



ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA BEACON NEWS

Fall | September 1, 2023

THE FUTURE OF OUR TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Here at your alma mater, we have always taken pride in our ability to maintain tradition while also modernizing and reinventing our spiritual, academic, athletic, and social offerings. If you take a moment to think back, we're sure you can pinpoint at least one major update that was undertaken during your time at St. Joseph by-the-Sea. Our current and prospective students are no different: Just this past year alone, we have announced an exciting new curriculum change that will further prepare them for college, the opening of four brand new classrooms in our Evangelist wing and two more in the main building this coming September, the expansion of our Institute for Business and Finance, a brand-new studio for WSJS, an update to the auditorium, and more.

In launching our new curriculum, we made the decision to no longer administer the New York State Regents. Instead, we will better prepare our students for college and beyond by working closely with the Collage Board on a Pre-AP curriculum for all students. This Pre-AP curriculum will foster students' abilities to think critically in all of the major disciplines, a change that will make them even more competitive in the collegiate sphere.

With all of these exciting updates in motion, it is no

secret that, now more than ever, students from across Staten Island and even in the surrounding boroughs and New Jersey, are praying that they will earn a spot in our incoming freshman class next year. The sad reality is, though, that the opportunity is out of reach for some of them, as financial struggles make it difficult to make Catholic education a reality for many families. We are already giving out more than \$200,000 each year in financial aid to approximately 95 families. Just think about what we could do if we could raise another \$200,000 each year.

It is in that spirit that we invite you to make a significant sacrificial pledge to our St. Joseph's Pillar Fund. The Pillar Fund is our vehicle for unrestricted giving to St. Joseph by-the-Sea. All donations are tax-deductible. We use the money from these donations to assist students who could not attend Sea without financial assistance. To make your pledge, visit josephsea.org or call the main line at 718.984.6500 and ask for our Development Office.

We are always hearing from alumni who say that their four years at St. Joseph by-the-Sea were some of the best of their lives, and it is our dream to give all students who wish to come to Sea that same experience, regardless of their financial status. We hope that you can help us make that dream a reality!



OUR ANNUAL GALA HONORED THESE "SEA"-LEBRITIES

Thursday, April 27, marked one of the most important days of our Sea calendar: The Annual Gala. Hosted at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn, we honored Students of Excellence from the Class of 2023, and notable alumni and friends of Sea.

Mrs. Kimberly LaPera ('98) received the Teacher of Excellence Award, and Anthony Reinhart ('01) and Terry Tulli ('72) received the Distinguished Alumni Awards for their professional and philanthropic successes.

The pinnacle of the night was

shining a light on Mr. Joseph Perri, a longtime friend of Sea, with the Founders Award, our most prestigious honor. Mr. Perri, a son of immigrant parents and entrepreneur, has dedicated his life to giving back to causes close to his heart. He has quietly paid the tuition for a number of students in need at Sea, and he and his wife recently created the Annette and Joseph Perri Scholarship Fund to further those efforts. "We believe in the power of education," the couple said. "And know that this will help set students on a path of success."

Anthony Reinhart and Father Reilly



Joseph and Annette Perri



Terry Tulli



Kimberly LaPera

HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS ARE MORE FUN ON CAMPUS!

Whoever said "You can't go home again," is just plain wrong! We were thrilled to host 20, 25, and 50-Year Reunions here at St. Joseph by-the-Sea this Spring.

On March 4, the Class of 2003 gathered in the American Lounge of the Viking Student Center (and later filled a classroom!) to catch up on twenty years gone by.

Then, on April 29, the Class of 1998 had their own get-together complete with appearances by Mrs. Grace Volpe and Mr. Robert Volpe.

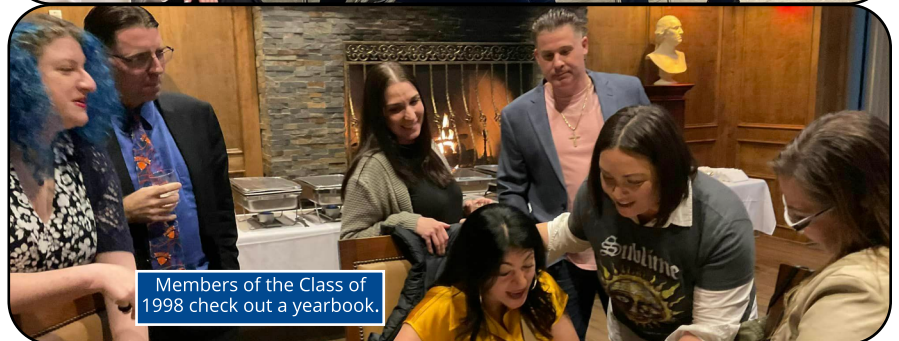
Finally, on June 4, over 80 members of the Class of 1973 traveled near and far for their 50-Year Reunion. They enjoyed Mass, a luncheon, and a tour of the building, and even squeezed in their own rendition of the school song in the courtyard.

All reunions featured a buffet by Nucci's and alumni had fun flipping through old photos and yearbooks to walk down memory lane.

Be sure to check the "Mark Your Calendars" page on the back of this newsletter for the reunions that we have planned this year, and if you want to inquire about your own class's reunion or volunteer to be a class leader, email Jackie Lauria at lauriaj@josephsea.org.



Members of the Class of 2003 sit in a classroom.



Members of the Class of 1998 check out a yearbook.



Members of the Class of 1973 pose in the courtyard.

ALEX CALAMIA '12 IS HITTING THE BIG TIME

Attention, Class of 2012: If you're in the Long Island area and turn on the local news, you will "sea" a familiar face! Alex Calamia has been working as a meteorologist since 2016, and he recently landed a coveted spot on News 12 in Long Island. "I graduated from St. Joseph by the Sea in 2012 and went to Rutgers University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology," he explains about his career path.

Alex counts his time at Sea as the foundation for his current success, and he has a message for



Alex Calamia in his 2012 yearbook photo.

all fellow Sea alumni and current students. "It's important to remember that you have something unique to offer that can't be measured or checked off on a job or college application," he explains. "Put in the work and have faith! Also, try everything that interests you! I tried something I loved while I was in high school and didn't succeed at first. That is a huge positive. The experience taught me to lean on the incredible educators and peers I had at Sea for support and press past my limits when every opportunity opened up throughout my career." Great advice, Alex!

OUR MOST RECENT ALUMNI

On June 3, 2023, 314 young ladies and gentlemen became St. Joseph by-the-Sea alumni. These bright, talented students amassed an astounding \$89,675,612 in college scholarship money, and are going on to some of the most prestigious institutions in America, including Notre Dame University, Villanova University, New

York University, and more. Valedictorian Christine Girellini said it best when she said, "As we move forward in life, we must remember the words of Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.' This verse reminds us that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to with faith, hard work and determination."



Valedictorian Christine Girellini and Salutatorian Matthew Buscini

A HEARTFELT PLEDGE



Roger Erker in a 1977 yearbook photo.

It was great to get a visit from Roger Erker, who attended St. Joseph by-the-Sea from 1975 to 1977, recently. Roger has made a name for himself in his current state of New Mexico, where he owns and operates two popular restaurants. Even though he had to leave Sea due to his family relocating in 1977, he never forgot the opportunities that our school afforded him, and is now sponsoring two scholarships to students in need so that he can pay it forward. "My wife and I have been so blessed in life," he explains. "It is humbling to create the same opportunities that I had for others. The education and discipline that I received at St. Joseph by-the-Sea has directly led to my success and I was only able to attend Sea because of a scholarship that I received. We will forever be grateful."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 15th for Girls and 22nd for Boys, 1 p.m.: Open House

Have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader in the family? Take a tour to see all that Sea has to offer for incoming freshmen!

Register at josephsea.org.

October 27th, 7 p.m.: Homecoming

Enjoy the Alumni Skybox Experience as you watch the Varsity Football team go for the win. Check josephsea.org/alumni for more info and registration.

December 12th, 7 p.m.: Benefactors Cocktail Reception

If you've donated to St. Joseph by-the-Sea in the past year or are interested in making a donation, we'd love to thank you for your generosity at our Benefactors Cocktail Reception in the American Lounge.

March 2nd, 7 p.m.: Class of 2004 20-Year Reunion Look back on your time at Sea with a night of food, laughs, and reminiscing! Check our Facebook page for more updates.

April 18th, 7 p.m.: Annual Gala Save the date for our biggest night of the year!

April 20th, 7 p.m.: Class of 1999 25-Year Reunion Twenty-five years have flown by and it's time to catch up with your classmates! Check our Facebook page for more updates.

June 2, 12 p.m.: Class of 1974 50-Year Reunion Join your fellow classmates for a luncheon as you celebrate this major milestone.



Francis Consolmagno ('07) visits to talk to the Business Internship students about his career as a Financial Advisor.

BE AN ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKER

When you're part of the Sea family, it stays that way forever. We'd love to welcome alumni back to speak with our students about their college experiences, career paths, and more. If you're interested, email Jackie Lauria at lauriaj@josephsea.org to chat and schedule your visit.

