



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo November 15, 2024

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday, HTCS families! Please see below for lots of important information about school events and happenings. Have a great weekend!

Family Advent Social Outreach Project - *Operation Christmas Child* will wrap up next week. All filled boxes are due back to school by **Tuesday, 11/19**. Thank you for partnering with your children to support this global social outreach project.

#iGiveCatholic Campaign - #iGiveCatholic will take place on #GivingTuesday, the global day of philanthropy, **December 3**, but advanced giving begins on **November 18**. We have a HUGE goal to reach this year and we need everyone's support starting now. Please start sharing the link: [Give to Holy Trinity Catholic School \(North Myrtle | #iGiveCatholic\)](#) on your social media platforms now. You can let people know this is a great way to get in a last minute tax write off while supporting our school at the same time. It's a win-win for everyone!

WMBF - Our school will be featured in a brief tv segment on WMBF at **11 AM** on **Tuesday, 11/19**. Check your local listing and tune in to see HTCS on tv!

Family Advent Activity - We are looking forward to welcoming the families who signed up for our annual Advent family faith formation activity with Deacon Richard taking place on **Thursday, 11/21**, at **3:05 PM** in the multipurpose room (mpr).

Surveys - If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the **Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness: Parent Survey**. The data gathered from the survey responses helps us retain our accreditation, recognize our areas of strength, and note our areas for improvement. Your feedback is invaluable. Just click the link below to complete the survey by **Friday, 11/22**. <https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/262535/p883>.

Newspapers - Mrs. Hines is looking for newspapers for a project for the Pow Wow. If you have some to donate, please send them in by **Friday, 11/22**.

Seton Bus - There will be no Seton bus transportation or Seton sibling after care on **Monday, 11/25** and **Tuesday, 11/26**. All students will need to be transported to and from school.

Thanksgiving Break - We have a **half day** (noon dismissal, no aftercare) on **Tuesday, 11/26**. Students who have not opted out will participate in a brief safety program and then all will enjoy the return of the HTCS Pow Wow on Tuesday. All students need to be picked up at **noon**. School will be closed **Wednesday, 11/27 - Friday, 11/29**. We will reopen on **Monday, 12/2**.

Social Media - Please be sure to like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram @holy_trinity_school_nmb. Feel free to share with those you know.

State of the School Address and Strategic Plan - If you were not able to attend the State of the School Address meeting in person, and/or if you would like to view our 3-year Strategic Plan, please visit our school website: [Our Mission | Holy Trinity Catholic School](#).

Not Your Average Joe - Tickets are now on sale and going fast 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!

Confession - Catholic faculty and staff, as well as students in grades 3-5 who have made their First Reconciliation will have the opportunity to go to Confession during the season of Advent. I am waiting to hear from Fr. Ray on the specific day and time. Once I have that information, I will let you know. In the meantime, attached is a great review guide for going to Confession.

Catholic Faith Formation - *Why Do Catholics Confess To A Priest?*

The practice of entering a confessional to disclose personal sins is as Catholic as the Rosary or a Roman collar. It's infamous to those who disapprove of the Church, and a topic of curiosity to those indifferent to the Church. "Why do you confess things to a priest?" people ask. Many Protestants present a starker challenge: "Why do you confess your sins to a mere man instead of confessing directly to God?" In answer to the first question: We Catholics confess our sins to a priest because that's the method of forgiveness that Jesus Himself established during His earthly ministry. In answer to the second question: By confessing our sins to Jesus' minister, His personal representative, we are confessing our sins to God through His priest whom He commissioned for this very purpose. Catholics are accused of being unbiblical when it comes to confession—which is odd, because the teaching on confession is found in the Bible. Interested in learning the specifics (and foundational evidence) behind it? Excellent. Keep on reading!

God Alone Forgives Sins - All Christians recognize—and the Catholic Church teaches—that God alone can forgive sins. "Only God forgives sins," states the Catechism (§1441). The Catechism also says that, [as] the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven." [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), §1441-1442. We see Jesus exercise this authority during His earthly ministry. "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven," He says to a paralyzed man (Matthew 9:2). When His fellow Jews are scandalized by this announcement to forgive sin, their scandal is understandable: they believed Jesus to be "a mere man" and were horrified by His claim to have an authority that belonged to God alone. But Jesus answered them: "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man

has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:4-8. Jesus proved His divinity to them—and therefore His ability to forgive sin—by His power over creation, which He demonstrated through miracles of healing or of absolute power (such as walking on water or cutting a violent storm short with a mere command).

Alright. It’s one thing for the Son of God—being God—to forgive sin. What’s all this about Catholic priests forgiving sin? Let’s find out. The Old Testament reveals an interesting thing. It’s this: from the earliest days of God’s interaction with the human beings He created, He has chosen to speak and work through hand-selected persons on behalf of everyone else. God doesn’t have to do this. But for His own purposes—which we may find mysterious—He chooses to. Abraham. Noah. Moses. Isaiah and all the prophets, right up to John the Baptist. The Lord chose to communicate His will through them, to bring about His will through them, and to perform great works through them. They became His mediators. Now, many Christians become agitated at the word “mediator,” and point to 1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... 1 Timothy 2:5. And we are not denying what St. Paul writes, which is, of course, true. There is one Mediator (capital M) between God and men: Jesus. Yet in His mercy and unfathomable condescension, Jesus chooses to associate us with Himself—and even allows us to participate in His mediation. It’s not our mediation—it’s His, graciously extended to us. You might think of us as “lowercase-M” mediators. For example, when you pray for another person, you are in a real sense mediating on their behalf. St. James writes about this: ...and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. James 5:16. Our humble mediation would not exist, nor have any efficacy, without the one true Mediator between God and man—Jesus—who makes it possible. No catechized Catholic denies this.

God “Delegated” His Authority to Forgive Sins - Based on this long history of working through human beings, you’d think the Good Lord’s decisions wouldn’t surprise us anymore. But they do. Some people think He went a step too far. Because He went and gave certain men His own authority to forgive or retain sins. We may not like this idea very much. If we were God, we’d have chosen to dispense forgiveness very differently! So we’re scandalized, much like our elder brothers the Jews, who were horrified by the man from Nazareth who claimed to forgive sin. But God does what He wants, not what we think He should do.

When did He give certain men such authority? A big claim like this requires proof of “delegation.” Jesus granted the ministry of reconciliation to the twelve Apostles after His Resurrection, as recorded in the Gospel: [T]he disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:20-23 (italics added for emphasis). In this moment, He handed His mission of forgiveness over to the Church; specifically to Her ordained ministers, the successors to the Apostles. That is why the Catechism says: ...by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name. ...he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution [power to forgive sin in the name of Christ] to the apostolic ministry which he charged with the “ministry of reconciliation.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), §1441-1442 (italics added for emphasis). Please note what is (and is not) being said here: when a sinner participates in the Sacrament of Confession, and receives absolution from the priest, it is God who forgives—not the priest himself. If you find this hard to believe, it will be helpful to read the Words of Absolution recited by the priest: God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Prayer of Absolution (italics added for emphasis).

A priest ready to hear confessions - It is Jesus who has granted this ministry to the Church. Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are not forgiven in the name of Fr. Joe. The priest stands in for the person of Christ—that is, in persona Christi. When we confess, we confess first

and foremost to God whom we have offended. Then the priest—acting on the authority given to him by Christ through the Apostles—forgives us in the name of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity. Christ told His Church that “the sins She forgave would be forgiven.” We Catholics take Him at His word. [Why Do Catholics Confess To A Priest? - Good Catholic](#)

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.*