

## St. Stephen School – Port Huron, Mich.



St. Stephen School, Port Huron, Mich., opened in 1880 for grades one through eight. The high school opened in 1888.

Nine IHM Sisters began staffing the school in 1895. The convent chronicler reports school opened "with a full attendance of students," 326 in grade school and 10 in high school.

Enrollment climbed steadily in the early years of the new century, so much so that the parish built a new school in 1926 for the 600 students. The local newspapers lauded it as "the most modern school building in the city and one of the most modern in existence." The chronicler concurred. "All the newspaper reports were not exaggerated. It is...the most complete school in which our community works."



In spite of the Great Depression, students were able to raise money for the school and parish through paper sales, candy sales and raffles. One year, they had no prom because of the economy, but extracurricular activities flourished. Students formed a golf team, which complemented the football, baseball and basketball teams already in existence. They also enjoyed participating in the drama, garden and shorthand clubs.

During World War II, St. Stephen students worked diligently. They collected scrap metal for the war effort and even volunteered after school and on Saturdays to harvest the local sugar beets at the government's request.

As enrollment continued to climb, a gym and addition to the school were built. Both opened in 1950.

By 1960, our Featured Class Year, 908 students attended St. Stephen, 448 of them in high school. Monsignor Edward McCormick, who had been pastor at St. Stephen since 1925, died in January. Senior "quiz kids" won \$150 worth of library books in competition on WWJ-TV's weekly *Quiz 'Em on the Air* program. The boys' basketball team earned a district championship. The 103 members of the senior class graduated on June 12, at 4 p.m. in the church.



Port Huron Catholic High School opened in September 1961 with ninth-graders from eight parishes in the area. The plan was to add one additional grade each year, which gradually phased out St. Stephen High School. Its last graduation was in 1964. St. Stephen Elementary School and the church moved to Port Huron Township. The old parish buildings, including the church schools, were sold to Port Huron Junior College (now called St. Clair County Community College).

Port Huron Catholic High School closed at the end of the 1970-71 school year, the victim of Proposal C, which would have provided funding to parochial schools. St. Stephen Elementary School closed in 1972.

*The St. Stephen Class of 1960 will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in July. Find out [more](#).*

## In 1960



Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Madagascar and Zaire (Belgian Congo) gained independence.

American U-2 spy plane, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, was shot down over Russia.



The Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup in a clean sweep against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Both the World Series and NBA Championship went the full seven games, with the Pittsburgh Pirates beating the New York Yankees in the World Series, and the Boston Celtics defeating the St. Louis Hawks.

John Coltrane formed his own quartet and became the voice of jazz's New Wave movement.

Emmy Awards went to Robert Stack for Outstanding Performance By an Actor in a Series (*The Untouchables*); Jane Wyatt for Outstanding Performance By an Actress in a Series (*Father Knows Best*); and Rod Serling for Outstanding Writing Achievement in Drama (*Twilight Zone*).



Emily Post and Clark Gable died.