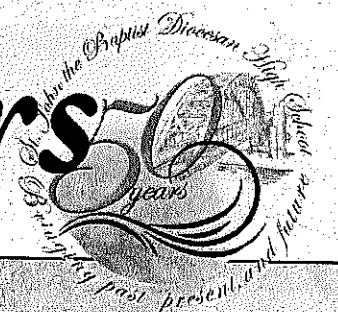


# ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL Celebrating 50 Years



by Carolyn James

The Gospels describe St. John the Baptist as a man sent from God. He described himself as a "voice crying in the wilderness."

Centuries later, he is thought of as both.

In the spirit of its namesake, St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip has helped bring young people and their families to Jesus in a world often unprepared for his message of love, forgiveness and hope.

Now, the teachers, staff, administrators and families that make up St. John the Baptist in West Islip are coming together to recognize a school milestone—it's 50th anniversary.

Already the 50th anniversary has been recognized at the school's homecoming and it's Hall of Fame induction ceremony, but it will cap off with An Evening of Red & White on Nov. 19. Friends and families of St. John's are invited to attend from 6 to 10 p.m.; for more information, call 631-587-8000, ext. 177, or visit the school's website: [www.stjohnthebaptists.net](http://www.stjohnthebaptists.net).

"For many people, their story started here at St. John's," said Nan M. Doherty, principal. "There are many stories of couples who met here and whose children have gone here or who have become teachers. Students and parents have developed lifelong friendships so their experiences go well beyond just their four years in high school."

The Eickelberg family of Amityville is one of those families whose lives are intertwined with St. John's. Bob Eickelberg is a 1977 graduate, his brother was among



the second graduating class and his children all attended the school. His wife Julie is also a teacher there.

"I made many friends there and we still keep in touch," said Bob.

"I just love the atmosphere, which is conducive to learning," said Julie, who teaches biology, human anatomy and physiology at the school. "The academics are strong, but there is also a wonderful spiritual component there that helps mold the whole person."

Diane Mannix of Amityville agreed. She and her husband sent their three children to St. John's.

"Not only have my children made lifelong friends, but we have also made friends with many of the parents," said Diane. "It has provided our children with a strong Catholic education and a solid moral footing."

Part of that was developed by the Mission trips that her children took while in the school, she said—trips that expanded their horizons and helped them develop compassion and understanding.

"I think that the school, and especially the trips, help instill a lot of morality," said Breanne Mannix, a graduate who attended Villanova and is studying civil engineering.

"We had our share of distractions, like the incredible lock-step precision performance of our Varsity Cheerleaders," quipped Robert Barrett, a student at St. John's from 1972 until 1976. "But St. John's provides the perfect blend of

academia and spirituality; I would describe St. John's as the 'No Sin Zone'."

And there was and still is lots of fun for students, said Barrett, who said he thinks the S.C.P.D.'s Third Precinct is still trying to figure out how the full-sized bust of Joe DiMaggio, taken from the now defunct Bowery Savings Bank, got on to the football field. "I also have reliable sources that confirmed that a Volkswagen Beetle once traversed the first floor of the school," he said.

Two couples, Brian Maher and his wife Barbara of West Islip and Michael Quinn and his wife Jean met at St. John's. And their lives have intersected with their alma mater over decades. Brian Maher, whose son is a teacher and chair of the English Department at the school, is on the school's development board and was involved in the work of bringing forward the new library.

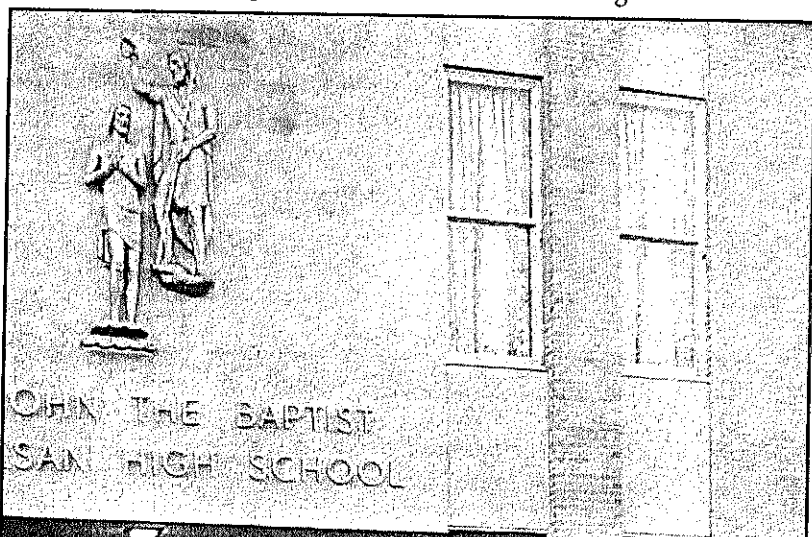
Michael Quinn meets with former classmates three or four times a year and is a member of two separate writing clubs—the genesis of which began in St. John's where his love of writing was nurtured.

"I have the most cherished memories with so many friends I met and kept in touch with from high school," he said.

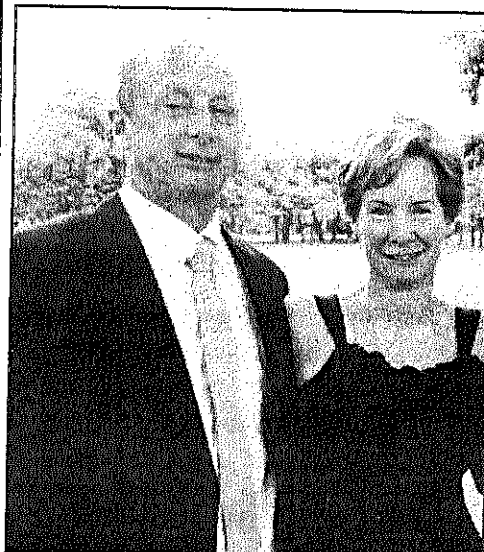
"I think the school remains committed to its original mission, which was to provide a Catholic education to anyone who wanted it," said Brian Maher. "That has remained over the years, even as many children who are not Catholic took advantage of the education there."

The remarkable thing, he says, is that it has endured many changes, tough economic times and other challenges, "and is now celebrating 50 years."

At the Red Carpet Event, the school will officially unveil its new \$2.4 million + library. The library will host the cocktail party and an interactive memory lane project will be presented in the gymnasium where students and former students and staff can meet with their former colleagues and classmates. "It will be a trip down memory lane," said Doherty.



Dedication of high school, 1966



Above, Robert Barrett of Massapequa in high school photo. At left Bob, and Julie Eickelberg in recent photo.

# ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL Over the Years

**1966:** On Sept. 8, St. John the Baptist H.S. opens its doors to more than 600 freshmen. On Nov. 13, Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg dedicated the school assisted by Rev. Robert Mulligan, founding principal.

The concept for the school surfaced within the community and became a reality after volunteers went door to door helping to raise money and support for the project.

**1967:** Rev. Edward Tarrant is appointed chaplain and the Dominican Sisters begin to revise their dress, wearing what The Prophet described as "modern revolutionary" veils.

**1968:** Lawrence Jordan, athletic director, is appointed dean of discipline. The first pep rally is held in the gym on Sept. 20, prior to the football game against Mercy High School.

**1969:** Tuition is raised to \$350 a year. And 192 students from the junior class contract food poisoning on a trip to Washington D.C., quickly recovering to attend their Charter Class ring ceremony on April 27.

**1970:** Patricia Sears reigns as the first homecoming queen and the cross country and varsity football teams won league championships.

**1971:** Health education becomes a mandatory course.

**1975:** Sister Mary Louise Harden is the first Josephite Sister to join the faculty. The varsity wrestling team wins the league championship.

**1976:** The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance is held at the Narragansett Inn, Lindenhurst. The boys' varsity soccer and lacrosse teams win league championships.

**1977:** The school newspaper, The Prophet, won seven awards at the Long Island Catholic High School Journalism Award ceremony.

**1979:** The sophomore class sponsors a Sadie Hawkins dance and Latin is added to the curriculum. The boy's tennis team achieves a milestone, winning its 10th consecutive league title.

**1981:** An equestrian club is formed and the girls' varsity basketball team finishes in first place.

**1982:** The forensic team places first in the Hofstra University Speech Tournament and the varsity football team wins its third Metro Bowl Championship.

**1984:** Hurricane Gloria wallops Long Island and the school is closed from Sept. 27 until Oct. 3.

**1986:** Succeeding her mentor and friend Father Mulligan, S. Bernadette Donovan OP is named the school's second principal.

**1990:** St. John's earns the prestigious Middle States Accreditation.

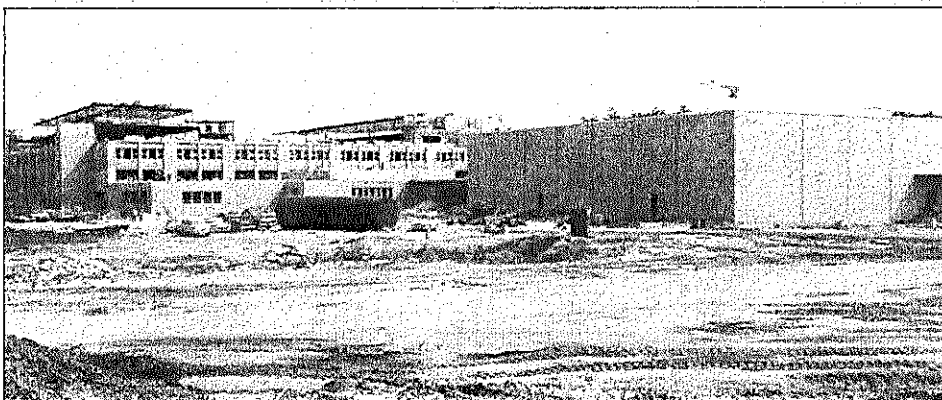
**1992:** The premier broadcast of the student-run radio station WRSJ is aired.

**1995:** The school Chapel is refurbished.

**1996:** The school goes online with the first Internet stations in a new computer research center in the library.

**2015:** The school begins construction on a new multi-million-dollar library and technology center.

**2016:** The school celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



## Community Presbyterian Church traditional Scottish service November 27

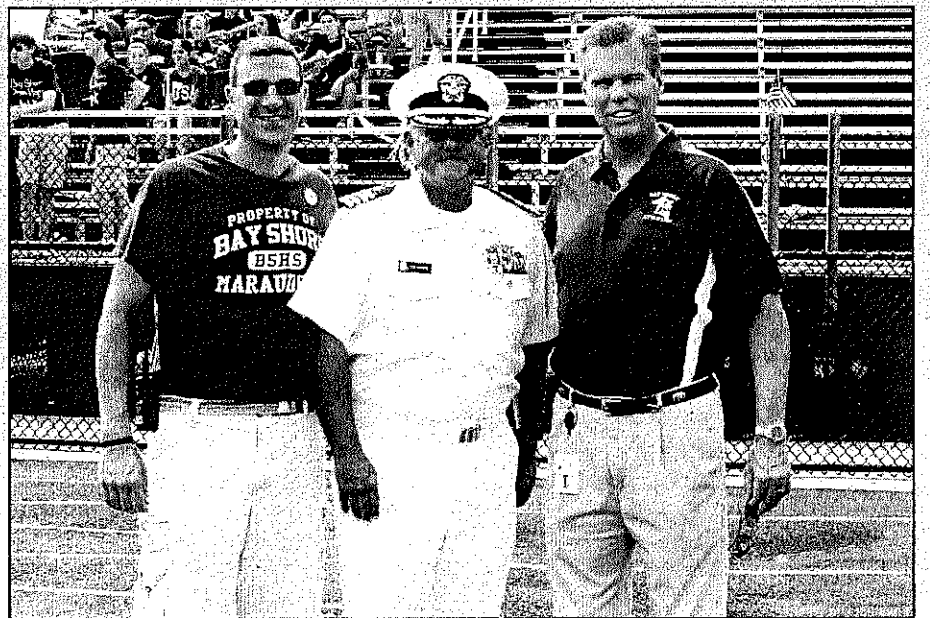
The Community Presbyterian Church of Deer Park will be celebrating a traditional Scottish service, The Kirkin' (blessing) O' The Tartans, on Sun., Nov. 27 (St. Andrews Day), 10 a.m. at the church, 1843 Deer Park Ave., Deer Park.

All are welcome to come and receive a blessing. For information, go to All4God.org or call 631-242-0221.

## U.S. Navy veteran joins Bay Shore Varsity Football team first home game

On Sat., Sept. 10, 2016, the Bay Shore Varsity Football team hosted its first home game. Prior to the game, the Bay Shore players were joined by their opponents from Lindenhurst in marking the 15th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Town of Islip Councilman

John Cochrane, a Bay Shore alumnus and U.S. Navy veteran, served as the honorary game captain. He led the Bay Shore captains to the mid-field coin toss, after which a moment of silence was observed for the victims of September 11th.



Bay Shore High School Principal Rob Pashkin, Town of Islip Councilman John Cochrane and Bay Shore Schools Superintendent Joseph Bond

## Narconon training available

Narconon reminds families that abuse of heroin and opiod drugs has become a national health crisis. Learn to recognize the signs of heroin abuse and get your loved ones help if they are at risk.

Visit [www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/naloxone-availability.html](http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/naloxone-availability.html) to learn about the overdose reversing drug known as naloxone and find out its availability in your state.

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals 1-800-431-1754.

## What is the Asian Longhorned Beetle Reforestation Project?

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CC-NC) was awarded funds by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Forest Service to restore trees in communities affected by the ALB. By replanting FREE trees, we are able to restore the tree canopy cover that has been lost from this invasive beetle.

Our partners include the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, US Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets and the Town of Babylon. We aim to revitalize and improve the health of Long Island's urban and community forests.

Contact us at 516-565-5265 ext. 15 or by sending an email to [ALBReplanting@cornell.edu](mailto:ALBReplanting@cornell.edu) to find out if you are eligible for FREE trees or to schedule an appointment.