



Dear Parents,

January 8, 2025

Christina Rossetti, an English poet from the 19th century, wrote many poems for children. This poem of hers was made into a Christmas carol. Do you know the melody? It is a sweet one.

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.



As I spoke with the children this week, I asked them to close their eyes and give God their hearts. In those few moments of silent prayer, they told Him their hopes. Afterward, a few volunteered to share with the class. One hoped for strength to persevere in doing what was right, another for fun and a free dress day. One hoped for world peace and another that God would help the poor. One hoped for grace, another for love. One wanted a closer relationship with Jesus, another a pet cat, another of pet fish, while yet a fourth hoped for the second coming of Christ. What are the hopes of your heart? Big or small, the God who came to us in the bleak mid-winter can fulfill them all.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

This year our theme for Catholic Schools Week is **“Pilgrims of Hope.”** Though we are still in the planning stages, I want to let you know of a few events and dates ahead of time so that you might join us if you can.

Sunday, January 26

- 9:00 am Mass - special for St. James Families. Children should come dressed in their school uniforms.
- After Mass, enjoy a pancake brunch put on by the Knights of Columbus for St. James School families and friends.
- 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

- 11:30 am – 12:15 pm - Come to school for a pizza lunch with the children. Special activities may follow.

Tuesday, January 28

- 6:30 pm Family Holy Hour and Community Gathering - sponsored by the SFA. This will be a peaceful time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in church. We will have some praise and worship music, times of quiet, activities for small children, confessions available, and possibly a prayer team for anyone desiring extra prayers. After the Holy Hour, come together in the parish hall to enjoy each other’s company and have some treats to eat.

Wednesday, January 29

- 12:45 – 2:15 pm - All School Story followed by the ever-popular Creative Exchange. This is a favorite day of the children! Parents are welcome to the story and to the activities which follow.

Thursday, January 30

- 1:00 pm. We are going to the movies! Join us at the ISIS theatre for a movie about pilgrimage and hope.

Friday, January 31

- We are looking into the possibility of an all-school pilgrimage. The place is yet to be determined, but it will probably be in Lincoln and we will likely leave in the morning. Please let us know if you would like to drive! More information to come. This is still very tentative.

Upcoming Dates:

January 26- 31 Catholic Schools Week

February 18 6:30 pm in the parish hall - First Holy Communion Parent Meeting

Coming Home today: Report cards!

