



# Alumni Newsletter



With the hallways bustling with students and the school year in full swing, we thought there is no better time to check in with our Alumni and share some of the excitement! In this newsletter, you will find highlights from recent events, as well as a look at what’s to come!

## Very Merry Christmas Countdown Raffle

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 \$50	2 \$50
3 \$100	4 \$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$250	9 \$50
10 \$100	11 \$50	12 \$50	13 \$50	14 \$50	15 \$50	16 \$50
17 \$100	18 \$50	19 \$50	20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50	23 \$50
24 \$250	25 \$500	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50	29 \$50	30 \$50
31 HAPPY New Year's \$250						

Each day in December, we will have a raffle drawing for a predetermined monetary prize! *31 days means 31 prizes and multiple chances to win!* All tickets will remain in the drawing through December 31, 2023.

All winners will be announced daily at 4 p.m. on our social media accounts. Make sure you are following us on Instagram (@sjb\_dhs) and Facebook for these special announcements!

**All winners will also be notified via email on January 4, 2024 with details regarding our Prize Pick-Up Day on January 9, 2024.**

The last day to purchase tickets is Friday, December 15, 2023.

Click here to register!



# 2023 Honoree Night of Celebration



On Friday, November 3rd, St. John the Baptist hosted our 2023 Honoree Night of Celebration. In this joint celebration, we recognized individuals who were awarded Hall of Fame, Athletic Hall of Fame, and Women of Hope honors. The evening consisted of an awards ceremony and cocktail reception.

See below for a list of our honorees.

## *Hall of Fame*

Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center  
Good Samaritan University Hospital  
Lessing's Hospitality Group

## *Women of Hope*

Jennifer Brenner  
Cindy Sharpe

## *Athletic Hall of Fame*

Buddy Corr  
Jasmine Johnson  
Beth Kitson Keagins  
John P. Madden  
Kristine O'Brien  
Logan O'Hoppe

*Click here to watch our Honoree Video!*

## Did you know...?

**Students in our Civil Engineering and Architecture classes were invited to the construction site in progress at Good Samaritan University Hospital. Students received a guided tour through the work site and learned about the workflow of this multilevel expansion.**





**On Thursday, September 21st, SJB hosted our 2023 Golf Classic at Bethpage State Park Golf Course. It was a beautiful day and successful event. Thank you to our sponsors, committee, and all who supported SJB through this event!**



**On Thursday, November 10th, members of the SJB community gathered for our Salute to Service Ceremony, recognizing those who have served and continue to serve our country, in honor of Veterans' Day. The ceremony featured a Blessing of the Flags by our School Chaplain, Fr. Dave, and a special tribute by members of the West Islip American Legion Post 1738.**



**Click here to  
watch our 2023  
Salute to Service  
Ceremony.**



# Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!



**COUGAR CLUB**



## Goods & Services Auction



Adults Only (21 & Over)

**Friday, December 1, 2023**  
**7:00-10:00 pm in the SJB Cougar Cafe**

**Admission: \$25 per person**

Includes beer/wine/soda, hors d'oeuvres/wraps/hotdogs, & desserts

### **ITEMS TO BID ON:**

**BID**

**\*Vacation Spots**

**\*Sports Camps**

**\*Theme Baskets  
& more!**

**\*Restaurants**



**Any Questions? Please call the Athletics Office**

## St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School Performing Arts Department

# Christmas Concert

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Ann Frances Dunne  
Auditorium**





*All are welcome to join us for*  
**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 24, 2023  
4:00 P.M.**

**ANN FRANCES DUNNE AUDITORIUM  
AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DHS**

**1170 MONTAUK HWY  
WEST ISLIP, NY 11795**



**SJB**

**2023**

**SJB CLASS OF 2023**

*Welcome Back*

**PIZZA PARTY**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH | 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI INVITES YOU TO COME RECONNECT  
WITH YOUR SJB FAMILY!**

**PLEASE RSVP BY COMPLETING THE GOOGLE FORM BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**





# SJB Students Volunteer with FeedingNYC



On Tuesday, November 21st, a number of SJB students volunteered with FeedingNYC to package ingredients for Thanksgiving meals that were distributed to shelters throughout the metropolitan area. Fun Fact! FeedingNYC was founded in 2001 by SJB alumnus, Rob LoCascio!





# Community Spotlight

Since opening its doors in 1966, a vital part of the spiritual fabric of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School has been the presence of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville. Today, SJB continues to be blessed by five vibrant individuals from this religious community who enrich the daily experience of students, faculty, and staff alike. Each one has left an indelible mark on the institution through her embrace of the Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community, and service.

## Sister Marie Happ, OP

Sr. Marie, the longest-tenured faculty member, has been witness to many changes at SJB since she first set foot in the building as a biology teacher in 1972. Upon completion of her Master's Degree in Biology in 1976, she became qualified to teach an advanced level Biology course which allows students to earn college credits through St. John's University. It is a class that she still enjoys teaching to this day. Sr. Marie served as the science department chairperson until 2020 and then shifted her attention to moderating the newly launched WeCare partnership with Good Samaritan Hospital. This program provides students the opportunity to shadow healthcare professionals in different departments at the hospital. Through Sr. Marie's effort, the program has grown in size each year.





## *Community Spotlight continued*



Sister Kathleen Gallina, OP

Sister Kathleen came to SJB in 2019 following a distinguished career as the principal at St. Rose of Lima Elementary School. She gravitated to SJB because of its Dominican roots as well as the chance to work alongside the other Dominican sisters who are part of the community. Because of her vast experience as a school administrator, it was a logical choice to utilize Sr. Kathleen's talents in the principal's office to assist with the day to day operations of SJB. This provides her with the opportunity to interact with both students and faculty whether it's working with the academic departments, organizing events, or supervising classes.



Sister Antoinette DeAveiro, OP

Sister Antoinette lives by the credo, "If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life." This has been her experience since she began ministering at SJB in 2020. While she is involved in a myriad of tasks on a daily basis, she relishes the interactions that she has with students because it affords her the opportunity to gain insight into what she describes as "the delights and challenges in their lives." Sr. Antoinette has been impressed by the character of the young men and women who make up the SJB student body, something which gives her hope for the future.



## *Community Spotlight continued*



Sister Patricia Hanvey, OP

Sister Patricia started her ministry at SJB in 2019. She found the prospect of working in a high school both exciting and challenging after spending her previous 50 years in education on the elementary level. Throughout her time at SJB, Sr. Patricia has assumed a number of responsibilities including assisting in the alumni office, main office, and the library. Regardless of where she is assigned, Sr. Patricia's objective is to always respond to the needs of the school community which she does with a smile. During her time at SJB, Sister Patricia has come into contact with many SJB students and seen firsthand the school's mission to "educate young people of diverse abilities and backgrounds in an environment of mutual respect and compassion."



Sister Elizabeth McGarvey, OP, LCSW

Sister Beth came to SJB in 2013 to serve as the school's social worker having just finished six years as part of the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Dominic in Amityville. Although somewhat overwhelmed by the specter of learning the names and faces of the populous student body, she quickly established herself as a resource for students in need and created a welcoming environment for all who came in contact with her. She is a firm believer that a community of faith can meet the challenges life brings, no matter how overwhelming these obstacles may seem. Sr. Beth continues to be committed to extending the Dominican mission of preaching the Gospel and building relationships throughout the halls of SJB.



# Career Day Update

Check your emails!



Official dates for SJB's Career Year campaign have been set! If you had filled out the interest form, you should have received an email with your assigned day.

*If you did not receive an email, please contact Jessica at [communications@sjbdhs.com](mailto:communications@sjbdhs.com).*

We look forward to working with you and creating an interactive and informative experience for our students.

## Alumni Spotlight



JOHN AND  
CHRIS IN  
FALL OF  
1973 AT  
ALBANY

## CONGRATULATIONS!

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, JOHN KOCH  
(CLASS OF 1970) AND CHRIS BURNS (CLASS OF 1973)  
WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

JOHN AND CHRIS WILL BE JOINED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THEIR 1973 CROSS COUNTRY TEAM WHO PLACED SECOND  
AT THE DIVISION 3 NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.



# Alumni Reunions

*Celebrate good times!*



**To close out the Summer, the Class of 1973 celebrated 50 Years, and the Class of 1983 celebrated 40 years (pictured above)!**

Are you looking to coordinate your next class reunion?! Whether you'll be celebrating 10 years or 30+ years of Cougar Pride, we're here to help! Some tips to get you started:

\*Keep us in the loop! Contact our Alumni Coordinator (Ms. Jessica Vespa) at [alumni@sjbdhs.org](mailto:alumni@sjbdhs.org) or 631-587-8000 x 162

\*Create a Facebook Page for your class (if you don't have one already) and garner interest from former classmates who may be interested in participating in your reunion committee.