



# LITTLE GIANTS BIG NEWS

October 2021 Edition

## Mission Statement

“The mission of Saint Patrick Catholic School is: That everyone in the Saint Patrick Catholic School community encounter Jesus, grow as His disciples, and witness to others through a Christ-centered academic environment.”

## Principal’s Note

### Saint Patrick School Fatima Procession

On Wednesday, October 13, the students, and staff of Saint Patrick School were blessed to process around the grounds with the “Traveling” Fatima Statue. Our seventh and eighth graders carried the statue while the Kindergarten through sixth grade processed behind reciting the Rosary. We ended our procession in the Peace Garden. God blessed us with a most beautiful Fall day.

Please know that our students are diligent in our prayers for the community around Saint Patrick School. Each day we pray for the sick in our community as well as the recently deceased members of our families and community. If you have a prayer request you would like for us to hold up to God for you, please fill out our prayer request form online and click submit. We’ll begin praying for your request immediately!

<https://forms.gle/5LViUPAzXjokLQck7>



## NOW HIRING

We are trying to build a strong sub list.

If you know anyone interested, please contact Carl Lenze at [principal@stpatrick.school](mailto:principal@stpatrick.school)

## COMMUNICATION

If you are not already added to the parents Facebook page (St. Pats Parents Group), please request access. Many quick communications come through this avenue.

If you are not receiving email updates, please contact Kelly Varcie at [varcie@stpatrick.school](mailto:varcie@stpatrick.school)

## COVID PROTOCOL:

Reminder to fill out the survey each morning before drop-off to help keep our kids safe!



## DID YOU KNOW?

October 4<sup>th</sup> was FEAST DAY ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Saint Francis of Assisi's Story

The patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi, was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor—so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (Luke 9:1-3).

Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no intention of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

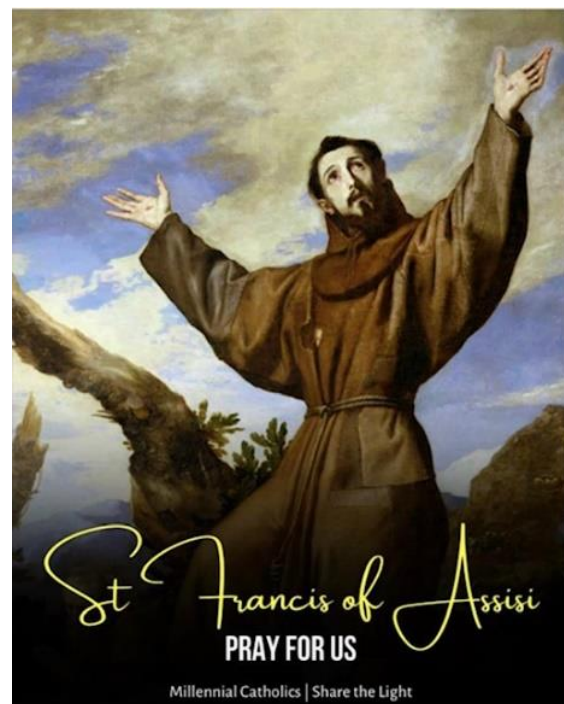
### Reflection

Francis of Assisi was poor only that he might be Christ-like. He recognized creation as another manifestation of the beauty of God. In 1979, he was named patron of ecology. He did great penance—apologizing to "Brother Body" later in life—that he might be totally disciplined for the will of God. Francis' poverty had a sister, Humility, by which he meant total dependence on the good God. But all this was, as it were, preliminary to the heart of his spirituality: living the gospel life, summed up in the charity of Jesus and perfectly expressed in the Eucharist.

Saint Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of:

Animals, Archaeologists, Ecology, Italy, Merchants, Messengers & Metal Workers

SOURCE <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-francis-of-assisi/>





## ***Auction Update***

For those not aware, each year our school hosts a large auction the first weekend in December. For the last few years, we bring in around \$70,000. Even last year with COVID shifting our plans a bit we were able to raise \$63,000. Our school relies on these funds to balance our schools operating budget, upgrade our technology and much more.

The night includes a social hour starting at 5pm with drinks and evening features such as the raffle, 50/50, and more. Then there is a silent auction lining the room with 200+ items. We have dinner and the live auction begins! This is the main event made up 30+ of our best items including the cherished class projects. Overall, the auction is a fun night and you get a full appreciation for the great community backing our school. This is a kid-free event so book your babysitters now, get your friends and family and put in on your calendar!

We largely rely on school families to help gather donations from local business, friends & family. Lastly, we are always in need of making a basket. Our committee works hard to pair donations to make a full item, but with over 200+ silent items, making the final touches can be challenging. If you are interested in helping please reach out to Julie Jones at (734)755-9178 or Hillary Lange at (906)281-0402. Our November meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm.



## ***CYO Athletics Update***

Our Fall CYO teams completed their seasons. Congratulations to our Volleyball, Soccer and Flag Football athletes on a successful campaign. The skill development in areas of athletic skill, sportsmanship and teamwork was apparent and driven by dedicated coaches, parents and volunteers.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball players competed in their final match as a Giant Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their careers include 2 league championships, 1 tournament championship and 1 tournament runner up in their five-year careers. Thank you to Adela Illes, Sophia Goins and Madison Boehm. We also appreciate the commitment of Zachary Vroman as he completed his final CYO Soccer season. We wish the four of you success with your future endeavors!

LAST CALL for basketball and cheer sign ups. We are still in need of coaches & athletes. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to Dave Illes at (734)731-0348.



## ***Harvest Hootenanny:***

Our first annual harvest hootenanny was a SUCCESS! Thank you to the PTO for covering the main dish for the potluck, Justin Roof for organizing the hayride and all others that supported the games/fire/setup/food!







## St. Patrick School Foundation

On Monday October 18<sup>th</sup> the SPS Foundation hosted a board meeting to discuss the financial status of the board and the overall school status. We are very proud of the strength of our school and our staff, our growing enrollment, and the financial position of the foundation. If you or someone that you know is interested in participating in our board meetings or even on the board of directors please let us know, the more the merrier!

This past month we were very pleased to issue a donation to the school for the value of \$3525 to support tuition assistance, as well as supporting our new teachers with some SPS swag. As 100% of all donations to the foundation are used to support the school, we have 1 single focus which is providing technology, supplies, and financial assistance to those who are a part of SPS.

## Upcoming School Happenings

- **Bottle Drive:** From now until December 1<sup>st</sup> ALL bottle returns will go to support our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class! Please consider supporting
- **Pizza Fridays:** Each Friday there is a pizza lunch fundraiser for PTO/8<sup>th</sup> grade for \$5. The lunch includes pizza, drink, fruit/veggie and dessert. Please get money to Kelly by that Thursday so she can place the order.
- **Parent Feedback:** Please be on the lookout for an anonymous parent feedback survey mid-November in your email.
- **All Saints day is November 1<sup>st</sup>:** Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite saint! It's always fun to see the different costumes!
- **Volunteer Hours:** Reminder that each family is required to complete 10 hours of service each year with 2 being auction related.
- **Newsletter Additions:** If you have anything you'd like added to the newsletter please reach out to Hillary Lange at (906) 281-0402

### PTO

Our PTO is always busy! This past month we gave our new teachers a GIANT welcome with St. Pat's spirit wear! (see photo to the right →) For the students, the PTO has been working hard to prepare the beloved annual Halloween carnival on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, happening during school hours. In addition, if your kids happen to forget their lunch, don't fret because PTO always has a stash on hand!

### SCRIP

Script is an easy fundraiser for our school. You can purchase gift cards to basically anywhere and there is a certain % they donate back. Of that percent 40% goes to the school and 60% toward your tuition.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Yvette Vroman at (734)790-1853

### TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Recent upgrades have been made to the classrooms thanks to a technology grant we received over the Summer. All the classrooms had their Promethean boards removed and replaced with 65" Samsung smart TVs. Also, the teachers got new computers and monitors. The new computers have wireless links to the TV to project and will soon have the ability to use tablets for students to display their work to the class. In other exciting news the School has also been awarded another technology grant for a robotics program. The class is in the planning phase as we wait for the grant money. We will be reaching out to interested students soon. Stay tuned!



**Service Project:** Our November service project will be collecting pull tabs from pop cans. Please send all collections with your students for the classroom competition