



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo October 18, 2024

***Don't forget to ROAR!***

*Happy Friday, HTCS families! We are rapidly moving through the month of October and there is a lot happening here at HTCS. Please see below for important information about all that is going on this month. Have a great weekend!*

**Change in Weather** - It's that time of year again... layers, layers, layers! Please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outside play as students do go out year-round. It is imperative that families make sure children's names are on all sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets/coats, hats, gloves, etc. This way we can help ensure that these items go back home with the proper student.

**Monday Rosary** - We are continuing our **Monday** morning recitations of the Rosary at **8:05 AM** in the multipurpose room. All families are invited to join their students for this beautiful way of honoring Mother Mary during the month of October.

**Social Outreach Project** - Between **Tuesday, 10/1**, and **Monday, 10/21**, students are asked to partner with their parents to earn and/or collect loose change and dollar bills to fill the baby bottles that were sent home earlier this month. Filled baby bottles should be returned to school on **Tuesday, 10/22** and will be donated to Grand Strand Citizens for Life. As Catholic Christians, we firmly believe in the sanctity of life and these funds will be used to provide assistance to mothers and their children in our community.

**Fall conferences** - All families in K3 and Kinder-5th grades should be signed up by now for the annual fall conferences next week. Please keep in mind, these are brief conferences (15 minutes) to review the first quarter and MAP results. K4 will hold their conferences at a different time and teachers will send that information home when it is available.

**Book Fair** - Our annual fall book fair will be held next week. Students will have an opportunity to preview the items for sale and make purchases during school. You can set up an e-wallet at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/holytrinitycatholicschool4>. The fair will also be open to families/friends during the parent-teacher-student conferences - **Tuesday, 10/22** through **Friday, 10/25**. The book fair is a great place to shop for Christmas gifts!

**Disguise a Pumpkin** - Each student received a small pumpkin last week donated by one of our amazing families, so we are having a *Disguise A Pumpkin* contest. Please see the attached flier for more details. We hope your family enjoys participating in this fun activity. A few things to keep in mind:

1. Please don't send back the pumpkins until **10/24**. We don't have anywhere to store them.
2. Please put the student's name on the bottom of the pumpkin.
3. We have church staff coming in to be the judges.
4. Pumpkins will be on display for all to see at our Annual Trunk or Treat.

**Seton Open House** - All are invited to attend Seton Catholic's open house on **Thursday, 10/24**, at **6 PM**. This is a great opportunity to check out their middle school, meet the faculty and staff, and learn more about what makes Seton a great place for HTCS students to transition to for their middle and high school careers.

**Social Outreach Project** - Please see attached information from the PTO regarding our annual *Trunk or Treat So People Can Eat* event scheduled for **5:30 PM** on **Friday, 10/25**. For the price of one non-perishable food item or paper good product (per child), children can safely trick-or-treat in the school parking lot while socializing with other families. All donated items will be delivered to the OLSS Food Pantry.

**Not Your Average Joe** - Tickets are now on sale for our annual dinner show fundraiser. This year's production, *Not Your Average Joe*, will take place on **Friday, 1/31**, at **6 PM** and **Saturday, 2/1**, at **1 PM**. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/child 10 and under. What a great way to wrap up Catholic Schools Week 2025!

### **Catholic Faith Formation - *The Catholic Roots of Halloween* - By Christopher Wells**

Although Halloween has been embraced by the secular world, its foundations are firmly rooted in Catholic tradition. Dr Malcolm Brown of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture explains the significance of All Hallows' Eve. In the modern world, and especially in English speaking countries, Halloween has become one of the most important holidays of the year, with millions of children and adults dressing up as their favorite heroes, superstars, ghouls and goblins. While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallow's Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home. Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The memory of those who have gone before us naturally leads to thoughts of mortality, and the liturgical focus on the end times during this period of the Church year adds to the atmosphere of gloom. In a "Memorandum on the Celebration of Halloween" issued last year for his Diocese, Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, stresses the importance of "maintaining the Catholic meaning and purpose of all holy days, especially those which have been adopted and adapted by the culture

around us". He explains how customs such as dressing up for Halloween and appealing to frightful imagery can be done in a Catholic spirit, while warning that "we want to intentionally avoid those things that are contrary to our Catholic faith, but have become popularized through the secular adaptation of Halloween". Vatican News spoke with Dr Marcel Brown, of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture in Tulsa, about the Catholic roots of Halloween. "The feast of Halloween is one of those feasts on the Catholic calendar that is celebrated on the eve of a great solemnity", he said. Dr Brown explained that the word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken from an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. "So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows'", he said. "So it's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth".

The modern focus on the eerie or mysterious also has a Catholic aspect. "When we think of Halloween, I think we often think of ghosts and goblins, and ghoulish faces", Dr Brown said. "But even these, in the Catholic tradition, are supposed to be reminders of death and of the last things". He continued, "So just as we commemorate the feast of All Saints on November 1st, beginning with All Hallows' Eve on Halloween, we also think about and turn our minds really, to the last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And really our focus should be, since we all must die and are destined to judgment, how then are we to live?"

In his *Memorandum*, Bishop Konderla invites the faithful to "urge one another this Halloween to express in every detail of our observance the beauty and depth of the Feast of All Saints". "Let us make this year's celebration", he says, "an act of true devotion to God, whose saints give us hope that we too may one day enter into the Kingdom prepared for God's holy ones from the beginning of time". [The Catholic roots of Halloween, the Vigil of All Saints' Day - Vatican News](#)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *Holy Trinity Catholic School, a ministry of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, offers to early childhood and elementary school students of diverse ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds a superior academic program based on Gospel values. Within a family atmosphere, the school strives to develop the spiritual, academic, personal, creative, and physical growth of each student.*

**VISION STATEMENT:** *Holy Trinity Catholic School students will be fully prepared to transition to middle school possessing critical thinking skills, an ability to work independently as well as collaboratively, and an awareness of what it means to actively live the Gospel values.*