

Thank You Donors!

Listed below are the people who contributed to St. John's Alumni Organization.

Father Ed Donor (\$1000)

Baran Funeral Home

Gold Donors (\$250 - \$999)

Paul & Mary Jo Curosh

David Dabertin, Attorney

Thomas Dabertin, Shared
Resource Solutions

Carole Mareta

Tom & Mary Beth Markovich
Region Signs

Carol Vargo, St. John Panel Room

Blue Donors (\$100—\$249)

American Family Insurance,
Jim Kozak

Mary Jane Adam

Joseph and Allison Burns

Charlene & Joseph Curosh
FCSLA BR. 81

Florence Hovanec

Hammond Port Authority

Donald & Louise Kaminsky

Vitas & Linda Kazragys

Fairmeadows Home Health,

George Kucka

Dolores McCampbell

Deacon Joseph Manchak

Tom & Diane Puplava

Patrons (\$1—\$99)

Mary Ann Bibat

Matt Chico

Tom Demkovich

Mark Dominiak

Elaine Doerr Fechalos

Linda Gajewski

Florence Gazda

David Gulvas

Linda Kalwinski

Ann Kaminsky

Carole Lahey

Judge Pat Kolina Likens

Carol Lukasik

Bernadette Miner

James & Joan Peters

Becky Puplava

Matthew Saliga

Melissa Shebish

Joseph Shimala

Candi Stapleton-Gard

Henry & Paula Timko

Margaret Troksa

Judy Vhrin

Bernie & Doris Weber

FOREVER BLUE AND GOLD

December 2008

Saint John Family

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from Fr. John Kalicky, CPPS- Pastor '48

Dear Alumni,

When a vision becomes a reality it creates renewed energy and genuine excitement! This is now happening since the years-long vision of a Saint John the Baptist Catholic School Alumni Association became an exciting and energized reality! Special thanks to Mr. Tom Puplava and the dynamic and hard working committee, the "Forever Blue and Gold" Alumni Association is born and developing with each day!

Saint John the Baptist School has been and will continue to be a vital ministry of the Parish. Vital because our children are a precious gift that their parents have entrusted to us to assist them fulfill their serious obligation of raising their children in the Catholic Faith and its traditions. It is our privilege to help form them as they make their journey toward well informed and active members of the church and our society.

We are proud that our school offers a first class education based on God-given principles and values. Principles and values as badly needed today as water to a once fertile land inflicted by draught.

How painful to watch the closings of many Catholic Schools no matter what the reason. Catholic education is a necessary component to a vital Church and solidly structured society.

Our hope is that this newsletter will be the first of many future mailings for its purpose is to provide a communication bridge between the School and its alumni. Thank you for your interest, enthusiasm and prayerful support!

Cheers for Saint John the Baptist School! Cheers for the members of the "Forever Blue and Gold" Alumni Association!

Blessings!
Fr. John

This Issue:

- Message from Fr. Kalicky—Page 1
- What is Forever Blue and Gold? page 1
- Forever Blue and Gold Donors
- All School Reunion—Page 2
- Tunnel Dedication—Page 2
- Alumni Spotlight—Page 2
- Mr. Topp—Principal- Page 3
- Panel Room Information—Back Page

Forever Blue and Gold

Hello Fellow St. John the Baptist Alumni,

Approximately two years ago a group of St. John graduates gathered to form an alumni association for St. John the Baptist School. The association identified its primary mission was to: **"assure the legacy of St. John the Baptist School lives forever"**. This mission statement spawned name of the organization: **Forever Blue and Gold-St. John Family**.

This first alumni newsletter that is being sent to over one thousand graduates is the next important step in communicating with our alumni. In this letter we reminisce while we share some of the activities and projects that we have accomplished. We hope that this newsletter will become a regular item that will focus upon the success and lives of our alums. We also hope to share the good things that are taking place right now at St. John School. As the holiday season fast approaches, we pray that you experience the Peace and Joy of Jesus' Love in your family.

Tom Puplava '58



Dave Gulvas '73, Tom Markovich '66, and Tom Puplava '58 secure the Alumni sign for the Reunion.



Kathy (Vida) Kutcka '58 & her husband, share memories of SJS at the first All School Reunion

First All School Reunion –August 23, 2008

The first ever St. John School All Class Reunion took place on August 23, 2008. It turned out to be a successful attempt to bring alums and friends of St. John School back to renew friendships and memories. As the alumni team prepared for the event, the group aimed to accommodate 200 people.



Fr. Gary Scherer, Deacon Manchak '53 and Kathy (Kosior) Tallman '62, enjoy themselves while waiting for their pig dinner.

One can imagine the surprise and delight of the team as well over 500 people attended the reunion which was held under three gigantic tents in front of the church and the school. The attendees represented 9 decades of graduates!! The day started with a golf outing at Lost Marsh Golf course, formerly known as Barstow Slag Hill. The afternoon featured tours of the school lead by St. John eighth graders and a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father John Kalicky, Monsignor Joseph Semancik, Father Al Spilly, and Father Gerry Stack all sons of the parish and St. John School grads. Members of the class of 1958 were also present to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary.

After Mass a gigantic “block party” took place on Lincoln Ave. that included a pig roast, refreshments, a DJ and dancing in the street. A special highlight of the day was the dedication of the “Alumni Tunnel”. When the last happy visitor went home around midnight, the alumni planning team rejoiced in the tremendous success of the reunion--- and thanked God!



Let the good times roll with members of the class of 1969.

St. John's Signature Room The Panel Room

Do you remember working as a waitress or in the kitchen for The St. John Panel Room? Remember how tasty the chicken, green beans and homemade bread were?

Well, you can relive those memories at your next party in the St. John Panel Room. You can have us cook for you, or you can rent the room and bring your own food. The Panel Room seats parties ranging from 225-250.

Contact Carol Vargo '69 at 219-659-3041, she can assist you in all your party needs!

Officially dedicating the Alumni Tunnel, Pastor, Fr. John Kalicky, CPPS, '48 pulls away the curtain and blesses the tunnel.



Tunnel Dedication

Many years ago, when St. John School was planned, the hope was to create a facility that would serve this community well into the future. It was designed with many unique features. One of the most unique and functional features was an underground tunnel, which would allow the students to have access to the church in inclement weather. Little did the planners know that the tunnel would be the source of outstanding memories for the thousands of students of St. John School who have walked through it!

Over the past 2 years, St. John's Alumni Association—Forever Blue and Gold—has been reaching out to graduates of St. John School to help them reestablish a connection with their beloved Alma Mater. As

they reminisced about their years at St. John's, many, many alumni remember the tunnel as one of their most outstanding memories!

It is only fitting, therefore, that our tunnel takes on a new purpose. From today forward, this tunnel will be known as the **St. John School Alumni Tunnel**. Alumni, students, friends and supporters of our school will have an opportunity to “make their mark” on the tunnel walls, today and in the future. These marks will serve as a strong reminder of the impact that St. John School has had in countless lives, as well as the promise of our alumni to support our school now and in the years to come.

We ask God, our Heavenly Father to bless this tunnel and those who have used it in the past as well as those who will use it in the future. May it remind us of not only fond memories of childhood, but may it also serve as a powerful reminder of our Journey of Faith. For it is through this very tunnel that thousands of children have traveled through the years, to worship God at Mass and to receive His Son, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. May this tunnel and the St. John the Baptist Community continue to provide children a safe, strong and true path to the Father.

ALUMNI TUNNEL BRICK ORDER FORM PLEASE PRINT!!

Print 3 lines of text for each brick purchase.

LINE 1 _____

LINE 2 _____

LINE 3 _____

Ordered by _____

Class year _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Make Your Mark in the Alumni Tunnel

Bricks are still available in the “Alumni Tunnel”. If you would like to purchase a brick, simply complete the form and send a check for \$10.00 to Forever Blue and Gold Alumni Association, 1844 Lincoln Avenue, Whiting IN 46394. When we receive your request and payment, we will write your inscription on your brick.



Alumni Spotlight

Bernard "Bernie" Chiluski, '36. Graduated Whiting High School. Began working at Standard Oil Company; Retired from AMOCO Field Engineering after 42 years. Married to Berdie for 61 years. Children: Howard, Celeste, Mark and Bernie. Bernie remembers Srs. Bernardo and St. Lawrence; separate class rooms for girls and boys. A member of St. John, Bernie is an Usher and belongs to the Holy Name Society, Golden Times and the Knights of Columbus. He enjoys dancing and travel.

Rose Pivovarnik Beaulieu, '40. Following Whiting High School graduation, Rose worked as a Metallurgist at Youngstown Sheet & Tube and then General Mills. Now a widow, she was married to Laurence for 42 years and has 4 children. Loves to dance, read and travel. She remembers being

allowed to clean and organize the classroom each morning. A member of St. John Church, Rose belongs to the Rosary Society, Golden Times, FCCLA 81 and the Wicker Park Seniors.

Matthew Markovich, '73. A Chief Operator at AMOCOO/BP with 29 years of service Matthew is married to Annette (Bayus) for 23 years. They have three children Marissa, Mason and Michael; Sadie the Wonder Dog rounds out the family. Matthew enjoys fishing, woodworking and driving vacations and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Matthew's grade school memories include his buddy Phil Pena, the Tunnel and Srs. Joseph Loretta, Ann Jerome and Zoe.

Sharon Quattrin, '87, was named "Teacher of the Month"

by WGN-TV Chicago in October. Sharon received this award for the outstanding work she has performed as the Choral Music Teacher at Hubbard High School in Chicago. After graduating from SJS, Sharon went on to Clark and then graduated from Ball State University in Muncie with a degree in Music Education. She received a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of North Carolina. Sharon has performed in operas throughout the world and resides in Chicago where she is a regular performer. Sharon is engaged to marry Christopher Campagna this December.

If you'd like to appear in the "Spotlight" please email us!
foreverblueandgold@gmail.com

Wish List Items

Listed below are items suggested by the faculty and staff of St. John. School These items are needed to help benefit the school children. If you or someone you know would like to donate please email
foreverblueandgold@gmail.com

Air Conditioning for the Building

Windows

New classroom desks

Mounted TV/VCR/DVD players for every classroom

New blinds for classroom windows

Classroom library books

Computer tables for classrooms

Updated Globes

Combination CD/Radio/Cassette Players

New carpet for primary classrooms

Movable Book Shelves for classrooms

DirectTV Goes to School - Installation and Equipment

Large Magnetic bulletin Boards

Floor Balance Beam, Playground

Parachute, Listening Center (Preschool)

New paint for hallways/lockers

Smart Board with computer, LCD projector and cart

New, energy efficient lights for classrooms and hallways

Helping Hands TV with VCR and DVD player

More cabinets built in classrooms

Lab tables and chairs for Science Lab

Purchase former Harris Bank land for Pre-school and playground area

Principal's Message

Dear Alumni of St. John,

I am personally glad that former members of St. John the Baptist Catholic School have decided to form an official Alumni Association. One of the first things I have learned as the new Principal of the school is the great tradition and history associated with St. John. It has been a joy to meet current

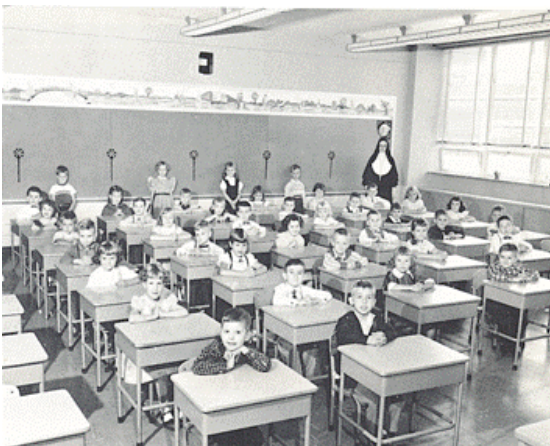
students, recent graduates, parents and grandparents who attended St. John. All speak highly of the education they received and the fond memories of their time spent here. The current staff and students will continue to pray for your good health and well-being as we ask that you will pray for us and support us as well.

The staff and I will continue to provide the best possible Catholic education, so that the tradition and memories will continue.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr. Mark Topp, Principal

Then and Now



First grade, Class of 1957.



Ms. Patricia (Dzurilla) Hasse '68 enjoys creative time with her 2008 first grade class.

Forever Blue and Gold
St. John School Alumni Association
1844 Lincoln Avenue
Whiting, IN 46394



Please visit our website for more info!
www.sjbcatholicparish.org/alumni

As the sun set, SJS alumni from near and far share memories of the years they spent learning and building life-long friendships!



POP QUIZ!

How many school teachers can you name from the 1968-1969 school year? Email your answers to foreverblueandgold@gmail.com Answers in the next issue.

Save the Date

St. John Winter Festival
February 20, 21, 22, 2008

Please visit:
www.sjbcatholicparish.org
for more information!

