

# *the Irish Review*

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH & ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2020

## The Snapshots of St. Patrick's Church



As is custom at St. Patrick's Church, the Knights of Columbus at the parish have offered the annual Lenten Fish Fry on Fridays during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Knights have done so much good at the parish, from cleaning to electrical to donating and, of course, the Fish Fry Dinners, that they are one of many groups that have made St. Patrick's Church the family place for God for a good, long time! Pictured top left is David Wheeler (Grand Knight) and Jaeson Munyon (the Knights' representative to the Parish Council).

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The success of St. Patrick's Church depends on your support and prayers. Because of you, this "Old Bordertown Parish" in the Joliet Diocese has prospered over these last 100 years. Please consider supporting our parish and help us erase our \$500,000 school debt through your generous response. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks, as always, for your generosity!

### ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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COURTESY OF JOANNE HERMANN,  
KEVIN BLANCHETTE AND MAL PETERSON,

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR ST. PATRICK'S ALUMNI

Dear St. Patrick Academy Alumni:

We pray all is well with you and your family. It has been a while since our last communication. We want to catch you up with a little history.

Many years ago, Fr. Labrie invited the Sisters from Canada to teach at St. Patrick's. The school was built in 1906, in Momence, with the vision of teaching the children in and around Momence and boarding others not from this area. Some of us attended and graduated from high school. Many of us attended and graduated from eighth grade in the later years. All of us had many different experiences while attending St. Patrick Academy.

One experience we all share in common was learning about Jesus Christ and about our Church He established nearly two thousand years ago .... the Catholic Church. ; Now we all know the cost of education, especially a private school education .... A Catholic education, "Priceless".

The Sisters' vision is still alive and well and St. Patrick Church is very committed to giving a quality education in our Religious Education Program (RE), which is headed up by one of our own graduates. Currently the RE program has classes in the church basement: RE classes used to be in the school building. If you did not know the school building was taken down due to high maintenance costs, as well as the high . . insurance premiums. "Our Lady of Lourdes" grotto and grounds are still being maintained. The Rosary has been updated around the circle in front of the grotto. The statue of St. Bernadette was donated by one of our graduates. It is so beautiful with lights highlighting her and our Blessed Virgin Mother.

There is also a beautiful fountain in the middle of the Rosary. Several statues along with one of St. Patrick sits next to the grotto to the east. Trees have been planted and the Stations of the Cross are along Second St. and Market St. "Our Lady of Lourdes" grotto actually has a stone fragment from the original grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, France, embedded in our grotto.

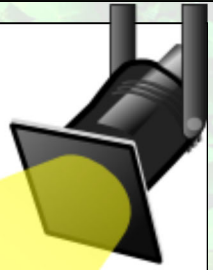
Currently there is a memorial program where you can have the name of a loved one, family, or family member engraved on a paver which we can add to a paver garden. There are two sizes from which to choose. This 4" by 8" paver is \$50.00 and . 1 8" by 8" size if \$100.00. All funds are used for the beautification and upkeep of "Our Lady of Lourdes" grotto. Fr. Pete Jankowski, our Pastor at St. Patrick Church, has established a "Pew Donation Program," where you can memorialize a loved one. This program will help pay down the cost of the demolition of our school building as well as add to funds for a future RE building.

We invite those who wish to participate in the dedication program by remembering a loved one in a memorial plaque on one of our chapel seats (\$500) or a church pew (\$2,500) or even have the new RE building named in honor of your loved one for \$1,000,000!!! We ask that you pray about your donation for this continued vision. (No donation is too large or too small.)

*Continued on Page Three...*



## Lighting Our Way to a Brighter Future!



In our continued effort to save money and better serve the community of St. Patrick's, we slowly have been converting all of our lighting to the LED variety, which we are told will reduce our monthly electric bills up to 60% and will allow us to save the cost of changing bulbs on such a frequent basis (LED bulbs companies advertise that this type of lighting lasts over twenty years!). Pictured below is our Adoration Chapel, whose bulbs were changed this Christmas through the generous donation of a couple of our parishioners.

Our next step in the process is to work on changing the bulbs in our church basement, with the help of the Knights of Columbus and parishioner Roger "Bones" Hess. Much thanks to the folks at Van Drunen Farms who helped pay for and install the LED lights in our school gymnasium. LED flood lights shining on our back parking lot for better illumination.

We also have been blessed that Fr. Pete's outside contractor (Wally Martin) has been able to shorten the pews in the middle aisles of our church to accommodate funeral caskets. Fr. Dan Hessling has been working with Fr. Pete to convert all candles to the electric variety (for safety and financial reasons) and the entire rectory has been renovated, with the help of the Poor Clare Sisters of Minooka, the Knights of Columbus and contractor Wally Martin! You are welcome to visit the church to see our upgrades!



... Continued from Page Two

We also ask that you continue to pray for the church and especially St. Patrick. We will continue to keep everyone updated as well as bring more news about St. Patrick Academy. If you know of any classmates current addresses, please let us know. You can also visit our parish website [stpatrickmomenceil.org](http://stpatrickmomenceil.org) to see pictures of past graduates and other church and school news. Please mail your memorial donations to St. Patrick Church, 119 Market St., Momence, IL 60954.

Please contact us about any special memories or if you have any questions, call St. Patrick Church at ☎ (815) 472-2864. You also can contact Marilyn "Mal" Peterson (Class of 1955) at ☎ (815) 472-4218, Joanne Boudreau Hermann (Class of 1962) at ☎ (815) 472-2710 or [jojohermann@att.net](mailto:jojohermann@att.net), and/or Kevin Blanchette (Class of 1973) at ☎ (815) 472-2152. May God bless you all and St. Patrick's Church in Momence!

*Note: We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor offered \$10,000 donation towards the renovation of the parish organ. We also are seeking another \$15,000 to renovate the gym floor. We have spent another \$5,000 to re-seam and repair the gym roof. As we do not wish the gym to suffer the same fate as our academy building, your donations would be appreciated.*



**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BY YOUR PASTOR, FR. PETE JANKOWSKI**

## **WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER!**

For those of you unacquainted with me, my name is Fr. Pete Jankowski, the current pain-in-the-neck that the bishop has assigned to serve St. Patrick's Church. I also have been asked to serve St. Anne's Church in St. Anne and Sacred Heart Church in Hopkins Park. I guess my job isn't enough to do, so the bishop also has me teaching three courses at the University of St. Francis in Joliet and serving at the Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee for those undocumented immigrants who leave the country. I guess I don't know what to do with all my free time (whatever that means).

In the course of the last few months, I have been working with many folks in these Kankakee Bordertown Parishes rebuilding our communities, renovating houses (I feel more like Norm Abrams, at times, than a Catholic priest!) and figuring out ways to get our parishes back on track. With both academy buildings in Momence and St. Anne the victim of the wrecking ball, I have tried to work with our community to do what is necessary to maintain the gyms/parish halls of both parishes.

So many things have been accomplished in these few short months, the best of which being a growing community at Momence who has participated in events that have not seen the numbers we have generated in quite a long time. Over a thousand workers in the city are from Hispanic families - by tapping into that demographic (the largest growing one in the diocese), we guarantee that the parish will grow and keep open for generations to come. We celebrated an outdoor grotto Mass last October, which I have been told was the first time that type of liturgy had been celebrated at St. Patrick's since the Fr. White years. I am told that the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass was the largest Mass the parish had seen in a decade. The parish collection has grown by a factor of a thousand dollars a week in the last six months. At the time of this writing, we are in the process of celebrating an Irish Mass and Dinner on March 14th - I am told that no one of recent memory can recall the last time we hosted a Mass and dinner in honor of our own patron saint!!!

To use a term I often utilize with the Hopkins Park folks, I have come to find out that the community of Momence seems to be full of **HOPE** - hope that we are moving in the right direction - hope that great things await the future of this parish. In order for this to continue, we need your help. On the next few pages, you will read stories and opportunities of what we have been doing at the parish and how you can help.

Please know that, with your help, we can alleviate our parish debt, we can help this parish grow but, most importantly, we can provide hope for a better tomorrow, a tomorrow filled with God's grace. May God bless all of you.

*Fr. Pete*



Courtesy of Stacey Padden (who has been taking a good number of pictures on behalf of our parish website - THANK YOU, STACEY!!!), we are now in possession of an old Sodality Card from December 8, 1932 for the sake of the history of our parish! Stacy also came across the report card from one Francis Parish, who obviously had issues with her English III and US History Grades (please pray for her!!!). The same religious community of the Holy Heart of Mary still

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin  
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

We bear witness by these presents that our beloved in Christ *Jane Parish*..... was on *Dec. 8*..... 19*32*, received as a member of the *Children of Mary* Sodality under the title of *Our Lady of Good Counsel* and of *St. Theresa*..... and is therefore entitled to all the Indulgences, favors, graces and privileges which other Sodalists enjoy, and when...she departs this life should receive from our Sodality all the suffrages which are of custom offered for Sodalists departed.

Done at *St. Patrick Academy, Momence, Ill.* in the same Sodality of Our Lady, on the *8<sup>th</sup>* day of *December*..... 19*32*

*Sister Mary Delores*..... Director  
*Della Marcotte*..... Prefect

ST. PATRICK ACADEMY \* MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

REPORT OF *Frances Parish* FOR *April* 19*37*.

SUBJECTS	GRADE	GRADE POINTS	CREDIT	
Religion III	<i>A-</i>			SOCIAL EFFICIENCY <i>A-</i>
English III	<i>B</i>			EFFORT <i>A-</i>
U. S. History	<i>B</i>			DAYS ABSENT <i>1.5</i>
Modern History	<i>A-</i>			
Trigonometry	<i>A-</i>			
Music	<i>A-</i>			
Physical Ed.	<i>A-</i>			

SERVANTS OF THE HOLY HEART OF MARY *Sister Mary Delores*  
PRINCIPAL

minister at the Mission Parish of St. Patrick's, the Sacred Heart Community in Hopkins Park (Pembroke Township), especially Sr. Marybeth Clemnets. A good number of St. Patrick's faithful (most especially Jack Noonan) have been working diligently in re-keying the buildings, painting houses, filling dumpsters and preparing the convent for new borders who will move into the house after the conclusion of our parish renovations.

Part of the rectory upgrades have included a complete renovation of the basement (thank you Knights of Columbus!), the removal of all flooring, the installing of Pergo flooring and throw rugs throughout the house and a significant cleanup of the campus. Gabby the Basset (Fr. Pete's dog) gives her seal of approval to the rectory office (actually Joanne Hermann's "Baby Yoda" - long story) and we have now utilized the parish dining room for meeting and social space. Much thanks to Julie Dillenburg for beautifying the dining room and the Poor Clares of the Annunciation Monastery in Minooka for donating over two dozen religious pictures and statues to adorn our walls and buildings of the rectory!





With almost a thousand Hispanic faithful who work in Momenca, a good number at St. Patrick's encouraged Fr. Pete to begin a **Mass in Spanish**, which first took place in August. Since then, the choir from the Camino y Esperanza Retreat House in St. Anne has volunteered to provide music for the weekly Sunday Mass at noon and has begun to offer a weekly bible study/prayer experience every Tuesday night from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the church. The **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass** that took place on December 12th [and the subsequent December 22nd **LAS POSADAS SERVICE** (which means "the inns" that Mary & Joseph visited on their way to the Nativity scene)] were extremely well attended by the faithful at the parish. We are most grateful for Ruben & Carmen Andrade for their dedicated ministry to the Hispanic community at St. Patrick's Church! Much thanks to Ana Rivas and the choir from the retreat house for providing great music and spirituality for the faithful at St. Patrick's Church!

Únase a nosotros en nuestra misa semanal en español los domingos a las 12:00 del mediodía y nuestro estudio bíblico en español los martes por la noche a las 7:30 p.m. ¡Gracias Carmen y Rubén Andrade, así como a Ana Rivas por su maravilloso apoyo a nuestra comunidad parroquial!

*"Yo soy la esclava del Señor" (Lc 1: 39)*



**Our Lady of Guadalupe**





## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FUTURE

### OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

For over 100 years, the faithful of St. Patrick's Church have dedicated themselves to serving the folks of our community in God's name. We ask you to consider the ways listed below that can help our parish. If you would like to discuss how **ESTATE PLANNING** can be used to make a gift to the parish, please contact us at ☎ (815) 472-2864.

- ♣ **BEQUESTS** - Through your will you can bequeath to St. Patrick's a fixed amount, a percentage of your estate or the remainder after other choices have been made. Example language might be: "To St. Patrick's Church of Momence, I leave the sum of \$XXX to be used at the discretion of the recipient." Any bequest to St. Patrick's you make will reduce the size of your estate and could reduce the estate taxes that may be due.
- ♣ **LIFE INSURANCE** - By naming St. Patrick's as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy your premiums may be tax deductible and it will help ensure the future of St. Patrick's Church.
- ♣ **TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN** - Money in an IRA or other similar plan is subject to income tax when withdrawn. If left in your estate, they may be subject to estate taxes. If you make St. Patrick's the remainder beneficiary, neither of those taxes may be paid.
- ♣ A variety of **CHARITABLE TRUSTS & ANNUITIES** - There are a variety of giving options that can provide you or future generations' income, rights to property or assets with tax savings and generous support to St. Patrick's.

## ST. PATRICK'S PEW & CHURCH



### DEDICATION PROGRAM

The concept for our dedication program is simple - we are offering the opportunity to remember a loved one in a memorial dedicated on one of our chapel seats (\$500) or one of our church or chapel pews (\$2,500). Perhaps you or a group would like to dedicate a classroom in someone's honor (\$5,000).

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WISHES TO NAME ONE OF OUR FOUR BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY (\$1 MILLION EACH), ST. PATRICK'S RIDES HERSELF OF HER DEBT AND PAVES THE WAY TO SERVE THE KANKAKEE BORDERTOWN CITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!!!**

If you are interested in learning more about the dedication program, contact the parish office at phone ☎ (815) 472-2864 or email us at the address [pjankowski@yahoo.com](mailto:pjankowski@yahoo.com).

## Check out the NEW St. Patrick's Website!

We now have a three parish website at [www.stpatrickmomence.org](http://www.stpatrickmomence.org) (which also serves St. Anne's Church and Sacred Heart Mission) find out what is happening at the parish, read Fr. Pete's homilies and much more! Fr. Pete's educational materials (from his television show to classroom lessons) are also accessible from the parish website.

