

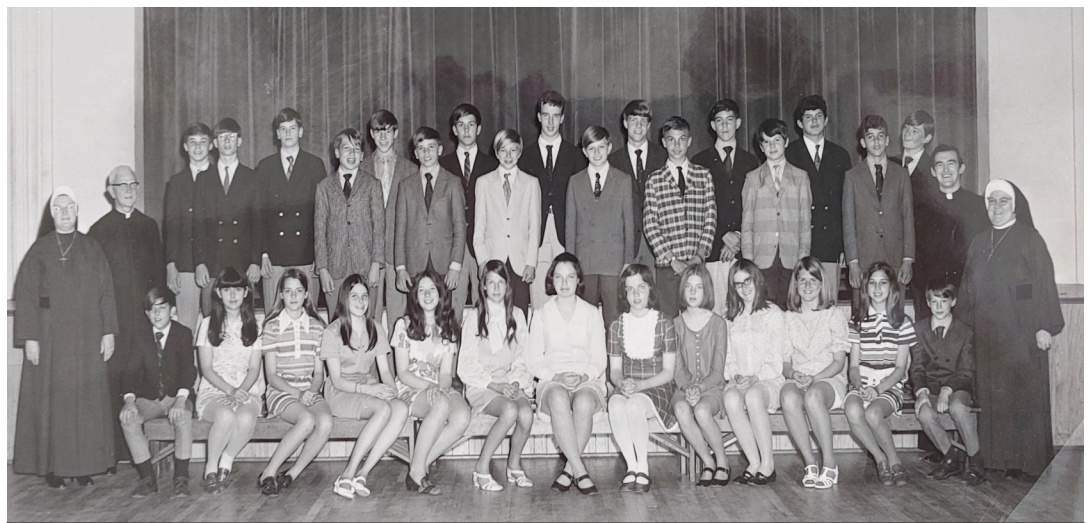
# IHM Centennial Celebration — Share A Memory

## Saint James School Class of 1970 alumnus John Maier shares his memories...

“I attended from Kindergarten through 8th grade, and had IHM sisters as teachers for seven of those nine years. They were all dedicated to providing a great education! In the 1960s, there were three full classes per grade and only a few lay teachers on staff at Saint James.

I should start out by relaying memories of the Mother Superior leadership. Thanks to the list in the bulletin, I can relate by name. Most of our interaction was through the PA announcements or seeing them at work in their office as we passed by (in my era, a small room just inside entrance #3). It would have been Mother Celestia who made the sad Friday afternoon announcement on November 22, 1963, that our President had been shot. Other classmates remember as well and agree that this was our "where were you" moment in history, even though we were only in second grade. Later, either Mother Marie Stephen or Mother Mary Hugh made announcements on some lingering bad behavior, ending with "This must not be!" I have always thought that profound, and Shakespeare-like.

Religious teachings were present throughout the years I attended, and the nuns and priests prepared us for first communion and confirmation. The one annual event that I will always remember was the formal May Procession. There were a lot of kids for that ceremony which was held in the main parking lot.



Class of 1970—Room 10  
Sister Maria Nazareth and Monsignor Heller (left), Father Keane and Mother Mary Hugh (right)

I still have all of my Diocese report cards, with typed fields and grades written in black fountain pen ink. My era was when fountain pens were required for all major work, no ballpoints allowed! Penmanship was one of the most important things we learned. While each classroom had the set of script letters on panels above the blackboard, several nuns had their own variations of certain letters which I still remember and use.

Music was another important subject. I took piano lessons in one of the few classrooms equipped with a piano. There may have also been a dedicated music room. Sister Consuela was the teacher, and I always liked the musical staff chalk holder for drawing the five staff lines. There were piano recitals, too. Every year we looked forward to the Spring Musicale with acts from just about every grade. I think we were tasked to sell tickets. As I recall in 1964, there were several Beatles songs performed by seventh or eighth graders.



**Join Us on September 17th for Noon Mass followed by a reception.**

**RSVP Today!**

**Share your memory with us for the event.**

**Scan the QR code or visit [www.stjamescatholic.org](http://www.stjamescatholic.org)**

