



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo April 11, 2025

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

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

**Lenten Outreach Projects** - We have two (2) outreach projects still taking place during Lent - collecting new (full) cereal boxes for Our Lady's Food Pantry and collecting new and used sneakers for St. Jude. All donations may be dropped off in the front office if your students cannot carry them in via the car line. Thank you for partnering with your children to learn the importance of caring for others in need as Jesus taught us to do.

**Stations of the Cross** - All are invited to join Deacon Richard and the school community for our final walking of the Stations of the Cross in the church after the 9 AM school Mass on **Wednesday, 4/16**.

**Easter Wear** - Students may dress in Easter wear on **Thursday, 4/17**. Attire should be appropriate for school and shoes should be safe for outdoor play.

**Virtual Day - Friday, 4/18**, is a virtual day. Students will be given one small assignment, and parents will be required to sign a form and return it to school on **Monday, 4/28**, for students to be counted as present for the day.

**Easter Break** - The school building will be closed **Friday, 4/18 through Friday, 4/25**, for Easter break. We will reopen for morning arrival at 7:35 AM on **Monday, 4/28**.

**School Photos** - If you would like to purchase a digital copy of your student's yearbook photo or class picture for \$10, please contact Mrs. Hines by **Wednesday, 4/30**.

**Yearbook** - Final orders for a 24/25 yearbook will be **Wednesday, 4/30**. LATE ORDERS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED!

**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](#).

**Catholic Faith Formation - Everything You Need to Know about the Sacred Triduum** - Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It's more sacred than Christmas! This is because Holy Week commemorates the final week of Our Lord's life, the very purpose for which Christmas happened. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem) and culminates with Easter Sunday. As Holy Week progresses to its final days the solemnity heightens.

**THE SACRED TRIDUUM** - Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*.

The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. *"Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery"* (USCCB). It is known as the "Paschal Mystery" because it is the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient Jewish Passover (or Pasch), which itself was a recollection of how God brought the Jews out of their slavery in Egypt. The spotless lamb was slaughtered at the Passover meal and consumed—that same night the destroying angel "passed over" the homes marked with the blood of the Passover Lamb, and those covered by the Blood were saved. This was the Old Testament prefigurement of Jesus' work at the Last Supper—where he inserted himself as the Paschal Lamb—and Calvary, where the sacrifice was offered to save us from our slavery to sin. With the Holy Eucharist, we consume the victim that died for our sins. The Paschal Mystery is, therefore, God's plan of redemption for the fallen human race through the passion, death, and resurrection of the God-man Jesus Christ. It is one marvelous event stretched out over three days. Here is a breakdown of each of the three days that make up the Easter Triduum.

**HOLY THURSDAY** - The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified. After the homily there is an optional "washing of the feet" ceremony, where the priest washes the feet of others to signify his role as servant—just as Jesus did with his disciples. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated. Many parishes will create space for people to stay and pray with the reposed Eucharist at this altar of repose late into the night, remembering Jesus' request in the Garden of Gethsemane for someone to "watch and pray" with Him.

**GOOD FRIDAY** - Good Friday is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. The parish altar looks very

different on Good Friday: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, reminding us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer.

The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass—it is a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered. These Good Friday services often take place at 3 p.m., the hour that Jesus breathed his last on the cross. Often the priest will begin the service by prostrating himself in front of the altar. Veneration of the Cross usually takes place at this service, in which the priest and the faithful kneel before a cross and kiss it.

**HOLY SATURDAY** - On this day Christ is in the tomb. There is no daytime Mass on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday.

In the Apostles Creed we pray "He descended into hell" (translated *hades*, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection. Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday to save the righteous souls—the Old Testament patriarchs, for example—who died before his crucifixion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Jesus' descent into the realm of the dead "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission," during which he "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." Before Holy Saturday, there were **no** souls enjoying the beatific vision of God in heaven! Christ's work on Holy Saturday is also known as the "Harrowing of Hell."

**EASTER VIGIL / EASTER SUNDAY** - A vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Sunday, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil: the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church. The vigil is divided into four parts and can last up to three hours: 1) the Service of Light, 2) the Liturgy of the Word, 3) the Liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This is also the Mass in which many RCIA catechumens are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

[Everything You Need to Know about the Sacred Triduum - The Catholic Company®](#)

**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.*