



SAINT JAMES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH + FAMILY + RESPONSIBILITY + RESPECT

525 E. 14th Street † Crete, NE 68333 † 402-826-2318

Dear Parents,

December 2, 2020

I try my best to visit the classrooms regularly. It is an important part of my job as principal to ensure that there is a strong learning environment in each room. I enjoy this responsibility. Helping others to learn is a very intriguing endeavor and our teachers are good at it! Sometimes I like to say a few words to the children myself.

This week, I tried my hand at teaching something about Advent. I used the word “watch.” In last Sunday’s gospel Jesus said, “What I say to you I say to all: ‘Watch!’” For what are we to be watching and how are we to watch? We should be watching for the coming of Jesus and we should watch with eager expectation.

St. Bernard teaches, “We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible while the other two are visible. In the first coming He was seen on earth, dwelling among men; He Himself testifies that they saw and hated Him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of God, and they will look on Him who they pierced. The intermediate coming is the hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves and they are saved. In His first coming our Lord came in flesh and in our weakness; in the middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and in majesty.”

While cherishing His first and the final comings, during Advent I think we should focus most on the middle coming of Jesus. Because of our Baptism, Jesus dwells right within each of us. He resides there mysteriously with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Do we recognize Him there? Do we let Him reign? We need to **watch** for His desires and inspirations. He gives us good thoughts of what to do and how to live. We need to watch for these thoughts, recognize them as coming from Him, and act upon them. Thus, we enable Christ to live more and more fully in our lives right now. He honors our free will and will never force His way, but He does let us know His way. We can see it, if we watch. May Your Advent be blessed!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Winter Coats: Our parish’s Knights of Columbus would like to provide winter coats, hats, and gloves for any child in need this winter. Please let the school office know if your child needs any of these winter apparel items.

Help with Christmas Presents: The Crete Police Department is sponsoring the Under the Tree program for families who need help with presents for children this year. Please contact the school as soon as possible if your family could use some help.

Desks and Chairs: St. James School will be giving away old school chairs and desks tomorrow, Thursday, December 3. If you would like some of these, please park in the parking lot and then come to the south side of the school to get them. First come first serve.

Christmas Program: St. James will be recording both Pre-K/Kindergarten and Grades 1-6 Christmas programs. The programs will be available for your viewing on the school website after December 16. We will be filming on December 16. Due to the increase in COVID cases, we will not have parents in the building to see the programs in person. We hope you will enjoy the recording.

Dress for December 16: Dress for Program Filming: All children in Pre-K through 6th grade should come dressed in clothing appropriate for a Christmas program. Bring out their best clothes as they will be honoring the Lord in song and in Scripture verse. Children may change back into their uniforms (regular clothes for Pre-K) after the filming of their programs or they may wear their Christmas program outfits for the day.

Congratulations to Stella Havlat, Layla Jochum, Bryan Jaimes, and Abby Murphy who received the St. James "Kind Like Christ" signs in their yard this second quarter. We are proud of you and happy to have you at our school.

Coming Home Today: Tuition Envelope, Scrip Order Form, Advent Calendar, Las Posadas Flier