



Dear Parents,

September 23, 2026

This is the second of three newsletters emphasizing the importance of faith and literacy formation during the elementary years. In the last newsletter, I emphasized the value of frequently reading to your children and having fun with it. The result of this practice is children who love to read! How does faith development come into this realm of literacy?

As Catholics, many of the books you have for your children should be faith-based. Do your children know their Bible stories? There are so many which contain exciting dramas and formative truth. Catholic children's Bibles can be of great help as they are written at levels the children can understand and often contain engaging pictures. Adam and Eve, Cain and Able, Noah and the ark, Abraham and Sarah, Ishmael and Issac, Jacob and Leah and Rachel and their twelve sons, Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt, Moses, David and Goliath, Queen Esther, Ruth, . . . the list continues. All this and we haven't even begun the New Testament where Jesus enters the scene. These are the chronicles of our Judeo-Christian heritage. We must not neglect them for they are treasures and should be known by heart. They are God's gift to us, they are branches on our own family tree, they are our history, and they form our identity as beloved and chosen children of God. The story of His love and salvation continues in each of our lives as well!

These Bible stories should be read and told and reread and retold in a manner appropriate to the age level of the child. You might even try having the children act out the stories using dress-up clothes, puppets, or whatever toys they choose. Some parents decide to make many of their bedtime stories centered on the faith. How fitting that narratives of our loving God be foremost at this time, the time of day which can be most intimate in the parent-child relationship.

Once the story is completed, be sure to conclude with prayers and signs of your own love for your child. For children to believe in God's love for them, they must first experience your parental love. Besides God, no one else knows or loves your child as deeply as you do. You are the ones God has chosen from all eternity to be the parent of your children and to nurture them for happiness in this life and the next. Reading the stories from the Bible (and Lives of the Saints) can help.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

You and Your Children Did A Great Thing: Thank you, parents, for allowing your children to contribute to Father Gervais Levis Kamwa Kouam's mission collection for the people of Zambia. In just one day our children brought in \$757.05. That was the biggest single day collection we have ever had! Father was

very **surprised** and grateful, and the children learned a great lesson. In giving, you yourself become happier and more blessed.

No School: As announced in an earlier memo, **there will be no school on September 24 and 25** so that the four Sisters and some of our faculty/staff may attend the Mass and Beatification ceremony in St. Louis of soon-to-be Blessed Fulton Sheen.

Drop Off and Dismissal Times: St. James School begins at 8:05 am. Children may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. but no earlier, please. Dismissal begins at 2:20 p.m. on Mondays and 3:20 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Uniforms: Be sure to have your child(ren) in uniform. If you want to trade, buy or give away school uniforms please come to the school office. Jumpers are \$5; pants, sweaters and shirts are \$1. Unused jumpers are always needed.

Coming Home Today: Menu, Parent-Teacher Sign Up, Crete Parks and Rec., Crete Chamber Color Page.

Upcoming Dates:

September 29	Picture retakes
October 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences 9: 00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
October 7	Living Rosary – Presented by the Third grade class. 2:20 p.m.
October 12	No School. Teacher Institute in Lincoln
October 16	Health Screening
October 20	6:30 p.m. SFA Meeting
October 21	Report cards sent home
October 30	1:15 p.m. All Saints Parade – grade 1 2:15 p.m. Mission Carnival for the whole school. Thank you 5 th and 6 th graders.

