

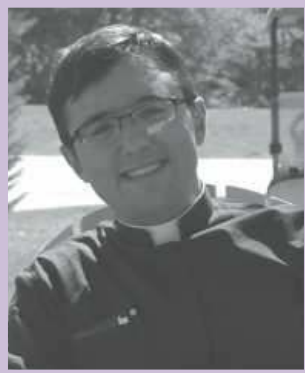


# SAINT PATRICK PARISH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF HUDSON, WISCONSIN

## Father Patrick McConnell

by Mary Pat Finnegan



On June 3, 2012, as newly ordained Fr. Patrick McConnell stepped up to the ambo at the Cathedral in Superior to thank the crowd of over 700 who had gathered to celebrate his ordination, those gathered rose and began to clap and cheer. Overcome with emotion, Fr. Patrick took a few moments to compose himself, then recalling that

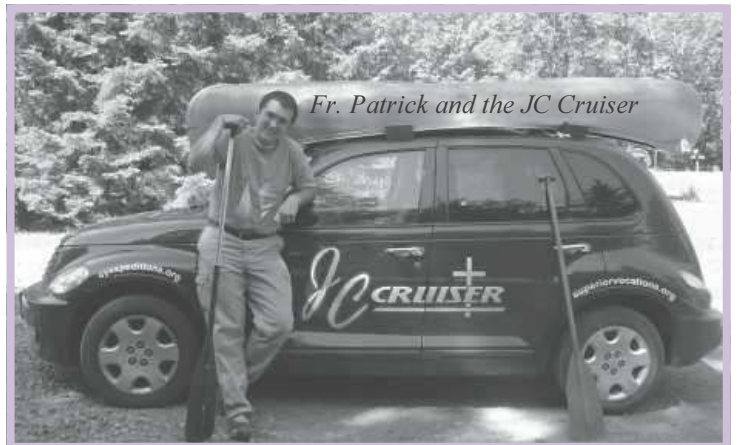
moment he said, "As I thanked my brother priests and those gathered for their support, I realized I'd become a part of something great, something far beyond myself."

**487:** The estimated number of men ordained Catholic priests in the United States in 2012.\*

Pete and Barb McConnell were working at an Easter Seals Camp in the Wisconsin Dells, when their second son, Patrick, was born. It was an idyllic place for a family that loves the outdoors. Later the family moved to Prairie Du Chien, where Fr. Patrick and his brothers, Tony and Michael, attended the Jesuit-run schools, St. Gabe's elementary school and St. John's middle school. The boys particularly loved the amazing tree house their dad, a tech-ed teacher, built for them and the frequent hunting and camping trips they took as a family. One more move took them to Merrill, which is where Fr. Patrick attended high school. In recounting his childhood memories, Fr. Patrick made it clear that God and family have been the touchstones in his life. "My father taught us about morals and respect, trust, honor, and duty. My mom has a great servant's heart. She was always one of those who taught by her actions." They have always been active in their community and parish. Fr. Patrick's

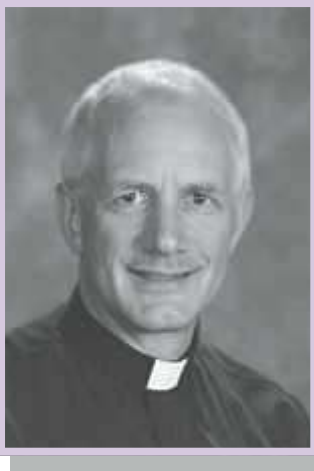
parents were no doubt the primary influences in his life as he grew up, but he also speaks with quiet admiration of Fr. Carr, a priest who ran a homeless shelter in Oshkosh, who, in Fr. Patrick's words, "taught me what it meant to be a priest and to see Christ in all people."

From the beginning, faith has been an important aspect of Fr. Patrick's life. He recalls having a "conversion of heart" as an 8th grader: "It was when I first started to realize my love for God, and to be more aware of His love for me." During high school he began thinking seriously about becoming a priest. A Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat and a trip to Indiana as a member of the National Catholic Youth Council led to talks with a vocations director. Conflicting emotions led him to college and the life he foresaw that included a wife, picket fence, a couple of kids and a dog. By the time he received his teaching degree in life sciences from St. Mary's in Winona, he had fallen in love. "The more I learned about the church and my faith, the more I fell in love." The call to be a priest had solidified and could no



longer be ignored. After college he enrolled in the Mundelein Seminary just north of Chicago. It was a perfect fit. Each day was an immersion in faith that was structured around and bolstered by prayer. A big part of the process was theology advanced by the late Pope John

*Continued on page 3*



## From the Pastor's Desk

The weather may be turning cold outside, but things are heating up at Saint Patrick Parish. The buzz is that if you are late arriving at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, you may have trouble finding a seat. WHAT A GREAT PROBLEM TO HAVE!!!

While a great deal of our attention this fall has been on starting our *Foundations for our Future Campaign*, we are also focusing on updating our Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Education Committee that is responsible for helping with the operation of our school. These three groups are in the process of reviewing and updating by-laws and adding some new members, or replacing members who have served out their terms.

We are also remembering, however, that our first priority is always the promotion of our faith. Thus we have added hours to Eucharistic Adoration, organized two different groups who will be traveling to our sister parish in Guatemala in the coming months. and are in the midst of planning trips our youth will take in the summer of 2013. We also need to

remember that this past October, at the instruction of Pope Benedict XVI, we began a Year of Faith that will run until November 2013. This Year of Faith is meant to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blessed Pope John Paul II presenting the Church with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

In writing about the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict stated that it is intended to “contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the Church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the world of today - capable of leading those many people who are seeking it.”

Thus it is appropriate that, as we begin this year of faith, we do as the Holy Father recommended, and, as a parish, we sponsor a parish mission. For our mission, I invited Fr. Patrick Martin. Fr. Patrick has preached over 1,200 missions in the past 33 years. He is truly in touch with God on fire with the Good News and has a tremendous love for people. As you probably saw for yourselves, he has a very special vision, a gift from God. During his mission talks, he pointed out how God’s love can be found in our broken lives. He attempts to deal with the giant question, “How can there be suffering in a world created and watched over by a loving God?”

Fr. Martin preached at all of the Masses on the weekend of December 8 and 9. He also offered Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Please continue to pray for Fr. Patrick, pray for all who are unsure of their faith, and pray for all those who fill the church week after week to hear the Word of God at Saint Patrick Parish. I love dealing with problems, especially when they relate to having many people in the church.

## Congratulations Sr. Bernadette Kalscheur

Our beloved Sr. Bernadette Kalscheur celebrated 75 years as a School Sister of Saint Francis this year. She was the Pastoral Minister here at Saint Patrick Parish from 1992 - 2009. Although her health does not allow her to correspond with us, she would love a card or a note from you!

Her address is: Sr. Bernadette Kalscheur, 526 Mill St., Campbellsport, WI 53010



*Sr. Bernadette is shown here with Sr. Arlene Welding (left) and Sr. Leanne Herda (right).*

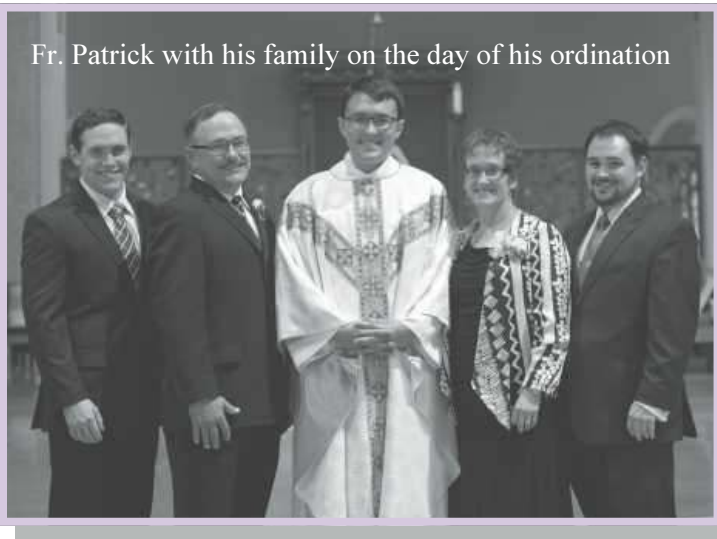


Saint Patrick Parish has successfully launched the Foundation for Our Future Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$2,500,000 over the next three years. For complete information about our capital campaign, please visit our parish website [www.stpatrickofhudson.org](http://www.stpatrickofhudson.org).

**SAINT PATRICK PARISH**  
HUDSON, WISCONSIN

Paul II called Personalism. The basic tenant of Personalism is the belief that a deeper understanding of self allows for a deeper understanding of Christ, and that a deeper understanding of Christ allows for a deeper understanding of self.

When he first arrived in Hudson, joy, energy, passion and youthful exuberance were words that instantly came to mind to describe Fr. Patrick. When asked his age, he laughs and says, "I'm 28, though the people at CCH will tell you I'm 16 and the Vacation Bible School kids will tell you I'm 45." In the months since his arrival, he has lost none of his "joie de vivre," and remains unabashedly passionate about spreading the Good News of God's love for us.



Fr. Patrick with his family on the day of his ordination

Stories of those he has welcomed into (or back to) the Church will undoubtedly follow Fr. Patrick throughout his priesthood, but none may be as good as what happened during his first month here. Fr. John was away for the weekend and after the 5:00 Saturday Mass, Fr. Patrick had locked the church when he realized he had inadvertently locked himself out of his car (the JC Cruiser). While trying to reach in through the partially opened window to unlock his car, he set off the car alarm. This prompted a neighbor to call the police to report "a man dressed all in black trying to break into a car in the Saint Patrick Parish parking lot." The first police officer arrived and quickly deduced that the JC Cruiser was indeed Fr. Patrick's car. Soon after, another police officer pulled up exclaiming that he wanted to see for himself the "ninja who was stealing cars in the Saint Patrick parking lot." During the ensuing conversation, Fr. Patrick, in his open and easy-going manner, learned that the second police officer hadn't been to Mass for awhile. He was promptly encouraged and invited to come back to the Church.

Through his actions, Fr. Patrick embodies the spirit of the New Evangelization, which calls upon Catholics to know Christ and then introduce Christ to their friends.

He sees this as a great foundation for the youth ministry program here. He enjoys talking with students and meets them frequently for lunch. On Tuesdays he can be found dining with the elementary students at Saint Patrick School, Wednesday is his lunch day at the high school, and Thursday's are his lunch days with the middle school students at Saint Patrick's.

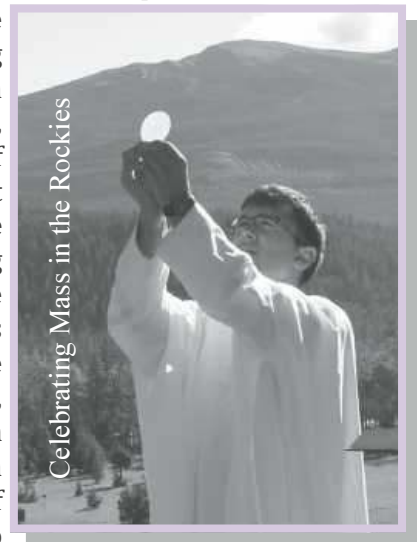
When asked about his favorite part of being a priest, he is quick to respond, "Mass and Reconciliation ... you bring peace to people's hearts when they come in."

As for his first assignment here at Saint Patrick's, he expressed his gratitude to Fr. John, whom he calls a great mentor, a humble leader and a patient guide. He also spoke of all he's learned from parishioners over the last few months: "They [parishioners] don't want a character; they want a priest. The priesthood is not about me; it's about being a priest of Christ to the people. Being a servant, a leader, a guide, a protector and a supporter for the spiritual life of the people." He went on to say, "Hudson is full of amazing people! They are just phenomenal: they're ingenious, they're creative, they're productive and they're very charitable. There's a strong desire to serve here!"

### **Work hard. Play hard and pray harder for him**

Lately, these have been his words to live by. With his boundless energy, it is hard to imagine Fr. Patrick having "down" time, but there is a quiet, reflective, and studious side to him, too. Reading works by G.K. Chesterton, Christopher West, John Paul II, Gerard Manly Hopkins, and John Donne relax and inspire him. Frequent trips into the wild, whether to camp, hike, hunt or fish, refresh and recharge him. He will be traveling to our sister parish in Guatemala next month, where he'll get plenty of opportunities to try out the Spanish skills he learned while dining with the maintenance crews at Mundelein. As he looks to the future, he sees himself as a busy, albeit happy, priest with many responsibilities in a diocese in need of priests. He will, no doubt, continue to live out the words of one of his favorite saints, St. Irenaeus of Lyon: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive."

*\*The survey from the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate was commissioned by the U.S. bishops' conference's Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. About 63% of the estimated 487 ordinands responded to the survey.*



Celebrating Mass in the Rockies

# Stanley Cup

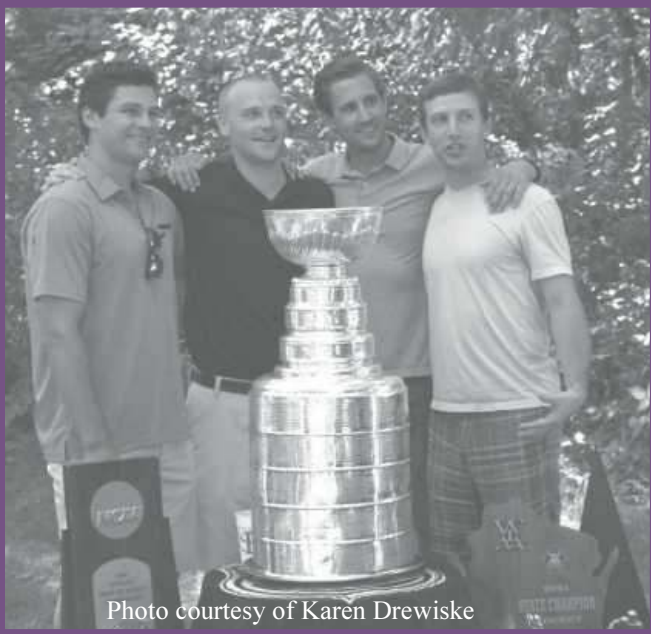


Photo courtesy of Karen Drewiske

This fall, Davis Drewiske, a member of the NHL Championship team, the LA Kings, brought the Stanley Cup to Hudson. He graciously shared it with our community and with some old friends. Pictured (l. to r.) are Davis Drewiske, Seth Thompson, Paul Neidermire and Scott Krueger. These young men forged their friendship while elementary students at Saint Patrick School. Below are their 8th grade photos from the 1999 yearbook. They reunited to congratulate and share in their good friend's success!

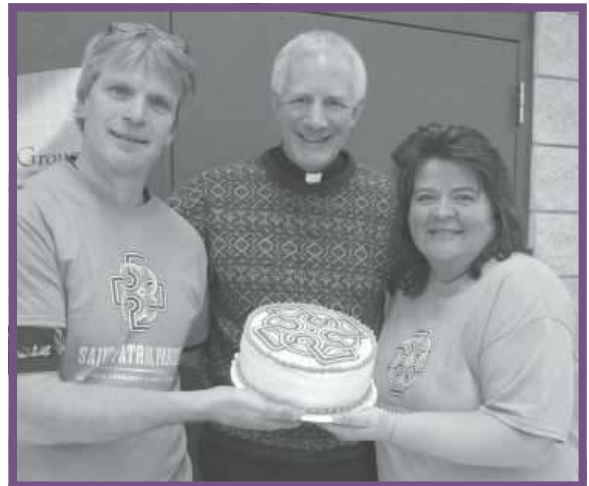


## FALL FESTIVAL RE-CAP

A huge thank you to everyone who graciously gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make our 2012 Fall Festival such a rousing success! Not only did we raise a record \$39,182.03, but as Fr. John wrote, it was one of those events we will be talking about for some time, and people will ask "Were you there when it all took place?"

Thank you to the organizers of the Fall Festival, Roger and Sheila Pelzel. They outdid themselves as the co-chairs of this event for the second year in a row. With the help of a talented team of committee chairs, they planned, coordinated, delegated, and brought together an army of volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who, either by your help, your donations, or your presence, helped make this event a great time for all!



Saint Patrick School  
Students, Teachers and Staff  
Fall 2012



Don't miss out on the latest alumni news. Sign up today at [www.stpatrickofhudson.org](http://www.stpatrickofhudson.org)

### We're now on Facebook!

It's a great place for family, friends and alumni to see what's new at Saint Patrick School!



# Our Sister Parish

Two amazing nuns forged the bond between Saint Patrick of Hudson and San Jose of Yalpemech, Guatemala. Sister Bernadette Kalscheur and Sister Joannes Klas have many similarities: both are long-time members of the School Sisters of Saint Francis (SSSF), both have a zest for life, an indefatigable amount of energy, and a resolute spirit, and both have traveled extensively in the United States as well as abroad to help those in need.\*

Sr. Joannes began working with the people of Yalpemech in 1982 while they lived in a refugee camp in Honduras awaiting repatriation to Guatemala. In 1991 they left the refugee camp and made the arduous trip to their new home in Guatemala, San Jose el Tesoro in Yalpemech. In the intervening years, she has helped to establish a strong, vibrant community there.

In 1998 Sr. Bernadette came to Yalpemech to visit Sr. Johannes; while there she initiated the bond between our two communities that exists to this day.

**This year TWO groups of Saint Patrick parishioners will visit Yalpemech.**



The first group comprised of (pictured, l. to r.) Tom Kroll, Fr. Patrick, Isaac Young, Megan Schmidknecht, Cita Regan, Shawn Schmidknecht, and Claire Zajac will be there in January.



The second group, which will visit Yalpemech in March, includes, (pictured l. to r.) Tric Pieper, Jolene Daulton, Maria, Rick, Lynn, and Chad Huebsch (not pictured: Molly Putzier, McKenna Daulton).

Please pray for them and the work they will do as our representatives. May they be blessed as they continue to strengthen the bonds between our two parishes.

\*These two amazing, incredible women, have truly lived the Gospel message to care for those in need. Pages could be filled with stories of how they have given of themselves to help others. Following are two brief examples of how these quiet, humble, women have been recognized for their extraordinary lives.

Sr. Bernadette, PhD., was elected by her peers as the VP of personnel for the SSSF in 1976. As VP she traveled extensively, during her four-year term to SSSF missions in Europe, Central America, and India.



In 1997 Sr. Joannes traveled to Geneva to address the United Nations and receive, from U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, the Nansen Award which is given for outstanding work with refugees. She used her prize money to build the church, convent, and a medical clinic in Yalpemech.

For more information about these women, please visit our website [www.stpatrickofhudson.org](http://www.stpatrickofhudson.org).

Sr. Bernadette is featured in the first issue of the *Olive Branch*. Information about the work and life of Sr. Joannes may be found under the Sister Parish tab.

## Great Gift Ideas

Our new **COOKBOOKS** are available now!

We collected over 500 recipes for the new Saint Patrick cookbook— which is sure to be a keepsake! Copies are available for sale in the parish and school offices.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of you who have been shopping **SCRIP**. We're on track for record sales this Christmas season!

Business owners shopped **SCRIP** to buy client gifts, grandparents bought **SCRIP** to send to grandchildren, busy families bought **SCRIP** to take along as they did their Christmas shopping, family bakers stocked their pantries using **SCRIP**, and many bought **SCRIP** gas cards for their trips "over the river and through the woods"! Please stop by and see the wide array of **SCRIP** cards we have for sale.

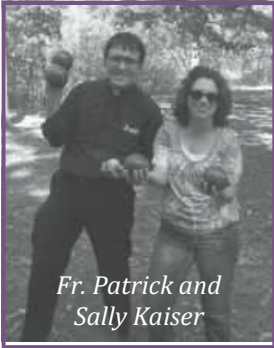
## Former Rectory Shines

This year there was a true gem in the Hudson Chamber of Commerce's annual Tour of Homes. Parishioners Jim and Kim Burns opened their beautifully appointed and decorated home for the tour. They also graciously invited parishioners for a private showing on the evening of November 18 after the official tour had ended. Kim Burns delighted and enlightened tour goers as she shared stories about the history of the house and the work that went into restoring it.

*Rectory Cont. on pg 6*

## S-Cubed Young Adult Group

Are you a young adult (21-40) looking to get involved in the life of our parish? Would you like to connect with other professionals, married couples, or parents of young children? Then consider joining S-Cubed. S-Cubed is our parish's young adult group. Our mission is to connect the young adults of our parish, whether married, engaged, or single, through service, spirit, and social events.



Fr. Patrick and  
Sally Kaiser

We were established in October 2010 and since then have hosted a monthly activity for the young adults of Saint Patrick parish and their families. We plan an event with its focus on service, spirit or social activities; these three "S" words make up S-Cubed.

Recent events included a service trip to Feed My Starving Children where we packaged 1000's of meals that were shipped to children in need. It was wonderful to be part of such a large scale effort to bring food to children across the world. Our annual fall picnic was held in September at Prospect Park and, as usual, was a lot of fun. Fr. Patrick is our Bocce Ball champion, winning two rounds with different partners. People brought food to share, and games to play; then we topped of the evening with s'mores. It was a great day. Besides these events we've also held picnics, worked with the Carmelite Sisters and had movie nights. Our goal is to offer a spiritual, service, or social event each month to the young adults of our parish. If you are a young adult (21-40) married, engaged, or single, check us out! We have a Facebook page, S-cubed, and you can also contact Sally Kaiser at [sally\\_kaiser@hotmail.com](mailto:sally_kaiser@hotmail.com). Come see what we are all about at our next event For details about the location, contact Sally.

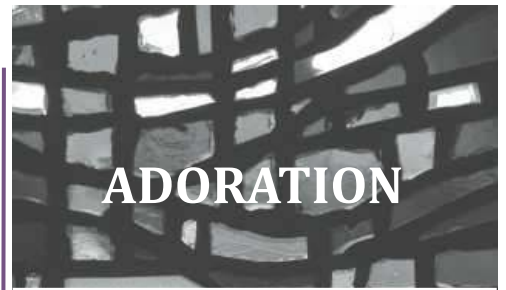
### Rectory Continued from page 5

Interesting facts included:

- ◆ The Rectory was built in 1875 by Sanders & Hannah, prominent builders in Hudson at that time



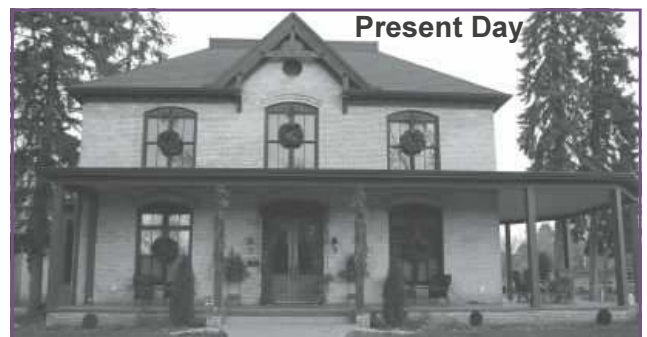
- ◆ Over 3000 guests from the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Home Tour and the Open House for Saint Patrick parishioners visited the house over the three - day period
- ◆ With the open house, approximately \$250 was raised for the Saint Patrick Charity Fund
- ◆ The Burns family began renovation in 2008, after three years of research and design work
- ◆ The renovation took over a year and consisted of razing the house to its shell due to a rotting foundation (dry rot & wet rot)



## ADORATION

Captains of industry make time for it, high-powered executives make time for it, retirees, students and stay at home moms make time for it ... the "it" is Eucharistic Adoration. Please prayerfully consider setting aside an hour of your week to simply "be" in the presence of our Lord. Regular attendees speak of the sense of calm, peace, and well-being that envelopes them as they spend their weekly hour of adoration. Hours for Eucharistic Adoration have been extended, and now run from 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. each week day (including all sacred and secular holidays). Please call coordinator Barbara Gagliardi at 715 386-7438 with any questions or sign up today on our parish website [www.stpatrickofhudson.org](http://www.stpatrickofhudson.org).

- ◆ Due to having the house razed, a complete renovation was necessary, including removing layer upon layer of renovation from years past
- ◆ Discovery of the original floors - Douglas Fir, 6-inch plank were replicated and stained to resemble linseed oil
- ◆ Historical photos showed a Civil War porch and windows that are replicated today
- ◆ Original to the rectory are the airlock, staircase and banister, sterling silver chandelier, telephone tables built into the walls, and the table and sideboard
- ◆ The Burns family stayed true to the original architecture while trying to build a house that would be comfortable and practical for a family today





# Saint Patrick Education Center News

## Saint Patrick School News from Principal, Mary Piasecki

Test scores prove it, the academic success of our graduates proves it, and as parents sit on folding chairs in a darkened gym on a cold December night to watch their children enact the true meaning of Christmas, it is proven yet again — we have a great school!

We are in the midst of the advent season. The students and staff of St. Patrick School have prepared for and performed Christmas programs that proclaimed the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus Christ is born! Our 4K, 5K, and Grade 1 program, *Don't be Scared*, spoke to the shepherd in all of us, who see God's goodness, but are afraid. The second, third, and fourth graders' performance, *Christmas Hang-ups*, reminded us that Christmas is not about the tinsel, ornaments, and presents but rather that God gave us the greatest gift of all! The Christmas programs will wrap up with *A Rockin' Royal Christmas* presented by the fifth and sixth graders on Thursday, December 20. Below are pictures from past programs and memories that seventh grade students shared about their time in the spotlight during the big fourth grade production.

Each month the students and staff concentrate on a character trait that will help us to live as disciples of Christ. Earlier this year we focused on setting goals, showing responsibility, and practicing good citizenship. During the month of December, we have been focusing on building relationships, which dovetails nicely with our Church's call to the New Evangelization in which we are called to know Christ and then introduce him to our friends. Our scripture verse we will build upon during December is from the second chapter of Philippians: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

*Please call us to arrange a tour to learn more about curriculum, athletics, extra-curricular activities, tuition, scholarships and financial aid. Consider giving your children the gift of Catholic education. Please call me, Principal, Mary Piasecki, at 715 386-3941. We welcome your inquiries.*



Have a great Advent!



My favorite memory of the 4th grade play was getting to learn the dances, singing and having fun with friends. —Natalie

**I thought I was going to die right before my solo, but I had so much fun.** — Grace

I remember I was going for my group solo and then I looked out in the crowd and my family was all smiling at me:-) — Lexi

It was so fun. I was nervous, but I had to play my part and I did my best — that was fun! —Dieter

I was so scared to speak my six-word line... Now that I think about it, I can't help laughing! The songs are still stuck in my head! — Dmitri





**SAINT PATRICK PARISH**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF HUDSON, WISCONSIN

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Thank you very much to Mr. Ron Gagnon for his generous donation to cover mailing costs for this newsletter.  
Thank you to Angie Kondrasuk for her excellent proofreading skills.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Communal Reconciliation:**

**Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 pm**

**Individual Reconciliation:**

**Saturday, December 22, 10—11:00 am & 3—4:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Vigil:**

**Monday, December 24, 3:30, 6:00 and 11:00 pm**

**Christmas Day Mass:**

**Tuesday, December 25, 8:00 and 10:00 am**

**Come home for Christmas.  
You are always welcome here.**

[www.stpatrickofhudson.org](http://www.stpatrickofhudson.org) Parish office: 715 381-5120



Photo courtesy of Kathy Beadle