Weekly Communication from Mrs. Luzzo
November 20, 2026

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday, Trinity Lions! As we head into the Thanksgiving break, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our parents and families for your continued support, prayers, and partnership in your children's education. We are truly blessed by this school community! May God bless you and your loved ones with a peaceful, joyful, and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Please continue to check your child's take-home folder, your email, our school website (https://www.holytrinitynmb.com), and our Facebook page for ongoing updates and information about all the exciting things happening at HTCS.

Half Day - Please make a note… **today, Friday, 11/20,** is a half day of school. Dismissal is at noon and there is no aftercare. All students must be picked up at **noon**. Please form two lines for dismissal to expedite the process and prevent back up onto 8th Avenue.

Advent - The beautiful season of Advent begins on **Sunday, 11/29**. Encourage your children to look at the Advent wreath in church each Sunday to see what color candles are lit each week.

No School - Thanksgiving Break - School will be closed the **week of 11/23** in honor of Thanksgiving. We will reopen on **Monday, 11/30**.

Educational Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) - Please note that applications for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) for 2027-2028 will be processed in three (3) windows:

- **Window 1 (November 1, 2026):** *Returning Awarded Students and Their Siblings*
- **Window 2 (January 15, 2027):** *Priority Students meeting certain criteria*
- **Window 3 (February 16, 2027)**: *All Eligible Students*

It is important to note that the ESTF Application Window for Returning ESTF Students and Their Siblings opened on November 1, 2026, at 8 AM. Families with returning ESTF students **MUST** renew their application each year. **For more information about the program or when to apply, please click this link: SC ESTF Program.**

- **NOTE:** If you plan to request a scholarship or tuition assistance, you *MUST* apply for the ESTF grant during the appropriate window. Proof of your application will be required when applying for scholarships and/or tuition assistance. Scholarships and/or tuition assistance will not be awarded to families that have not applied for the ESTF grant on time.
- **NOTE:** If you plan to request the parish discount, proof of registration, weekly Mass attendance, and support will be required from your home parish. A form will be provided to each family as we get closer to the reenrollment period after the holidays.

#iGiveCatholic Giving Day Event - Thank you to those who participated in Monday's advanced giving challenge. Dress down passes have been sent home. Advanced giving will continue until the actual Giving Tuesday on December 3. Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible gift to support our school's efforts. Your generous contribution—whether big or small—will have a direct and meaningful impact on our students and our school community. **How You Can Get Involved:**

1. **Donate:** Every donation brings us one step closer to our goal. You can make a donation on our #iGiveCatholic page: Holy Trinity Catholic School (North Myrtle Beach) | #iGiveCatholic.
2. **Spread the Word:** Share our campaign with family and friends to help amplify our message of generosity. The more people who know, the greater the impact we can have!



The Penguin Patch Holiday Shop - This year, students will have an opportunity to shop for their families (including their pets) at our Penguin Patch Holiday Shop. The shop will be open on **Monday, 12/7, Wednesday, 12/9, Thursday, 12/10,** and **Friday, 12/11, between 8-10 AM.** The shop will be closed on Tuesday, 12/8, as we will attend Mass that day in honor of the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Parents Night Out - Please see attached flyer for information about an upcoming Parents Night Out. Please note… this event is hosted by Mrs. Kalani Morrow, OLSS Youth Ministry Coordinator and friend of HTCS. All communications about this event should be directed to her.

See's Candies Fundraiser - The PTO is holding a See's Candies fundraiser, and information was sent home with students earlier this week. Please take a moment to visit the site and consider making a purchase—whether for a treat for your family or as delicious Christmas gifts for friends and neighbors! Feel free to share the QR code with others as well. Let's help support our PTO so they can continue doing the amazing work they do for our students and school community!

Annual PTO Golf Tournament - Please see the attached flyers for our annual PTO sponsored golf tournament. This is the PTO's biggest fundraiser of the school year and all families are asked to support this event as much as possible to make it a huge success.

Additional Save the Dates - Mark your calendars now and look for more information about these upcoming events:

- **Monday, 11/23-Friday, 11/27** - No school, Thanksgiving break
- **Tuesday, 12/1 - 5:30 PM** - Junior Beta Induction Ceremony (note time change from 5 PM)
- **Tuesday, 12/8** - Immaculate Conception - students will attend Mass (not on Wednesday, 12/9)
- **Thursday, 12/17** - 6 PM Annual Christmas Concert, family social time at 5:30 PM
- **Friday, 12/18** - 1/2 day, no aftercare
- **Monday, 12/21-Friday, 1/1** - No school, Christmas break

Faith for Families: **Advent: What Is the Meaning of Advent?**

Within the Catholic faith, the season of Advent holds profound meaning. It serves a twofold purpose:

- **Preparation for the Birth of Christ:** Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. We reflect on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, their fulfillment in Jesus our hope (1 Tim. 1:1), and thus the mission of salvation he's given to us as members of the one Church he founded.

- **A Call to Conversion**: It's also a season of introspection and renewal. The liturgical color purple reminds us of our imperfections and the need for repentance. By acknowledging our shortcomings, we open ourselves to God's grace and prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Christ. Also, penance—such as through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—helps us quiet and discipline our hearts for the joy of Christmas (see *Catechism* 1434). In that light, without an Advent fast it's harder to prepare for a Christmas.

In essence, this season is a bridge between the past, present, and future. It allows us to look back on the hope for the Savior of the World, experience anew the joy of his arrival and also his reign in the present through his Church, and to prepare ourselves for his glorious return at his Second Coming. ***What Is Advent? | Catholic Answers Guide to Preparing for Christmas | Catholic Answers Tract***

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 high 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.*