



Dear Parents,

February 17, 2021

I hope all of you have been safe and warm in your homes during these amazingly cold days. Negative twenty-two degrees must be some kind of record! If any are having trouble with heating expenses, please let Father Stoley or me know. There is help for families in need.

Today we begin the holy season of Lent. Most of us have ingrained in our minds that during these 40 days we should be giving something up, or sacrificing. Rightly so. The Church encourages us to sacrifice during Lent, but do we know why?

Sacrificing during Lent is far more than a good custom such as, for example, forming a New Year's resolution. It is certainly more than just a time to take off a few extra pounds, helpful though that may be. Lenten sacrificing is on a completely different level. If rightly motivated, we move into a sacred realm with our self-denials. True Lenten sacrificing is nothing less than a participation in the mission of Christ, which is the salvation of souls.

God the Father chose to redeem all souls through the self-emptying and sacrificial death of His Son. Jesus' sacrifice completely accomplished our redemption. All have the possibility of entering Heaven. Whether we do so or not, however, depends on us. Saint Augustine wrote, "God who created us without us, cannot save us without us." In other words, we have a critical part to play.

Our prayers and our sacrifices are effective. They do the work of salvation by applying Jesus' redemptive grace to souls. Consider Mary's words to the children of Fatima.

**"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say many times, especially when you make a sacrifice, 'O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'" [Third Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – July 13, 1917**

**"Pray, pray much, and sacrifice for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice and pray for them." [Fourth Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – August 19, 1917)**

Satan tries to make us believe that our sacrifices are insignificant and purposeless. Giving up sweets, coffee, or a favorite television show; what good can that possibly do for anyone? Trying to smile when annoyed, giving preference to others in traffic, bearing with interruptions patiently, are they not all trifles when compared to the pandemic, impoverished nations, wars, riots, human trafficking, and the many crying needs of our world today? One might as well try to stop a wildfire by spitting.

So it may seem, but we must remember what Jesus did with the little bit of bread and fish he received from a child. He fed thousands. Likewise, He will take our sacrifices and save thousands. He would not have asked us to deny ourselves daily (Lk. 9:23), nor would have Mary, if it were all pointless.

Let us begin today! People near and far need our prayers and sacrifices. Let us together fight the good fight during Lent of 2021 and thereby labor alongside Jesus in bringing souls to Heaven.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

PS Twenty-five sacrifices per day would equal one thousand sacrifices by the end of Lent!

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parent Teacher Conference slips are going home today. If you cannot come at the appointed time, please call the office to schedule a different time. ( 402) 826-2318 Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 25 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. We hope to see you at school!

**Calendar Lottery** It is almost time for our annual fundraiser, the St. James Calendar Lottery! This is a very important fundraiser for our school and we are asking each family to sell at least the ten tickets that your student will bring home on Monday, February 22. This year we hope to use the funds to fill our library and classrooms with high quality classical children's literature books. If you have any questions, please contact Anne & Chris Hobbs (402) 321-6697

[ahobbs@unomaha.edu](mailto:ahobbs@unomaha.edu)

**Good Shepherd and Sacred Heart Scholarship:** Please apply through FACTS application found at the bottom of the front page on our school website. **St James Elementary School** We would like to have all scholarship applications in by 8:00 pm on February 25 if possible. Please call the school to set up an appointment if you would like help completing the application. We can also scan and upload necessary documents to assist in the process.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

February 19	Stations of the Cross 2:20 pm.
February 22	Feast of St. James celebrated in school.
February 25	Parent Teacher Conferences 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
February 26	No school.
February 27	First Penance 10:00 am SFA Board Meeting 11:00 am
March 1 – 5	St. James students take ITBS standardized tests
March 10	Pre-K Open House 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Children and parents are welcome
March 22	Confirmation 7:00 pm.

### **Coming Home Today:**

- Tuition Envelopes
- Crete Park and Rec Micro Soccer Pre-K and K Flier
- Scrip Order Form
- Lenten Calendar

Special thanks to Rose Kotopka, Catholic School graduate, for sharing the art of ballet with our students!

