SAINT JAMES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FAITH † FAMILY † RESPONSIBILITY † RESPECT
525 E. 14th Street † Crete, NE 68333 † 402-826-2318

Dear Parents, November 11, 2026

Recent Happenings at St. James School!

It Happened Just Today: In honor of Veterans Day, parishioner Bill Murphy, a Vietnam veteran, spoke about the importance of voting and the privilege our country has in getting to choose our leaders. He taught about the history of Veterans Day and reminded the students of Mary's Fatima message to pray the rosary for peace. Father Robert Barnhill of Wilber then shared some of his experiences as an air force military chaplain in Afghanistan. The presentation concluded with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." May God bless our nation and all our veterans!

New Students: In the month of October we received three new students. Welcome first graders, Vitalina and Guadalupe Vargas and fifth grader Evaleigh Muckey. Hernan will join our PK class on December 1. We are very happy to have these children with us.

WORDS Program: Reading instruction coaches from the University of Nebraska WORDS program have been visiting St. James School for well over a year now. After their visit on November 3 and 4, I received the following compliments, "This is a gem of a school. I love coming here. The children ask such in-depth questions." "The reading instruction is moving in a very positive direction. The teachers are working hard and the momentum is clearly building." We have learned much from the WORDS instructors and can happily incorporate this knowledge into our Catholic educational tradition.

7th and 8th Update: Great news! After bringing the topic up to the school board, Dr. McDowell reported, "Yes! Future Saint James 7th and 8th grade students can participate in Crete Public School athletic programs!" A written agreement is now being composed.

Saints Parade: On October 30 our first graders delighted the school with their All-Saints Parade. Dressed in splendid costumes, they spoke of their Saints' lives and helped us to remember the real purpose of our own lives. Love of God and love of neighbor. Great job first graders!

Mission Carnival: Following the Saints Parade, the 6th graders put on the annual Mission Carnival in the gym. As the younger children visited the older students' stations, they learned about various mission countries from the 6th graders. Then the fun began with the children enjoying such activities as a soccer ball kick, a ping pong spoon balance, musical chairs, face painting, duck pond choosing, and target practice. Thank you to our 6th graders for taking the lead in providing such a fun afternoon for the younger students.

Diaper Drive: Meanwhile the fifth graders organized a diaper drive to support the PCCW's annual charity. The school collected 4,431 diapers and $512.00 to be used to purchase more diapers! Kay Wessel, chair of the diocesan diaper drive, was mightily impressed with our numbers! It may have helped that the first place class was promised a non-uniform day and a ice cream snack as a reward. Congratulations to grade three! The first graders came in second place. Their reward was to build a fort out of diapers and to

try and withstand an attack by the 5th graders. In the end, the diapers were delivered to Catholic Social Services and other local organizations which support women and babies in need of assistance.

Mass of Remembrance: On All Souls Day, the names of the ten parishioners who had died in the past year were read aloud right before Mass. A large votive candle was brought forward by a 6thgrader for each deceased parishioner. These candles stayed lit in front of the altar for the entire day and continued burning throughout the week at the side of the Church. After school on this day, the faculty went to the Sacred Heart Cemetery together to pray for other deceased parishioners.

It Has Not Happened Yet but Needs To: We are looking for someone to lead the charge in advertising and inviting people to participate in the upcoming federal tax credit program which has potential to make a huge and never-before-experienced financial impact on St. James. We need a leader! We also need others who would like to help. St. Teresa School in Lincoln is on fire about this opportunity and has a goal of getting 1000 people to participate. If they did that, their school would receive one to two million dollars in tuition assistance! How about St. James? I think we could do just as well for our children's school. Please let me know if you are interested. I need a champion for the cause!

Could You Use Some Help This Christmas?: The Crete Police are once again helping families in need to receive toys and clothing this Christmas through ***Operation Under the Tree***. Please ask for a form from the office if this would be a help to your family this Christmas.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Upcoming Dates:

November 22	The Feast of Christ the King
November 25-29	No School. Thanksgiving Break
November 29	The First Sunday of Advent
November 30	School resumes
	8:15 a.m. Mass will be in the parish hall from November 30 – December 4.
December 1	Giving Catholic Tuesday. Thank you for your generosity!
December 8	No School today. The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.
December 11	5th graders present "Our Lady of Guadalupe" 8:50 a.m. in the church.
December 16	PreK and Kindergarten Christmas program 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
December 17	1st – 6th grade Christmas program.