



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo November 22, 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!*

**#iGiveCatholic Campaign** - The annual #iGiveCatholic campaign kicked off this week and so far, we have only had a few donations. We have a long way to go between now and #GivingTuesday, the global day of philanthropy, on **December 3**. To reach our goal, we need everyone's support. Please share our link: [Give to Holy Trinity Catholic School \(North Myrtle\)](#) | [#iGiveCatholic](#) on your social media platforms and encourage those you know to make a donation. Every donation, large or small, is tax-deductible and very much appreciated!

**Urgent** - 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>.

**Pow Wow** - Students may dress down in "Native American" wear on **Tuesday, 11/26**, as they will enjoy a Native American Pow Wow all morning. As always, shoes must be safe for outdoor play. No heels, sandals, or crocs.

**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**. 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**.

**Annual Christmas Show** - Information will be coming home soon about our annual Christmas show being held in the multipurpose room (mpr) at **6 PM** on **Thursday, 12/19**. All are invited to attend this beautiful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

**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.

**Family Advent Social Outreach Project** - Thank you to all families who participated in our *Operation Christmas Child* global social outreach project. As a school community, we filled 53 boxes! What a wonderful gift we have taught our students about caring for those in need.

**Family Advent Activity** - Thank you to all those who attended our annual Advent family faith formation activity with Deacon Richard yesterday. I hope as you move through each week of the coming Advent season, your homes are filled with God's love and peace.

**Catholic Faith Formation - *Transform Your Thanksgiving into a Celebration of Faith, Gratitude, and Catholic Traditions*** - Thanksgiving may not be a traditional Catholic feast day, but it's a day that lends itself beautifully to the values and traditions of our faith. After all, gratitude is central to our relationship with God, and this holiday gives us a perfect opportunity to express it in meaningful ways. By blending Catholic customs and historical reflections, you can transform Thanksgiving into a celebration of faith, family, and thankfulness. Here are four ways to make your Thanksgiving truly Catholic this year:

**1. Begin Your Day with Thanksgiving in the Eucharist** - The word Eucharist comes from the Greek for "thanksgiving," and there's no better way to start your day of gratitude than by attending Mass. The celebration of the Eucharist reminds us of the ultimate gift God has given us--His Son. Offer your prayers of thanks during Mass and carry that spirit into your day. Before your Thanksgiving meal, gather your family for a moment of prayer. A beautiful option is to recite the classic grace, "Bless us, O Lord..." and encourage your loved ones to share something they are grateful for this year. Inviting everyone to give thanks aloud can spark heartfelt connections and set the tone for a meaningful day.

**2. Reflect on the Real First Thanksgiving** - The story of Thanksgiving often begins with the Pilgrims' feast in 1621, but history reveals an earlier celebration of gratitude infused with Catholic faith. In 1565, a Spanish expedition led by Pedro Menendez de Aviles arrived in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. Accompanied by Franciscan friars, the settlers celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving as they reached the New World safely. Afterward, they shared a meal with the

local Timucua people. This moment, steeped in faith and cultural exchange, offers a deeply Catholic lens through which to view Thanksgiving.

**3. Honor St. Martin of Tours** - St. Martin of Tours, whose feast day is November 11, offers a uniquely Catholic tie to the Thanksgiving season. Known for his legendary act of charity--cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar--St. Martin inspires us to consider how we can show generosity to those in need during this time of abundance. The traditional Martinmas celebration featured roasted goose, seasonal vegetables, and wine, much like the modern Thanksgiving meal. Some historians even suggest that this feast influenced the American tradition of roasting turkey! Including a small tribute to St. Martin--perhaps by supporting a local charity or performing an act of kindness--can deepen the spiritual meaning of your holiday.

**4. Learn from the Charity of Squanto** - Squanto, the Native American who famously aided the Pilgrims, lived a life marked by extraordinary forgiveness and generosity. Captured and enslaved by Europeans, he eventually gained his freedom with the help of Spanish Franciscan friars who not only liberated him but also introduced him to the Catholic faith. Despite the tragedy of losing his entire community to disease, Squanto chose to help the Pilgrims survive in their new land. His acts of service--teaching them how to grow crops and navigate the area--exemplify the virtues of charity, forgiveness, and selflessness. Reflecting on his story can inspire us to embody these qualities in our own lives, especially during Thanksgiving.

**A Holiday of Gratitude and Faith** - Thanksgiving is a chance to embrace gratitude, reflect on Catholic history, and honor the virtues that define our faith. Whether you begin your day with Mass, delve into the stories of Catholic thanksgiving, or draw inspiration from saints and historical figures, you'll find countless ways to make this holiday spiritually enriching. So, gather your loved ones, share a prayer of thanks, and enjoy a feast filled with faith and gratitude. Happy Thanksgiving--and God bless!

[How to Make Your Thanksgiving a True Catholic 'Feast' Day - Marriage & Family - Home & Family - News - Catholic Online](#)

**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.*