (1973).

On January 5, 2018, a fire severely damaged Uftring Chevrolet in Washington. Several fire departments assisted the Washington Fire Department in battling the blaze that began just before noon and went on well into the evening. The high temperature that day was about 10 degrees. Thankfully, no one was injured. Rebuilding will begin soon. They have a temporary location at the old Walmart building/old TSC building just about a block away. General Manager of the Washington dealership is Joe Knapp (1976).

Did you know continued....

Congratulations to the Lady Irish! This year's basketball teams had 21 girls from grades 5-8. The 7th grade girls made school history when they were the first girls team to go undefeated in the regular season. They won the Diocesan Tournament and the St. Patrick's Tournament. They ended the season with a record of 21-1. The 8th grade girls also made school history as the first team to make state appearances in both 7th and 8th grades. They won the St. Pat's Tournament, Regionals, Sectionals, and went on to the Elite Eight in the State Finals. They lost a close game to the eventual State Champions. Their final record was 21-2.

Mr. Tom Hranka, father to Jenna (1999), Adam (2002) and Brooke, has published a book. He spends about 15 weeks out of the year traveling...and talking. *Conversations From 30,000 Feet* is a short book full of stories of people from all walks of life. "We make a lot of judgements in life. Some stories are a little sad, some are really funny. But they all have a lesson," he says. It is available on Amazon.

The Clark family has been setting up the nativity scene in front of St. Patrick Church for the past 15 years. They "inherited" it from Mr. and Mrs. Vern Mall when they volunteered to help Vern and Norma with it in 2002. And they've been doing it ever since. Mike & Nicole, along with their two children Baylor (2016) and Mattea (7th grader at St. Pat's), look forward to it every year.

The Director of Development at Peoria Notre Dame High School is Susan Knapp (1978). She previously was the Development Director at Costa Catholic Academy in Galesburg, IL. She is looking forward to communicating any class news, events or information as it relates to Academy of Our Lady, Spalding Institute, Bergan High School and Peoria Notre Dame High School. Her email is s.knapp@pndhs.org.

Former St. Pat's teacher and coach Mr. Greg Martin has been an Assistant Coach for the Illinois Central College women's basketball program for many years. ICC's been a constant contender in the NJCAA DII women's basketball tournament.

Erin McCarthy (1975) will be inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame with her 1978 AOL/SI girl's golf team. It was the team's first year. The highlight of the year was a championship in the District Tournament that was followed by a 3rd place finish at the State meet in Bloomington.

Becky McGlaughlin (1966) has retired from the Washington Casey's General Store after 30 years of service. She began managing the store when it opened in 1987. Happy trails to you!

Father Gary Caster celebrated his Silver Jubilee this past December. He was ordained 25 years ago in 1992 and began at St. Patrick's in 1993. Over the past 25 years, he has been assigned as a Chaplain, religion teacher, and Director of Campus Ministries at Peoria Notre Dame High School, Bradley University Newman Center, as well as the Newman Centers at Illinois Wesleyan University and Eureka College. Since 2007, he has been assigned as Chaplain at Williams College in Massachusetts. Occasionally he returns to Washington and celebrates Mass.

Three children's books have been written and illustrated by Mary Grace Franz, daughter of Tim Franz (1984). *The Shepherd Children of Fatima Series* provides young children with a way to learn about Our Lady's message and how they might apply it to their own lives. These books are available on Amazon.

The St. Patrick's School Alumni, Washington IL Facebook page has many old photos and memories. Check it out, reconnect with old classmates, and share some of your own photos and memories.

St. Patrick's Athletic Department purchased a 65" monitor that hangs in the main foyer of the school between the front doors and the Sister Mary Ann Gym. It's a wonderful addition that has a running loop of all things St. Pat's.... lunch menus, inspirational messages, athletic and extracurricular events, as well as miscellaneous photos of the students. Everyone who enters the school is now greeted by a big colorful TV monitor showcasing our school. It was inspired by the newly adopted SportsLeader ministry program and creates an overall positive reflection of the school.

The crucifix hanging above the altar at St. Patrick Church was donated by the McCann family. It first hung in our original little white church. Many years ago, this family helped with the formation of our school. Their children were some of the first graduates: Hank (1954), Pat (1959) and Mike (1961). Mr. and Mrs. McCann were so impressed with Father Henry Schubert that they named their first son after him.

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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Following is an excerpt written by Mrs. Laura Small from the November 22, 1998, 30th Anniversary Book for St. Patrick Church:

Yes, we remember the great chicken dinners at St. Patrick's with all the work of gathering up all of the tables, stoves, and cooking utensils, food, etc. It was always a big day but it was fun. Everyone helped out. It was held at Sullivan's field across the street from what is now the school playground off of Route 24. Many of the tables and chairs were borrowed from St. Joseph's Church in Pekin, some from the Casino Garden east of town or anyone who would lend us the needed equipment. The men of the parish worked for weeks to get everything ready. The women of the parish worked in the "kitchen" all day on the day of the dinner. Our annual chicken dinners were always held on the second Sunday of October and we always had a big attendance at our dinners.

Towards the end of the food rationing, Father Schubert informed us that we were 40 pies short for our dinner. Every family was to donate 2 pies along with 2 fried chickens and 2 vegetables. When I asked my husband Jim "How do you tell Father a nice 'no'." He said, "You don't. You'd better make those pies." With the help of my brother donating the pumpkin and Jim who was a milkman donating the milk, eggs and flour, Father saw that we got some sugar and shortening (food rations). We had pies all over our house and we also had a milk truck to deliver them to the church. I've been a life long parishioner of St. Patrick's and Jim has been a member since our marriage in 1939.

Welcome Father Thaddeus Binh Tran! Father Thaddeus was born on March 15, 1956, in South Vietnam. After the fall of S. Vietnam to the Communist North in April 1975, he arrived in the USA as a war refugee and resettled in Muskogee, OK, in June 1975. He often refers to himself as an "Okie from Muskogee." From 1975 to 1987, Fr. Thaddeus attended St. Gregory College in Shawnee, OK; and Oklahoma State and Oklahoma City Universities. After nine years working for AT&T, he quit his job in December 1987, to accept the Lord's calling. He was accepted by the Diocese of Peoria and subsequently sent to Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, CT, for his priestly training. After his ordination in May 1992, Fr. Thaddeus served in many parishes in the Peoria Diocese including locally Chillicothe & Morton. In June of 2013, Fr. Thaddeus received permission from the Peoria Bishop Daniel Jenky to move to Melbourne, FL, where he served at the Ascension Catholic Church, a very big, busy parish of over 3,000 families from September 2013 to December 2017. Now he is the newly appointed parochial vicar of St. Patrick Church, and we welcome him!

Please keep in your prayers those who have recently died: Mrs. Gloria Biagini, Mr. Karl Eschelbach, Mrs. Patricia Vanderheydt-Cambria, Mr. Larry Zobrist, Mr. Dick Atterberry, Mr. Sidney Audiffred, Mrs. Maryann Sullivan, Mrs. Barb Alessi, Mr. Robert Gordon, Mrs. Ida Beck-White, Mr. George Reidel, and Kathleen Yeagle (1957). Also remember Rory Casey, son of Kevin (1965), Troy Buckingham, son of Terry (1964), as well as former teachers Sister Carol Jean Kuntz (1988-1993) and Sister Marguerite Guarneri (1977-1983) who have recently passed away. May these families find peace in knowing God's grace.