



Dear Parents,

January 22, 2025

Today, Wednesday, January 22, is a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. The United States Bishops have set this day apart, asking Catholics to pray that the right to life be fully restored in our legal systems. They have also asked us to do penance on this day in reparation for the evil and harm caused by abortion.

With the passage of LB 434 last November, abortions are now prohibited in Nebraska after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. We rejoice that Nebraska babies are legally protected from weeks 13 – 40 as they grow within their mothers. Yet what about those babies from conception through 12 weeks? Should they not be allowed to live?

Data from the Department of Health and Human Services states that in 2021 more than half of the 2,360 abortions in Nebraska took place in the 6th, 7th, and 8th weeks of pregnancy. Yet these little ones were clearly human beings.

During the 6th week of in utero development, babies' mouths, noses, and ears take shape. In the 7th week, babies double in size from the previous week and their hands and feet take shape. In the 8th week their lungs start to develop. They are being fearfully and wonderfully made by God Himself who is "knitting them together" in their mothers' wombs. Psalm 139: 13-16



To the left is a picture of a baby in week 12. As of now, a little person like this one, made in the image and likeness of God, has no legal protection in the state of Nebraska. His or her life can be taken for any reason.

This is why we need a day of special prayer and penance and of course it is all the better if both continue until all life is legally protected from conception until natural death.

Today, won't you please say some prayers and make at least one sacrifice for life? If you would you like to do still more, meet in front of the Capitol in Lincoln at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 1 and join the Walk for Life. You will learn other ways in which you can help. You will find your Sisters from St. James School there too!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Sources of information: [Fetal development by week: Your baby in the womb - BabyCenter](#)
[2021 Statistical Report of Abortions - Department of Health ...](#)
[Nebraska Right to Life](#)

Important Safe Environment – All Must Renew! Anyone wanting to help with field trips or volunteer at St. James School must renew their Safe Environment certification this month. Even if your renewal has not run out, all must renew in the month of January including the faculty and staff of St. James. Use this link to renew and call the office if you have questions or concerns. <https://lincoln.cmgconnect.org/>

First Holy Communion Parent Meeting: February 11 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Coming Home Today: Good Shepherd Scholarship Announcement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Happy Catholic School Week! Sunday, January 26

1. 9:00 am Mass will be offered for St. James parishioners and alumni. Children should come dressed in their school uniforms.
2. After Mass, enjoy a pancake brunch put on by the Knights of Columbus for St. James School families and friends.
3. End the day with roller skating party in Beatrice 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Rolla Rena Skate. (1133 S. 6th street) The SFA has rented this rink for St. James Families. The skating is free for you and your children!

Monday, January 27

1. 8:15 am Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit will be offered for St. James parents. (5th grade students do the readings and take up the gifts.)
2. Children may dress in pilgrimage, hiking, or traveling outfits.
3. 11:30 am – 12:15 pm – Parents are invited to a pizza lunch with the children. All-school story in the gym - *The Pilgrims Begin their Journey*. (Please fill out the enclosed pizza order form and return to school as soon as possible.)

Tuesday, January 28

1. 8:15 am Memorial Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas is offered for St. James volunteers. (6th grade students do the readings and take up the gifts.)
2. It is the 100th day of school! Children may dress as 100-year-old men and women or come in comfortable casual clothing.
3. 10:40 am All-school story in parish hall *The Pilgrims Continue their Journey Part I*
4. 6:30 – 7:45 pm Family Prayer and Community Gathering - sponsored by the SFA. Everyone in the family is welcome! We will begin in Church for a peaceful time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. There will be praise and worship music, times of quiet, activities for small children, confessions available, a prayer team for anyone desiring extra prayers, and benediction. At 7:15 pm we will gather in the parish hall to enjoy each other's company and have some treats to eat.

Wednesday, January 29

1. 8:15 am Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart is offered for St. James Staff.(4th grade students do the readings and take up the gifts.)
2. Children wear their uniforms.
3. 10:00 am Coffee break for staff members!
4. 12:45 – 1:05 pm All-school story *The Pilgrims Continue their Journey Part II*
5. 1:10 – 2:10 pm - Creative Exchange. This is a favorite day. The children choose their favorites from a variety of activities put on by the teachers.

Thursday, January 30

1. 8:15 am Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary is offered for St. James faculty. (3rd grade students do the readings and take up the gifts.)
2. 9:00 am All-school story in the parish hall. *Pilgrims in View of the City of Joy!*
3. Children may dress in mismatched clothing or as animals.
4. 1:00 pm. We are going to the movies! Join us at the ISIS theatre for a movie about pilgrimage and hope – *An American Tail!* The movie and treats are being paid for by our parish Altar Society ladies.

Friday, January 31

1. 8:15 am Memorial Mass of St. John Bosco is offered for the children of St. James children.(2nd grade students do the readings and take up the gifts.) Children should wear their uniforms.
2. K – 6 children journey to The Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln as pilgrims of hope and stop off to hike the trails of Villa Regina Motherhouse on the way home – weather permitting. Please have your K-6 children bring a sack lunch to school. PK Children have a special tour Sacred Heart Church and their own hike around the school grounds.

