



SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH † FAMILY † RESPONSIBILITY † RESPECT

525 E. 14th Street † Crete, NE 68333 † 402-826-2318

March 25, 2026

Dear Parents,

“Do you know how to make a really beautiful heart?” asked my cousin Jane when we were both about four years old. I wasn’t so sure that I did, but I gave it a try using red construction paper and scissors. Several attempts produced various lopsided shapes, which were not at all what we were seeking. We needed a wonderful heart for our project. Jane proved herself no better at heart-making than I. What to do? The answer was simple. “I’ll ask my mother!” Smiling and with ease, my mother cut out the perfect heart for us and we went happily on our way.

This simple memory from long ago came back to me as I was thinking about these final days of Lent when, for love of Jesus Christ, we are trying to become better persons. Each of us desires to be good-hearted. Who ever thinks, “I hope to become mean spirited, cowardly, and selfish?” No, we all hope to be persons who are good, pure, gentle, kind, loving, patient, forgiving, courageous, loyal, and faithful. We often try to become this way by our own efforts only to find the results disappointing. Here again is where we must be like little children and run to ask our mother. The mother I am referring to is, of course, Mary, the Mother of God.

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation when Mary said “Yes” to becoming the mother of Jesus. That “Yes” served to make her our mother too. Let us ask for her help. She is happy and able to help form within us the beautiful heart of our desire.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Calendar Lottery: St. James School’s one main fundraiser, the Calendar Lottery, is here. Keep selling those tickets! So far we have sold a little over 100 tickets. Our goal is 765 tickets.

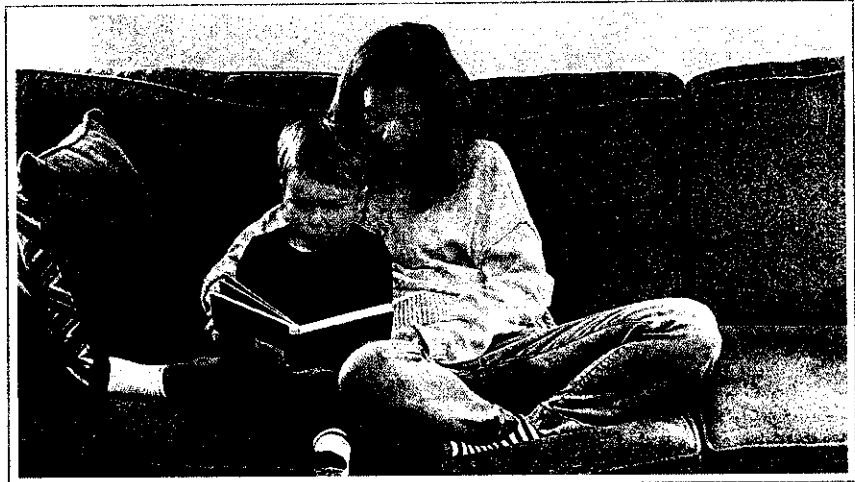
Quiz Bowl: Join us on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. for the SFA meeting and fun Quiz Bowl! Enjoy seeing how much your children have learned this year in school!

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

Coming Home Today: Federal Tax Credit flyer, Chamber Easter Egg Hunt flyer, Spirit Catholic Radio cards, Read Aloud Encouragement letter.

Problem Solving #6

My kids resist or complain about read aloud time.



Add a read aloud to snack (or add a snack to read alouds)

You want to start up (or keep up) a habit of reading aloud, but your children balk at the idea, or are starting to complain about it. Try reading aloud while your children are sitting down for a snack (or breakfast or dessert). Or, when it's time to read aloud, add a snack to make it be a special time.

Let them choose the book

For older kids especially, they may be imagining read aloud the way you do it with your toddlers. Help them get invested in the idea, and change their perception of it, by letting them at least help you choose what you will read.

Let them stay up later

For younger kids especially, if you tell them it's bedtime but their choice is bed now or stay up later for a read aloud, you can be happy about whichever option they pick!

Keep hands busy

If you have never tried offering your kids quiet activities while you read, give that a try. They may enjoy listening a lot more if their hands are engaged in something like drawing, doing a puzzle or building with legos.

Listen to audiobooks in the car

Everyone has to be in the car anyway, so if you put on an audiobook "because you really want to listen to it," your children might be curious enough to listen along. However, if electronics or movies are also a regular choice in the car, those options will certainly win out over books. If your children are allowed to use electronics at home, maybe you want to consider not allowing electronics on car rides, and play audiobooks instead.

Check out my source for more ideas: <https://everyday-reading.com/read-aloud-tips/>



COMING JANUARY 2027: **New Federal Tax Credit** **Opportunity**



Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct up to **\$1700** of your federal income tax liability to support K-12 private school scholarships. Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up for updates.



CRETE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S

Annual Easter

EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Crete Area Medical Center
Saturday, March 28 • 1 PM

Age Groups

- 1-2 Year Olds
- 3-4 Year Olds
- 5-6 Year Olds
- 7-8 Year Olds
- 9-10 Year Olds



This Event Sponsored By:



Easter Egg Sponsors:

Alpha Omega Chiropractic • City Bank & Trust Co.
Crete Lumber & Farm Supply • Doane University
First Interstate Bank • Jay's Oil & Propane
Lothrop Animal Clinic • Scooter's Coffee

