



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo February 28, 2025

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

*Happy Friday, HTCS families. Below you will find lots of important information about school events and activities. Have a great weekend!*

**Final Call** - Today was the last day for tuition assistance consideration forms and Seton grant forms to be turned in. Also, today was the last day for families wishing to save on the registration fees when re-enrolling to go into FACTS and re-enroll. We have lots of exciting things planned for next year and we are looking forward to great things and continued growth for our students and their families in the 25-26 school year.

**Hot Lunch** - Because **March 5** is Ash Wednesday, we will have vegetable soup versus chicken noodle soup for hot lunch that day.

**Cereal Box Domino Social Outreach Project** - Please see attached for information about our annual cereal box domino social outreach project. We need as many boxes of cereal as possible to make this a great event... and to stock the shelves at Our Lady's Food Pantry. This is a great way for parents and students to partner together on a social outreach activity.

**No School** - The school will be closed on **Friday, 3/7**. Faculty and staff will be traveling to Charleston for a day of Catechesis. Please keep us in your prayers as we focus on the theme for the day - *The Catholic Educator as Evangelist & Witness to the Gospel*.

**Stations of the Cross** - All are invited to join Deacon Richard and the school community for our annual tradition of walking the Stations of the Cross in the church after the 9 AM school Masses on **Wednesdays, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9**. On **Wednesday, 3/12**, a musical version of the Stations of the Cross with Laura Boronski will take place in the multipurpose room after the 9 AM Mass. Please join us for this beautiful way of honoring and remembering Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

**Family Mass** - Please see the attached for information about our upcoming Family Mass on **Sunday, 3/16**. All families, faculty, and staff are asked to attend and sit together to represent our school.

**Yearbook Pictures** - All students will have their pictures taken for the annual yearbook on **Wednesday, 4/2**. Make-up photos and class pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, 4/9**.

**Virtual Day** - Please be sure you have the most current school calendar. **Friday, 4/18**, is a half day and it is a virtual day. As per our distance learning policy, any work that is assigned needs to be completed and returned by **8 AM on Monday, 4/28**, in order for your student to be counted as present for the virtual day.

**FACTS** - Per Diocesan expectations, we have moved to a completely cashless school. Please do not send in cash or checks for incidental expenses, sports, clubs, and/or tuition and fees. All expenses should be handled via a FACTS account.

**School Website** - As always, please refer to the school website for all the information you could ever need regarding the calendar, school events, clubs, sports, etc. [Holy Trinity Catholic School | North Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

**25-26 School Calendar** - Please see attached 25-26 school calendar. Please keep in mind this calendar is subject to change. Thank you!

**Catholic Faith Formation - Ash Wednesday?** *Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season.*

**Significance of Ash Wednesday** - *Ash Wednesday service is not mandatory in the Catholic Church, so going to Mass is a personal choice. However, many Catholics observe this day by attending Mass and receiving ashes on their forehead.*

**What's the Deal with Ashes on Ash Wednesday?** *On Ash Wednesday, wearing ashes on your forehead can feel like a bold proclamation of Faith, drawing curious or puzzled glances from others. Remember, this visible sign of repentance and humility is an opportunity to witness to Christ with quiet confidence and a joyful heart.*

**Can You Eat Meat on Ash Wednesday?** *Thousands search Catholic.com every year for things like Lent rules, Lent fasting, Catholic fasting rules, and Catholic Lent rules. So here are the Ash Wednesday fasting rules for Lent. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The Code of Canon Law says:*

*Can. 1251: Abstinence from eating meat or some other food according to the prescripts of the conference of bishops is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

*Can. 1253: The conference of bishops can determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence as well as substitute other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety, in whole or in part, for abstinence and fast.*

**Fasting Guidelines on Ash Wednesday** - *We know that fasting and abstinence are observed on Ash Wednesday. Use these simple tips to guide you. Catholics aged eighteen until sixty are required to fast. This involves eating one full meal and two smaller meals. The total amount of*

food consumed in the two smaller meals should not be equal to a full meal. Additionally, all Catholics over the age of fourteen are expected to abstain from meat on this day.

In Pope Benedict XVI's homily on Ash Wednesday 2006 he said:

Lent reminds us, therefore, that Christian life is a never-ending combat in which the "weapons" of prayer, fasting and penance are used. Fighting against evil, against every form of selfishness and hate, and dying to oneself to live in God is the ascetic journey that every disciple of Jesus is called to make with humility and patience, with generosity and perseverance.

**Prayers for Ash Wednesday** - There are a few prayers traditionally associated with Ash Wednesday in the Catholic Church.

**Ash Wednesday Collect:** The USCCB provides the opening prayer of the Ash Wednesday liturgy known as the "collect." "Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen."

**Blessing of the Ashes** - This prayer is said by the priest when blessing the ashes that will be distributed: "O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

**Prayer While Receiving Ashes on Ash Wednesday** - The priest, deacon, or lay minister, says one of these formulas as ashes are imposed on the faithful: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." OR "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Ash Wednesday Prayer for Forgiveness and Conversion** - While not specific to Ash Wednesday, making an Act of Contrition is an ideal prayer for the spirit of the day. O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen. Also, consider praying a daily Rosary if you're not already in the practice of doing so. [Ash Wednesday 2025 | The First Day of Lent | 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 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.