



Dear Parents,

November 5, 2020

Those who work with children are accustomed to overhearing conversations that bring a smile. This one discussion, overheard in an unusual place for such a profound topic, is especially endearing.

Sister Peter Marie's first grade classroom is in close proximity to the K-3rd grade boys' restroom. Hearing some rather loud talking, Sister stepped by the doorway and called, "Gentlemen, please finish up and leave the bathroom as soon as you can." Listening, she then heard,

"Who was that?"

"It was one of the Sisters."

"Which one?"

"The first grade one."

"How do you know?"

"I know her voice."

(Moment of silence.)

"Have you ever seen God?"

"No."

"No one has ever seen God."

"How do you know?"

(Moment of silence.)

"He's like my Grandpa."

"No! He's a Father."

"Have you ever seen Jesus?"

"No."

"He's like God."

"How do you know?"

Unfortunately, that is where the conversation ended as the boys by this time were on their way out the door but what a delight to know that they were thinking and inquiring about God! I hope with all my heart that these boys and all our children will continue to ponder, seek, and find God. To know God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the true anchor of happiness in this life and the key eternal happiness in the life to come.

I cannot help but to be a little proud of our St. James School, which prompts such beautiful life-giving thoughts in the minds of little children. Thank you, parents for choosing a Catholic education for your children!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

First Penance and First Holy Communion Meeting: This mandatory meeting is for parents or guardians who have a child preparing to receive these Sacraments this spring. Please come to St. James School on Wednesday, November 18th from 4:00-5:15 pm.

Unbound Retreat: The St. James Faith and Culture Team are planning to provide two **Unbound** retreats this year, one in English and one in Spanish, for school parents and parishioners who are 17 years of age or older. These retreats will be given right here in our own Sacred Heart parish hall. Unbound retreats have been given throughout the diocese for

several years now and have been so successful that Bishop Conley created an entire office to keep up with requests. An **Unbound** retreat helps adults respond to the good news of the gospel and its power to make a big difference in a person's life. You will be taught a way of prayer, using five keys, which will open your heart more fully to Jesus. The five keys are:

1. Repenting of sin and expressing faith in Jesus.
2. Forgiving oneself and others.
3. Renouncing the lies, spirits, and tactics of Satan.
4. Taking authority over the works of Satan.
5. Receiving the Father's blessing.

Please fill out the surveys either online for English:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=p4tfwKotGUCwzFhJyZWf3HQet9FnA_dHqf4hbgVysfdUMFNSERHQ0JVWUFIRkVWNjQ1RUwyUjROMy4u

online for Spanish

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=p4tfwKotGUCwzFhJyZWf3HQet9FnA_dHqf4hbgVysfdUNzA4REE5SONJOFZYWk1RV0VIMVpWRFIWNc4u

or by filling out the enclosed hard copies. Your answers will help us to choose the times and dates which serve the most people.

An Advent Invitation Whether you speak Spanish or English, all St. James School families and Sacred Heart Parish families are invited to come to Las Posadas in our church. It is a perfect way to prepare for Christmas! The rosary will be prayed for 9 consecutive nights to honor the 9 months of Mary's pregnancy. There will also be singing of traditional hymns. At the end of each evening, children will receive a special treat and after the 9th evening there will be a great party/fiesta. Please see enclosed fliers for more information on the meaning of Las Posadas. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Mary's Meals Thank you to our St. James children (and some generous parents) who donated \$737.07 for Mary's Meals, a school feeding program for children in some of our world's poorest countries. This amount will feed 35 children for one whole year.

The Last SFA Strategic Planning Open Forum: Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 pm for the final SFA Strategic Planning Open Forum meeting in which we will present the completed Strategic Plan for St. James School.

Daily Mass: Due to the demands of social distancing, children are to sit with their classes during daily Mass. This enables the daily Mass attendees to have enough seating room to safely attend Mass during this time of COVID-19.

Hot lunch: Hot lunches and milk that accompanies a hot lunch is now free. Milk with a cold lunch costs 40 cents per carton. Those who had a negative balance for lunch payment before October 5 still need to make their payment, please.

Coming Home Today

Scrip order form

Tuition envelopes

Las Posadas information sheet

Unbound retreat survey

Hot lunch negative balance slips.