



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo December 1, 2023

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday! It's hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from Christmas break. Thank you to those who attended our annual Advent faith formation activity yesterday. We hope you learned something new about our faith and that you enjoy the Jesse Tree tradition in your homes.

Basketball - Today's game has been canceled due to illnesses within the team. We pray for everyone to feel better soon.

Parade - The NMB Christmas parade scheduled for tomorrow is a rain or shine event. The PTO will have a school float in the parade. Families can decide if they want to attend. If you need to use a stroller or wagon for your children, that is fine.

#iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday - As of this morning, our little school ranked **4th** in the Diocese and **58th** in the Nation in overall donation dollars thanks to our generous donors. Good news... They have extended the end date and we are able to continue accepting donations through **Tuesday, 12/5**. If you would like to make a donation via FACTS, please email me at kluzzo@charlestdiocese.org to let me know what amount you would like charged to your account. You can also send in a check made out to HTCS. Every dollar counts and moves us up in the overall ranks!

ROAR Squad - Permission slips for a Christmas caroling field trip are coming home today. They are due back by **Wednesday, 12/6**.

Lunch Forms - Order forms are due back by **Wednesday 12/6**. Late forms cannot be accepted.

Christmas Show - Please mark your calendars now for our annual Christmas show being held at **6 PM** on **Thursday, 12/14**. Students are asked to report to school at **5:30 PM** and parents are asked to head to the multipurpose room for a brief PTO meeting. More information will be coming regarding costumes/attire for the show.

Students' Christmas Party - The PTO is in need of volunteers for the students' Christmas party on **Friday, 12/15**. If you can help out for a few hours (it is a half day), please contact the PTO at ptohtcs@gmail.com.

Golf Tournament - The PTO is gearing up for their 12th annual golf tournament. This is their major fundraiser for the year, and all proceeds go to support the mission of the school and our students. They are seeking a golf committee chairperson who, along with the PTO and school Leadership team, can help organize the event. You do not need to be a golfer to fill this role. If you, or someone you know, can help the PTO, please contact Mrs. Marisa Slawiak at mslawiak@charlestdiocese.org. More information can be found on our school website: <https://holytrinitynmb.com/get-involved#panel--10>.

Request from Mrs. Hines: PLEASE...

- let her know of any changes in your address, phone numbers, or email so that we have the most current information on file.
- send a water bottle and snack with your child daily.
- label all items (clothing, lunch bags, water bottles) with your child's name.
- do not send in drink cups with straws and/or lids from local restaurants - we have had several spills.

Mary on the Mantel - On Monday, our school will begin a new tradition - *Mary on the Mantel*. This visual resource is intended to help pass on our faith to our students, equip them to make a positive difference in the world, and point them to the inner peace that comes from doing so. Unlike Elf on the Shelf (all fun and good, don't get me wrong), Mary is not a prankster or a spy who carries news of students' behavior back to Heaven, but rather she is a nurturing presence that helps our students find their own real and personal connection to God. For more information on purchasing your own Mary on the Mantel, check out Be A Heart's website: [Mary on the Mantel – Be A Heart](#).

A Catholic Perspective on The Jesse Tree - The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

[The Jesse Tree | Loyola Press](#)

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.*