



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo March 19, 2025

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

*Happy Wednesday, HTCS families. Below you will find lots of important information about upcoming school events and activities. Just a reminder, and the reason for this communication coming out today versus Friday, I will be out of the building for the remainder of this week for a Diocesan Principals Retreat. Mrs. Hines and Mrs. Carman will be here to handle things in my absence as I will not be checking my email. My classes will be covered by Ms. Bach. I kindly ask for your prayers while I am on retreat as you will all be in mine. Have a great rest of the week and a wonderful weekend!*

**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 Mass on **Wednesdays, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9.**

**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.**

**Visit Day** - On **Thursday, April 3,** newly enrolled students will join currently enrolled students who will be with us for the 2025-2026 school year from 8:30-11 AM for our annual Visit Day. Students will spend time visiting their classrooms and with their teachers for next year. It's always an exciting morning for everyone as we look to the upcoming school year.

**Middle School Meeting** - Parents of our current 5th graders are invited to join us for a "Success in Middle School" meeting with Seton Catholic representatives on **Thursday, April 3,** at **8 AM** in the multipurpose room. Light refreshments will be served as we discuss transitioning from 5th grade to middle school, as well as the Seton advantage for HTCS students. All are invited to join us even if you are still deciding on where your child will attend school in the fall.

**Tuition Assistance Letters** - Award letters will be sent by next week to all families who applied for tuition assistance for the 25-26 school year. In order to be considered for assistance, families must have completed the Consideration Form, the FACTS online grant and aid application, and the FACTS re enrollment process by February 28. Please note three important things about tuition assistance:

- 1) We do not have tuition assistance “funds” already available. Assistance given out to families has to be recovered during the school year through fundraising and marketing efforts. Shortfalls of these efforts then have to be covered by the Church which the Diocese has informed us can no longer happen at the rate it has in the past. The school *must* focus on becoming financially stable and viable in its own right.
- 2) Families who do not qualify for other available grants *may* not qualify for assistance from the school.
- 3) All assistance provided to families is reviewed and approved and/or denied based on need by the school's leadership team, finance committee, and Advisory Council.

**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.](#)

**School Calendar** - Please see the attached revised 25-26 school calendar. It is our hope that by issuing this as early as possible, families can utilize it to plan vacations and appointments to minimize student absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals. Consistent attendance and a strong and positive partnership between school and home provide students with the best chance of success.

**Catholic Faith Formation** - From beginning to end, the Church weaves throughout the season of Lent many symbols that reminds us of our Baptism and helps prepare those who will be baptized. While we may typically only associate Lent with various sacrifices and the eating of fish on Fridays, there is much more to the season than meets the eye. In fact, one aspect of Lent that we may miss is its deep connection to the sacrament of Baptism. This is only heightened for those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, as the season of Lent marks the final stage of preparation for the sacrament. At the same time Lent can also remind those who have already been baptized of their duties and the need for interior renewal.

**Lent and Baptism** - Pope Benedict XVI commented on this spiritual symbolism during a [general audience in 2011](#): The Sundays of Lent...introduce us to the experience of a **baptismal journey**, almost as if we were **retracing the path of the catechumens**, of those who are preparing to receive Baptism, in order to **rekindle this gift within us** and to ensure that our life may recover a sense of the demands and commitments of this sacrament which is at the root of our Christian life. He explains how each Sunday is connected to a different aspect of Baptism. For example, the First Sunday of Lent recalls how we must all reject and renounce Satan before getting baptized: The First Sunday of Lent, known as the “Sunday of the Temptation” because it presents Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness, invites us to **renew our definitive adherence to God** and, in order to remain faithful to him, to face courageously the struggle that awaits us.

Pope Benedict XVI describes how each of the following Sundays correspond to the mystery of Baptism and the various symbols that surround it: On the following Sundays, Baptism is

presented in images of **water, light and life**. The Third Sunday makes us meet the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:5-42). Like Israel in the Exodus, in Baptism we too have received the water that saves; Jesus, as the Samaritan woman says, has living water that quenches all thirst; and this water is the Spirit himself. On this Sunday the Church celebrates the First Scrutiny of the catechumens and during the week presents to them the Creed: the profession of faith.

As the season of Lent unfolds, try to pay more attention to the readings at Mass and see if you can recognize the connection between Lent and Baptism. Even if you are not preparing for your own Baptism, it is still important to prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal promises. While we tend to only focus on Lent being a season of death and dying to self, it is more of a season focused on **renewal and rebirth**. God invites us to die to the world, so that we can be reborn as a child of God. Lent is about new life and not simply death. [How the season of Lent is deeply connected to Baptism](#)

**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.*