



Dear Parents,

October 2, 2024

Children often aspire to do great and amazing things with their lives. Today's children dream of being professional athletes, Broadway performers, courageous outer space explorers, or even a future Pope. Likewise, young Therese Martin, who lived in France in the late 1800s, wanted to do marvelous deeds in her lifetime. She writes,

I feel myself called to be a soldier, priest, apostle, doctor of the church, martyr. Finally, I feel the need, the desire to perform all the most heroic deeds for you, Jesus... I feel in my soul the courage of a crusader, of a soldier for the Church, and I wish to die on the field of battle in defense of the Church... I feel in me the vocation of a *priest*! With what love, O Jesus, would I bear you in my hands, when at the sound of my words you came down from heaven! With what love would I give you to souls! But alas, just as much as I desire to be a priest, I admire and envy the humility of St. Francis of Assisi, and feel the call to imitate him in refusing the sublime dignity of the Priesthood.

Dreaming of the tortures in which Christians are to share at the time of the Antichrist, I feel my heart thrill, and I would like these tortures to be kept for me... Jesus, Jesus, if I wanted to write all my desires, I would have to take *your Book of Life*, where the deeds of your saints are recorded: all these deeds I would like to accomplish for you.

And what did this bold spirited girl end up doing as an adult? She became a cloistered Carmelite nun who never left the boundaries of her convent yard much less her hometown of Lisieux. Externally, her daily life was filled with small tasks such as washing and mending habits, arranging flowers, and pressing linens. Of the limited number of people who knew she existed, few would have guessed that little Therese Martin would one day be hailed as a doctor of the Church, the patroness of missionaries, and, according to Pope Pius X, "the greatest Saint of modern times." How did this happen? Therese's secret was intense love. She writes:

I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realized that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In one word, that love is everlasting. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love, and thus I will be all things.

If only our St. James children can learn to love, they too will receive the deepest desires of their hearts. They too will be truly great despite any commonplace external appearance. Learning to love, I believe, is the main task of childhood. Let us work together in helping our children, and ourselves, conquer selfishness and learn to become a gift of love to others. I am sure, if asked, St. Therese of Lisieux will help us in the effort.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

PS. At our upcoming SFA meeting Tuesday, October 15 we plan to have parent discussion groups. Perhaps your group might want to discuss, among other things, ways in which to help children grow in charity.

Parents, would you like to have no more tuition payments this year? If you already have a scholarship, would you like to help the school and parish in a big way? It could really be possible, but we must act within the next 18 days.

Family Size	Federal Poverty Level (FPL)*	Reduced Lunch* (185% of FPL)	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)* (213% of FPL)
Individual	\$14,580	\$26,973	\$31,056
2	\$19,720	\$36,482	\$42,004
3	\$24,860	\$45,991	\$52,952
4	\$30,000	\$55,500	\$63,900
5	\$35,140	\$65,009	\$74,849
6	\$40,280	\$74,518	\$85,797
7	\$45,420	\$84,027	\$96,745
8	\$50,560	\$93,536	\$107,693

Application link <https://nebraska.withodyssey.com/login/>

The Odessey Scholarship enacted by LB1402 offers big scholarship money for non-public schools. Governor Pillen set aside 10 million dollars to be used this year and next year to support Nebraska families who choose to send their children to non-public schools. If you qualified for Free and Reduced lunches, you should qualify for this scholarship. If you qualified for the Opportunity Scholarship, you will qualify for this one too. Please see the side chart. We will be offering help in filling out the application during Parent-Teacher Conferences in the library. You will need to bring: 1. Your most recent 1040 tax form 2. Your phone 3. Your Social Security number and that of your children 4. Your driver's license or passport. If you are missing any of the above, please call the office or speak to us and we will let you know of some alternatives.

Don't think you qualify? Keep reading please! For those of you who do not make the above scholarship cut-off and do not qualify for Free and Reduced lunches, you could still very well receive tuition funding. If funds are left after the earlier tiers of need are served, families whose income is above the 213% of poverty level will receive funds as well. I think it very possible most of our St. James Families could receive tuition assistance. Please see the chart below. Application link <https://nebraska.withodyssey.com/login/>

Family Size	At or below this level, you might also receive partial funds
2	\$80,745
3	\$109,210
4	\$137,675
5	\$194,607
6	\$223,072
7	\$251,5437
8	\$280,001

One amazing thing about this scholarship is that they do not have to stop funding at our price of tuition. They can give funds right up to the cost of education. Our current tuition is \$3,000.00 per child. The cost of education at St. James is over \$6,000.00 per child.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher Conferences are on Thursday, October 3 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, and 6:00 – 8:00 pm. We hope to see you tomorrow at St. James!

Upcoming Dates:

- October 2nd Book Sale in the school library 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- October 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences and Book Sale in the Parish Hall 9:00 am – 8:00 pm.
- October 7 The third graders present "The Living Rosary" 1:20 pm in church. Parents are welcome.
- October 15 SFA Meeting at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.
- October 22 First Penance Meeting for parents of children in 2nd grade. 6:30 pm in the parish hall.
- October 31 The first graders present the "All Saints Parade" 1:15 pm. Parents are welcome. Mission Carnival follows at 1:45 in the parish hall. Parents are welcome.

Coming Home today:

- LB1402 – Odyssey Scholarship Flyer
- Family Event Crete Public Flyer
- Crete Parks and Rec Form