



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo April 26, 2024

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

*Happy Friday, Trinity Lions! Please see below for important information about upcoming events and school happenings. Have a great weekend!*

**Scholarships to Seton** - 5th grade families, you may want to check the latest OLSS bulletin ([Our Lady Star of the Sea > Worship > Bulletins \(olssnmb.com\)](http://Our Lady Star of the Sea > Worship > Bulletins (olssnmb.com))) for information about different scholarship opportunities for 5th graders considering Seton for next year.

**Credit on Tuition** - We are offering a \$100 credit on your 24-25 tuition for every family you refer to us who enrolls for next year. Attached is a flier that can be posted in your clubhouses, doctor offices, etc. We are happy to provide more flyers for those who want them.

**Yearbook** - Last Call...If you want to purchase a digital copy of your child's yearbook photo or class photo for \$10/each, please contact Mrs. Hines. Deadline for purchase is **Friday, 4/19**. Last day to purchase a 23-24 yearbook for \$40 is **Tuesday, 4/30**. **NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

**Spirit Rock** - The last day to book the rock for the 24-25 school year for the price of \$35 is **Tuesday, 4/30**. Payment by cash, check, or FACTS is acceptable.

**Visit Day** - Our annual visit day is scheduled for **Tuesday, 4/30**. On this day, all students (including new enrollments for next year) in grades K4-4th will spend a few hours visiting their upcoming grade.

**Seton Bus** - There is no AFTERNOON Seton bus transportation on **Friday, 5/3**. All students will need to be picked up from HTCS on this day.

**Family Math Fun** - Please join us on Thursday, 5/9, for an afternoon of fun math activities for you and your child. See attached flyer that was sent home today for more details.

**Final Spirit Night of the School Year** - Please see the attached flyer for information about our final Spirit Night of the 23-24 school year on **Friday, 5/9**. There is a new location and it is an all-day event!

**Save the Date** - Reserve your spot now to save lives! Our last blood drive of the 24-25 school year is set for **Monday, 5/13**. Please see attached flyer for more information.

**Talent Show** - This year's show is scheduled for **1:30 PM** on **Friday, 5/17**. All are invited to attend. Sign up forms were sent home this week for students who would like to participate in the talent show. **All forms are due by Thursday, 5/2.**

**Car Line** - Please do not relay information to us in the car line. Our focus is on getting our students safely in and out of the cars and keeping the car line moving efficiently. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Stay informed** - Please check the school Facebook page and/or our website's calendar for all the information you might need on daily happenings at HTCS - especially for choir, clubs, sports, dress down days, and special events. 😊 Thank you!

[Facebook](#) and [Academic Calendar | Holy Trinity Catholic School \(holytrinitynmb.com\)](#)

**PTO Announcements** - Many thanks to our current PTO Board members for all their hard work throughout this school year. Because of their efforts, students have enjoyed special parties and treats, families have had several opportunities to come together on Spirit Nights, and the school has benefited from their financial contributions. I appreciate all they have done for our school, our families, and our students. I am pleased to recognize the new PTO Board members for the upcoming school year:

- **President** - Paul Kowal
- **Vice President** - Jennifer Near
- **Secretary** - Erin Coakley
- **Treasurer Co-chairs** - Melisa Fifield & Christina Jelinek
- **Social Coordinator** - Angela Lytton & Natalia Meloro
- **Fundraising/Volunteer Coordinator** - Vanessa Nelson
- **Community Outreach Liaisons** - Marisa Slawiak & Sheila Osko
- **School Information Liaison/Parent Communication Chair** - Jessica Morrison

While these are the official members of the PTO Board, they will require the support of ALL families, faculty, and staff throughout the school year to accomplish their goals. Please try to attend the first 15 minutes of their monthly board meetings and be sure to read their emails and newsletters to stay current on all PTO happenings.

**Why Is May The Month Of Mary?** - May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary. Having gone to a Catholic grade school run by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I've continued all of my life and taught my children to do as well. It's as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee (only far, far more joy-filled if you can even imagine that). I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of

Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time: Why is May Mary's month? Here's a brief explanation.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, mind you, but the entire month. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas. The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary. It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today. The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her. It's common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church. If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need a proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need a proper atmosphere to pray. For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between. Just do it. Why? Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is. No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor. [Why is May the Month of Mary? – EWTN Global Catholic Television Network](#)

**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.*