



Dear Parents

March 11, 2026

Enrique, Cesare, and Hector Baeza Carranza, three of our St. James students, were baptized today at the 8:15 a.m. school Mass. It is arguably the greatest day of their lives! Words do not suffice to express the awesomeness of their baptisms nor of each of our own.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells of the multiple life-giving fruits of baptism. You can read about these in articles 1262-1275. [https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_P3N.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P3N.HTM) In this newsletter, I will focus on the top three.

**First – Purification:** The sacrament of baptism completely purifies us from sin. Original sin, personal sin, and all punishment due to sin are utterly forgiven and the doors of Heaven are thrown wide open to the newly baptized person! While on earth, the baptized soul still will struggle against a tendency to sin, but so long as there is resistance to the temptation, the struggle will only serve to increase his or her holiness.

**Second – Divine Filiation:** It is a wonderful thing to have life and if that is all we ever received from God, it would be a great deal. But Baptism skyrockets us far beyond human life. Baptism makes us children of God! “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God...”. Once baptized, God the Father loves us to the same degree which He loves Jesus. (John 17:23) It is astonishing! Such a love, such an incredible, unsurpassable, and eternal love! It is ours because of baptism.

**Third -The Indwelling of the Holy Trinity:** The triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, comes to dwell in the soul of the baptized person through sanctifying grace. God is always with the baptized. He is like parents lovingly gazing at their first newborn child, but His gaze of love never ceases. There is not a single second when He looks away from His beloved child. Additionally, the baptized child of God can receive the Holy Spirit’s inspirations and promptings throughout all of life. Once baptized, we don’t have to figure out the maze of life by ourselves. The baptized have the guidance of Divine Wisdom right within themselves.

Purified, lovingly adopted, ever cared for, and more! (Read articles 1262-1275.) No wonder Pope Francis often taught that our baptism was the most important day of our life. What happens at baptism is astounding and far beyond anything that human beings can grasp with their senses alone. Faith opens our interior eyes to the effects of baptism, impacts which reach to eternity. Today, let’s thank God for the gift of our baptism. It came at the price of Jesus’ cruel suffering and death on the cross. It is the greatest gift and the greatest day of our life!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

**Calendar Lottery:** St. James School’s one main fundraiser, the Calendar Lottery, is here. Look for tickets in the communication folder today, Wednesday, March 11.

**Cancelation:** We will not have a SFA meeting on Tuesday, March 17. The next SFA meeting is on Tuesday, April 21.

**Good Shepherd Scholarship:** The deadline for the Good Shepherd Scholarship is fast approaching. All applications must be in by March 31. Please go to [www.goodshepherdscholarship.com](http://www.goodshepherdscholarship.com) to fill out the application as soon as you can. Tuition at St. James School next year is \$3,100.00 per child. The scholarship takes \$1,800.00 off your tuition and enables you to be eligible for the Sacred Heart scholarship.

You will need:

1. Your email address
2. Your 2024 or 2025 tax forms
3. Your 1040 form
4. Your W2 form
5. Your social security number and your children's social security numbers
6. Date of birth for your children
7. Information on taxable income
8. Information on nontaxable income (child support, food stamps, government assistance)

Need help filling out the Good Shepherd Scholarship? Please call the office to set up an appointment. 402-826-2318

**Summer Totus Tuus 2026 - Save the date!**

Children and Teens of the parish are welcome to attend Totus Tuus **June 29 - July 3** here in Crete. Classes will be held during the day for children entering 1st-8th grade during the 2026-27 school year and in the evening for high school students. More information will be shared at a later date.

**Coming Home Today:** Calendar Lottery tickets, Reading Encouragement newsletter, Student Forms Update.



# About Audiobooks

## Why listen to audiobooks?

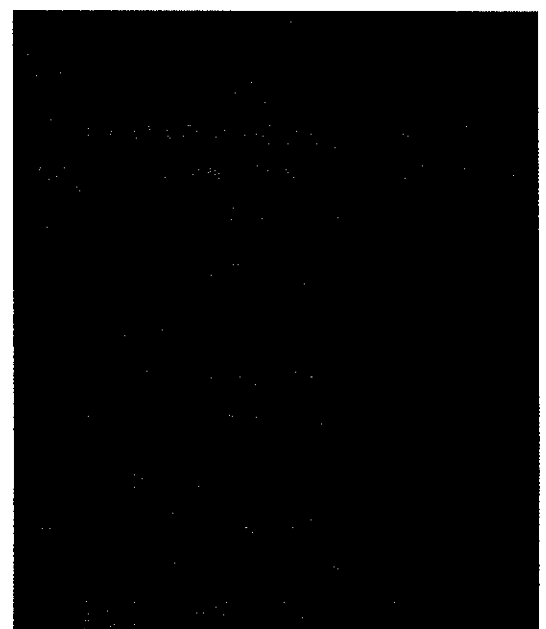
The answer to this question is the same as the answer to the question, "Why should I read aloud to my kids?" An audiobook is just another read aloud - a book being read aloud by a great narrator and recorded professionally. In an earlier newsletter, three main reasons were given for reading aloud; they also apply here as reasons to listen to audiobooks:

1. Academic benefits: vocabulary, sophisticated language patterns, increased attention span, and many others.
2. Life benefits: helps children grow up to be kind adults who love reading and who want to always keep learning.
3. Family bonding: a fun activity and quality time you spend with your children. Pick an audiobook that you can all listen to together as a family.

## Where can I get audiobooks?

## For children who **do** and **do not** enjoy reading on their own

Even children who already love reading and can read to themselves, still benefit from hearing others read aloud to them. They can listen to books beyond the level that they can read to themselves, which helps them grow. And for children who can't read to themselves yet, or for whom reading has become a chore, audiobooks can give them all the benefits of accessing great stories without the slog of trying to decode the words on the page. At St. James, children who have a hard time reading receive a lot of wonderful extra time and help to develop their skills at reading. *Children who have a hard time reading need to have time to just enjoy stories being read to them, or else they will always think of reading as a difficult and painful chore.*





## The Best Librivox Narrators

We've created a list of the best narrators on Librivox as recommended by you, members of the Read-Aloud Revival. We combed through recommendations on Facebook, in emails, and in blog comments. Then we linked directly to our community's favorite readers. Underneath each reader's name you'll find some specific titles that our listeners have loved. Now you can easily find great audio books that don't break the budget!

Note: The website list will be updated as members make suggestions, so please check there for more resources.

Mary Anderson

*Pollyanna* by Eleanor H. Porter

Mark Butler

*Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* by Rudyard Kipling

Clive Catterall

*The White Company* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Phil Chenevert

*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling

*Orthodoxy* by G.K. Chesterton

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum

Rachel Ellen

*Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* by Margaret Sidney

Gregory Holmsworth

*My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Lee Ann Howlett

*Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Meredith Hughes

*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling

Elizabeth Klett

*The Age of Innocence* by Edith WHarton

*Emma* by Jane Austen

*Wives and Daughters* by Elizabeth Gaskell

David Leeson

*The Cat of Bubastes* by G.A. Henty

John Lieder

*The Adventures of Bob White and Other Tales* by Thornton Burgess

Andy Minter

*The Princess and the Goblin* by George MacDonald



Mil Nicholson

*Bleak House* by Charles Dickens

*The Old Curiosity Shop* by Charles Dickens

Adrian Praetzelis

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Karen Savage

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb

*The Story of Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*The Railway Children* by E. Nesbit

*Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery

Jennette Selig

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Kara Shallenberg

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

*Poems Every Child Should Know* edited by Mary Burt

*Our Island Story* by H.E. Marshall

*A Room with a View* E.M. Forster

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss

*Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*Grammar-Land* by M.L. Nesbitt

Many more modern titles at [Kayray Reads to You](#)

Shannon

*Raggedy Ann Stories* by Johnny Gruelle

Mark F. Smith

*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

*Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs

*White Fang* by Jack London

*The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi

Marie Therese

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

*Emma* by Jane Austen

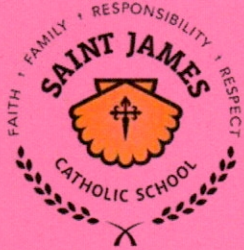
*Lives of the Saints* by Alban Butler

*Rose in Bloom* by Louisa May Alcott

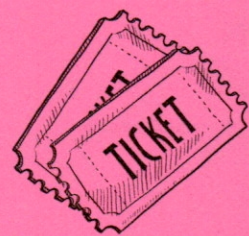
*The Trees of Pride* by G.K. Chesterton

Mike Vendetti

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane



# 2026 St. James Calendar Lottery



The Calendar Lottery is one of St. James School's largest fundraisers. Last year, we sold 894 tickets and raised over \$13,000 for our school! This fundraiser helps the School Family Association (SFA) with expenses beyond the standard school budget. Expenses include: supplemental classroom and curriculum materials, library books, PE equipment, field trips, Catholic Schools Week activities, Christmas bonuses for faculty and Advent and Lent activities. This fundraiser has helped purchase a new playground surface! This will be installed this spring or summer.

## ***Calendar Lottery Information:***

- There are **44** drawings: **Two \$500, Five \$250, Ten \$100, Twenty-seven \$50** drawings
- Each ticket is eligible for ALL 44 drawings
- Because this is a calendar lottery, there are dates listed on the ticket (per Nebraska Lottery Requirements), but all drawings are held on one day.
- **All drawings will take place on Sunday, April 26th following the 9:00 am mass in the Parish Hall.** Checks will be mailed to winners on the address provided on each ticket stub.

## ***Ticket Selling Instructions:***

- Each ticket costs \$20, cash or check. Checks can be made out to 'St James Calendar Lottery'
- Ticket stub and payment is returned to the school office
  - Ticket stub must include buyer's name, address and phone number
- The buyer keeps the larger portion of the ticket
- Buyers must be at least 18 years old
- **ALL tickets (sold or unsold) must be returned to school by Friday, April 17th** (per Nebraska Lottery Requirements)

**Families are asked to sell at least 12 tickets  
(Families with children only in preschool are asked to sell at least 7 tickets)**

*Each family will receive extra tickets. Families are encouraged to sell above the minimum to ensure continued success of this fundraiser!*

Students are invited to sell tickets following all masses on April 11th and 12th.  
Extra tickets will be available to sell.

***For additional tickets or any questions or concerns, please contact:***


Hannah Kubicek – 402-540-5918, [hannahhoebelheinrich@gmail.com](mailto:hannahhoebelheinrich@gmail.com)  
(Additional tickets will also be available in school office)

***Thank you for your participation and support!***




# St. James Calendar Lottery Prizes



- ★ Students may pick a prize from the prize box with returned tickets. Prizes include small trinkets, ice cream coupons from Runza and Dairy Queen and Jimmy Johns sandwich coupons 
- ★ If students meet the selling goal (765 tickets) by **Friday, April 17th**, there will be an all-school ice cream party with Dilly bars donated by Dairy Queen!



- ★ Students that sell all of their tickets by **Friday, April 17th** will be entered in a drawing for one of the following prizes:  
(Students will earn an additional drawing entry for every 5 extra tickets that they sell!)

- Casey's 1 Topping Large Pizza Giftcards
- Casey's \$25 Giftcards
- Pizza Hut \$20 Giftcards
- Lincoln Children's Zoo 'Family Fun 4 Pack'  
(Free Admission and Train Rides for 4 guests)
- 4 Admission Tickets to Lincoln Children's Museum
- 4 tickets to ISIS Theater and box of candy
- Cristina's \$20 Giftcard 



Thank you to these local businesses that have donated prizes to our school!



We need parent volunteers to help students sell tickets following masses on April 11th and 12th! We especially need Spanish speaking volunteers following the Spanish masses. We will have a table set up outside and will have extra tickets for students to sell. Please list your name, your student's name(s) and circle which masses you are available to help at. Please return the completed sheet to the school office.

Parent name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday April 11th 5:00pm

Sunday April 12th 9:00am

Saturday April 11th 7:00pm

Sunday April 12th 11:30am

***Thank you for sharing your time and helping ensure the success of this fundraiser!***

¡Necesitamos padres voluntarios para ayudar a los estudiantes a vender boletos después de las misas los días 11 y 12 de abril! Necesitamos especialmente voluntarios que hablen español después de las misas en español. Tendremos una mesa instalada afuera y habrá boletos adicionales para que los estudiantes vendan. Por favor, indique su nombre, el nombre(s) de su(s) estudiante(s) y circule en qué misas está disponible para ayudar. Por favor, devuelva la hoja completa a la oficina de la escuela.

Nombre de padre(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre de estudiante(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Sabado Abril 11th 5:00pm

Domingo Abril 12th 9:00am

Sabado Abril 11th 7:00pm

Domingo Abril 12th 11:30am

***¡Gracias por compartir tu tiempo y ayudar a asegurar el éxito de esta recaudación de fondos!***