

*Shaping Our Future*  
*Awards Gala*



*Saturday, February 1, 2025*  
*Holy Ghost Society*

# Shaping Our Future Awards Gala

## Program Schedule

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- 6:00 PM** Registration, Raffles and Silent Auction begins.  
Appetizers and Cash Bar opens.
- 7:00 PM** Mr. Danny Vasconcelos P'25, P'27, Welcoming Address  
Reverend Andreas Davison, Opening Blessing.  
Dinner is served. Silent Auction ends.
- 7:45 PM** Ms. Valerie Shippen '78, Principal  
Mr. Nicholas Valentin, Presenter  
Mrs. Carol Isles, Presenter  
Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt Jr. '88, Presenter
- 8:10 PM** Mr. Sergio Costa '90, P'25, P'27 Board President and Mr. Gerald MacKillop P'26, P'28, Board Vice-President, Fund-A-Need
- 8:25 PM** Mr. Danny Vasconcelos, Closing Remarks
- 8:30 PM** Dance Floor is open.
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### *Master of Ceremonies*

Danny Vasconcelos P'25, P'27

### *Gala Co-Chairs*

Sergio Costa '90, P'25, P'27 & Gerald MacKillop P'26, P'28

### *Gala Committee*

Julie Aiello '98, P'30, P'31, Amanda Dunn P'30, '32, Angela Eze P'26,  
Laura McDonald, Melissa Lynch P'25, Diana Sosa P'26,  
Lisa Vasconcelos P'25, P'27

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*Honoring*

**Sr. Ruth Creedon, SND**

*With the Deacon Simon Valentin  
Spirit & Faith Award*

**Mrs. Lisa Rush**

*With the Carol Isles  
Excellence in Teaching Award*

**Mr. Peter McGinn**

*With the Honorable Edward Bettencourt Jr.  
Distinguished Alumni Award*

## **Sr. Ruth Creedon, SND**

*Sister Ruth was born and raised in Salem, Massachusetts, where she spent her early childhood before her family moved to Beverly at the age of 12. In Beverly, she attended Saint Mary Star of the Sea School for both Grammar and High School. It was during these formative years that she was first introduced to the Sisters of Notre Dame, an encounter that would deeply influence the course of her life.*

*After graduating from high school, Sister Ruth felt a calling to religious life and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Waltham, Massachusetts. She became a vowed member of the Sisters of Notre Dame on July 31, 1961. Since then, she has embraced a life centered around three core elements: prayer, community, and ministry. For Sister Ruth, prayer is our relationship with God; it is basic. Community is a companionship that brings peace and support. And ministry—teaching the Word of God to countless children. What an awesome joy it has been. There is one more part of her life: walking. Anywhere, anytime, it is a very special part of her life. She is affectionately known by some as “The Walker.”*

*She would like to thank the Sisters of Notre Dame for supporting her this evening along with her niece, Laura, and her husband, Stephen. Through her many years of service and devotion, Sister Ruth’s life remains a testament to faith, community, and the joy of walking in God’s path. She ends this short life story with the words of our Foundress: Saint Julie, “How Good is the Good God!” Don’t you agree?*

## **Mrs. Lisa Rush**

*Lisa Rush is celebrating her 19th year in Catholic education, a journey that began with a dream she harbored from the age of ten. Knowing early on that she wanted to be a teacher, she pursued her passion with unwavering dedication, laying the foundation for a career devoted to helping children grow academically, spiritually, and personally.*

*A proud graduate of St. Anselm College, Lisa furthered her education by earning a Master of Education degree from Lesley College. Her teaching career began at St. Jude in Waltham, where she taught kindergarten, followed by a role as a 5th-grade teacher at St. Joseph’s in Salem. Lisa has spent the last 14 years at St. John the Baptist School, where she currently serves as a 7th and 8th grade science teacher. Each of these experiences has shaped her into the educator she is today, constantly finding joy in nurturing the growth of young minds.*

*At St. John’s, Lisa holds various roles and takes immense pride in her most important responsibility—helping students become the best versions of themselves. The opportunity to encourage and guide her students, both inside and outside the classroom, is the most rewarding aspect of her work. She views each day as a*

*chance to inspire growth, offering the support and care necessary to help her students thrive.*

*Outside of her professional life, Lisa counts herself incredibly fortunate to have a loving family. She and her husband, Jim, will soon celebrate 27 years of marriage, and together they are proud parents to two wonderful sons: Kevin ('17) and Kyle ('20). When she isn't teaching, Lisa enjoys reading and cherishing time with her family and friends along the beautiful, rocky coast of Maine.*

*Lisa's career is a testament to her lifelong commitment to Catholic education, her love for her students, and her deep appreciation for the values of faith and family that guide her every step.*

### **Mr. Peter McGinn**

*Peter McGinn is a lifelong resident of Peabody, whose dedication to family, community, and service has shaped his life's work and relationships. Married for 35 years to Jeannette Darling McGinn, Pete has built a life grounded in love and partnership. Together, they have raised four children: Anna ('06), Morris ('07), Daniel ('10), and Lydia ('14) McGinn, all St. John's Alums.*

*A lifelong parishioner at St. John the Baptist Parish, he has contributed extensively to both the parish and the school. He has served on the Parish Finance Council since 2001 and has been a member of the School Board and Finance Committee since 2000. His deep ties to the Church and School are proof of his enduring commitment to both the spiritual and educational support within the community.*

*He has been serving as a Ward 2 Councilor for Peabody since 2014 and was honored to serve as the City Council President in 2016. Throughout his tenure on the Peabody City Council, Pete has played an integral role in shaping the city's future. He chaired and has been a member of several key committees, including Finance, Legal Affairs, Industrial & Community Development, and the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Committee. Additionally, he has been a member and past chairperson of the Municipal Golf Course and Skating Rink Committee.*

*Pete's diverse contributions across a range of organizations reflect his deep love for his hometown of Peabody and his steadfast commitment to making it a better place for current and future generations.*

# St. John the Baptist School

## Mission Statement

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*St. John the Baptist School is dedicated to providing a quality Catholic education that encourages its community to be life-long learners and leaders, to live their faith with high moral standards, and to grow academically, spiritually and socially.*

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### Tonight's Goal - Raise \$50,000 For a New Playground

Encourages  
Creativity

Promotes Physical  
Health

Mental  
Wellness

It's Fun

Cognitive & Social  
Development

Safe Play Area



Before



After

# St. John the Baptist School

Dear Attendees,

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our award recipients, Sister Ruth, Lisa Rush, and Peter McGinn. Please take a moment to bring this booklet home with you, as it features the generous sponsors and donors who made tonight's event possible. We encourage you to keep them in mind when you're seeking reliable, qualified companies in the future.

-The Gala Committee

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## Platinum Sponsor \$2,500



Contact: Mary Conway | (978) 531-0472

At Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home we help families who are faced with the loss of a loved one. Whether choosing a traditional funeral, a cremation ceremony or a creative Celebration of Life, our team will work hand-in-hand with you to plan a memorial event that reflects your traditions and shares the story of a lifetime.

## Gold Sponsors \$1,500



Contact: Thomas Nunan<sup>+</sup> | (978) 587-8324

Bishop Fenwick is a Catholic, co-educational, academically rigorous, and personally supportive college preparatory high school. They are dedicated to creating an environment where all students can seek and achieve excellence intellectually, creatively, physically, morally, and spiritually, recognizing their responsibility both to serve and to lead.



Contact: Deborah Luciano<sup>+</sup> | (978) 531-5767

Luso-American Credit Union, located in Peabody is the 55th largest credit union in Massachusetts, offering a wide array of products and services with competitive rates and personalized banking services to meet your needs.



Contact: SMC<sup>+</sup> | (978) 210-4111

SMC Business Solutions is your trusted tax and business advisors who are ready to work with you on a personal level to determine the best solutions for your financial needs. Seasoned experts who will achieve the best possible results for you.



Contact: Dr. John Dolan | (781) 595-7885

St. Mary's prepares a diverse student body in a joyful & co-educational setting rooted in tradition & Catholic values, to excel in their future. St. Mary's campus recently expanded with a state of the art STEM and Gateway building which has increased our offerings and overall experience.

+ Indicates repeat sponsor/donor

## Silver Sponsors \$1,000



**Contact: Brad Noyes<sup>+</sup> P'30, P32 | (978) 745-8028**

Essex County Craftsmen offers HVAC contractors services in Salem, Ma., and the surrounding areas. Their services include complete installation of Commercial, Residential, and Industrial HVAC Design Services. As well as preventative maintenance, Emergency Services and much more.



**Contact: Matthew O'Neil<sup>+</sup> | (781) 475-5308**

Malden Catholic is a co-divisional, college preparatory high school. Sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers we inspire all students to lives of service, leadership and excellence. An inclusive community of faith, MC nurtures enduring personal relationships and life-long learning.

## Appetizer Sponsor \$750



**Contact: Brendan Murray<sup>+</sup> '97 | (978) 594-1138**

Murray Masonry & More specializes in historic brick and stonework. Our ongoing mission is to add to the ranks of satisfied customers through the expression of our knowledge, skill and expertise. Employing several masons, with their own specialties, we are prepared and qualified to meet all your landscaping masonry, building restoration and commercial needs.

## Bar Sponsor \$750



**Contact: Joe Schulte | (978) 624-7341**

Ben Franklin Print is your one stop shop for all your visual marketing needs from printed shirts, conference signage for businesses and organizations, to full vehicle wraps. From the design phase all the way to printed products, we have you covered.

## Dessert Sponsor \$750

Scott & Renee Connolly &  
The Connolly Boys Alumnus

St. John's would like to thank Scott and Renee Connolly and their sons, Jake '17, Luke '20 and Tyler '22, for their generous financial support of tonight's event.



FOUNDED 1893



## Bronze Sponsor \$500



**Contact:** Lisa Simmons\* | (781) 944-4900

Austin Preparatory School is a co-educational Catholic school founded by the Order of Saint Augustine in 1961. Our core values of truth, unity and love are weaved throughout our college preparatory curriculum which supplements a supportive, inspiring and innovative cocurricular programs.



**Contact:** Jayesh Patel | (978) 531-0089

Located in Peabody, Bunghole Liquors offers with a wide variety of drinks, especially wine and beer. Their novelty merchandise can also be purchased online.

**D.M. Kolodziej  
Trucking, Inc.**

**Contact:** Dennis Kolodziej\* '89, P'25 | (978) 531-0089

DM Kolodziej Trucking, Inc. is a reliable, transportation company based in Peabody, specializing in trucking services for various industries.



**Contact:** Marc Duffy | (978) 854-0014

Duffy Insurance is your leading local insurance agency; dedicated to serving the diverse Massachusetts insurance needs of area individuals, families and businesses since 1996. Duffy Insurance has continued to evolve into a trust- ed coverage leader—with impeccable service and commitment to its clients.



**Contact:** Nikki Hutchins\* | (978) 750-4600

International Protective Services provides both personal and system security services. Including but not limited to detective, guarded, canine and ar- mored car services.



**Contact:** Adam Walsh | (978) 745-3300

John J. Walsh is an independent insurance agency that provides insurance policies that fit the individual needs of our clients. We work with both indi- viduals and small business owners in Rockport, Salem and across the North Shore of Massachusetts.



**Contact:** Patricia (Romano '92) Larson\* | (617) 281-7525

Luso-American Financial offers Whole and Term Life Insurance, Annuity, Retirement and Educational Saving Plans that will help you and your family achieve your financial goals.



**Contact:** Dino Simou | (978) 532-6337

The Simou family have been the proud owners of Metro Cleaners since 1979. A family run company they take great care of your clothing and all garment types. Along with dry cleaning and laundry services, they also offer altera- tions and organic cleaning methods.



**Contact: School Resource Officer Vincent Doucette<sup>+</sup> | (978) 531-1212**

The unwavering members of the Peabody Police Department are committed to maintaining public safety and upholding the laws for the city of Peabody while building positive relationships with their constituents.



**Contact: John Soares<sup>+</sup> | (978) 531-2200**

The dedicated members of the Peabody Fire Department have made it their mission to respond to fires, medical emergencies, disasters, and terrorist acts, and protect the lives and property of Peabody residents and visitors.



**Contact: Dr. Giordano | (978) 535-1110**

The physicians and nurse practitioners of Pediatric Health Care Associates (PHCA) have provided primary medical care to children and adolescents on the North Shore of Boston for over 40 years.



**Contact: Andrew Pezzulo<sup>+</sup> | (781) 526-1729**

Based in Salem, Pezzulo Plumbing is a plumbing contractor that offers plumbing fixtures repair, backflow preventer installation, gas pipe installation and more.



**Contact: Edward Hardiman<sup>+</sup> | (978) 624-1304**

St. John's Preparatory, is an all inclusive, Catholic, Xaverian Brothers Sponsored school for young men, committed to educating the whole person. The Prep has over 100 elective courses and 23 Advanced Placement opportunities where our high school students truly get to build on an academic foundation that will send them on the path to their own personal success.



**Contact: Tom Kulevish | (978) 744-6100**

Tri-City Sales has been a landmark in Salem since 1959, with a second location in Ipswich. We are a 3rd generation family-owned appliance store serving customers all over New England including: Salem, Marblehead, Peabody, Ipswich, Danvers, Beverly, Topsfield, Lynnfield and more. Come experience the Tri-City difference!

## Teacher Sponsors \$100

Andrew Lane Company, Inc. | BackLake Campground<sup>+</sup> | Beard & Mane<sup>+</sup>  
Matthew & Sandra Campbell | Central Catholic High School  
Rob & Terasa Giovannucci | Iron Tree | Mr. Roger Joseph | Metro Bowl<sup>+</sup>  
Daniel & Laura McDonald<sup>+</sup> | Tim & Courtney McKeen | Paul & Karen McGinn  
Michael's Limousine | Oasis Temperature Systems Corp<sup>+</sup> | PulseRate CPR/AED  
Sir Charles Limousine | The Academy at Penguin Hall<sup>+</sup> | The LaPrade Family  
The Riverside Group | Wood Trucking<sup>+</sup>

## Friends of St. John's

AOH Peabody Division 11<sup>+</sup> | DeMatos Landscaping | Gomes Travel Services  
J. Martins Contractors, Inc.<sup>+</sup> | Marblehead Bank | Mayor Edward Bettencourt<sup>+</sup>  
Patrick J. Woods Insurance Agency<sup>+</sup> | Portuguese Continental Union #2 of Quincy  
| Portuguese Continental Union #60 of Somerville  
Professional Roofing Contractor, Inc.<sup>+</sup> | Ruggiero Family Memorial Home<sup>+</sup>  
Spiro's Auto Sales & Service of Peabody | The Charlton Family  
Zolotas of Peabody

## Auction Donations

The Cheese Shop of Salem | North Shore Children's Museum | J. Cakes  
Northeast Nursery<sup>+</sup> | Not Your Average Joes | Game Time | The Hawthorne  
Hotel | LifeTime & Curtis Duffy | Northshore Music Theatre | Total Wine<sup>+</sup>  
Tommy Hilfiger: Global Schoolware | Wachusett Mountain  
Immersive Gamebox | Legal Sea Foods | Tony C's | Peabody Rink Rental  
Double Bull<sup>+</sup> | Crumbl Cookies | The Meadows Golf Course<sup>+</sup> | Sylvan Street Bar &  
Grill | Dellaria Salon of Peabody | The Music Connection | Treadwell's<sup>+</sup>  
Seaport Grill | Maggie O'Brian<sup>+</sup> | SJS School Board<sup>+</sup> | Lowes  
Title Boxing Danvers | Encore

## Thank You

The Holy Ghost Society & Gail Espinola<sup>+</sup> | Maria's Flowers & Gifts  
Spinelli's | D'Orsis<sup>+</sup> | J. Cakes | Beth Pasquarello | Becky Parker  
Kerri Aguiló<sup>+</sup> | Christine Whitehead<sup>+</sup> | The Romano Family | Crystale Wozniak  
Creative Ink | The Vasconcelos Family | Kimberly Woods  
New England's Best DJ's | 5X Films



# Bidding Number

