



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo

May 16, 2025

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday and happy Easter, HTCS families. Yesterday we successfully completed our Accreditation review. Thank you to those who participated in the process. We received some initial feedback which was very positive. I will share the official results once we receive our report this summer. Please see below for important information about the upcoming final week of the 24-25 school year.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT - ESTF Grants - All SC families who have received tuition assistance and/or a scholarship for the 25-26 school year who have not already done so **MUST** apply for the ESTF grant. Starting May 12, 2025, there will be a week of priority applications for children of active duty military residing in South Carolina. **On Monday, 5/19, at 8:00 AM**, applications will open for everyone and be distributed on a first come first serve basis. [Click here to apply](#). There are 10,000 scholarships available for the 2025-26 school year. For more information, click the link: [What to Know About 2025-26 ESTF Applications - SC School Choice](#).

5th Grade Students Attending Seton in the Fall - Please see the OLSS Church bulletin for information about potential grant opportunities. If students need letters of recommendation, they should ask the appropriate HTCS faculty or staff member directly and in advance of the due date.

Glow Party - Our Booster fundraiser is wrapping up. If you haven't already done so, please sign up at [MyBooster.com](#) today. The Dance-A-Thon Glow party will be **Monday, 5/19**. If your student wants to participate in the Dance-A-Thon Glow party and dress down for the day, they must raise at least \$10 before **Monday, 5/19**. Thank you for helping support HTCS!

Final Mass of the School Year - Our last Mass will be at **9 AM** on **Wednesday, 5/21**. At this Mass, our 5th graders will receive a special blessing and 5th grade altar servers *who are fully trained and able to serve without instruction* will receive their white belts. We encourage these students' families to reach out to the church office to be added to the schedule to serve at the weekend Masses. As always, all are welcome to join us for Mass.

Sneakers for St. Jude - We will continue collecting new and gently used sneakers/athletic shoes until the last day of school. Feel free to drop your donations in the box located in the front office between now and then. **Please note... we can only accept *athletic shoes* (running, gym/training, basketball, rubber cleats, hiking shoes, casual sneakers).**

EOY Ceremony - Our annual end of year ceremony will take place in the mpr at **8:30 AM** on **Friday, 5/23**. The front office will close promptly at **8:30 AM** so that all faculty and staff may attend the ceremony. All are invited and students will be dismissed immediately afterwards (approximately 9:30 AM).

Spirit Rock - Please see attached for information about renting the Spirit Rock next year.

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 - Jesus' mother Mary has inspired more art and music than any other woman in history. Even in the modern age she fascinates the imaginations of men and women of all faiths. In fact, Mary has appeared on the cover of Time magazine more than any other person. What Catholics believe about this woman is very simple: Mary points us to Jesus.

Do Catholics Worship Mary? The simple answer is no, Catholics don't worship Mary. We pray to Mary, but not in the same way we pray to God—and not to worship her as a god. Jesus loved and honored his mother, and so we, too, love and honor her. Think of it in this way: If you got sick and asked a friend to pray for you, they probably would. Our relationship with Mary operates under this same principle. We believe that Mary (and the saints) are dead to this world, but we also believe they live on with God for eternity in the next world. And we believe that their prayers are just as powerful now that they are in heaven—even more powerful—than they were when they were here on earth. We are essentially saying to them, "We have problems down here. You know what it's like, because you've been here. Please, pray for us!" Add to that Mary's unique perspective on the life of Jesus. Imagine the incredible insights we can gain by praying to her! Too often we squeeze the humanity out of our spiritual perspectives and exercises. Mary was a woman, a wife, a mother, a human—and the mother of Jesus. She laughed and cried, made dinner, changed diapers, and suffered anguish we will never know. Nobody sees the life of a child the way that child's mother does—not even the father. This is Mary's perspective of Jesus' life. Mary has a unique perspective. It seems that every genuine Christian, not just Catholics, should be interested in that perspective—and not just interested, but fascinated.

So What Do Catholics Actually Believe About Mary? The Catholic Church has always celebrated Mary. Everything we believe leads us closer to Jesus. What Catholics believe about Mary can be summarized in 5 key teachings:

1. Theotokos: Mary is the Mother of God.
2. Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
3. Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin.
4. Assumption: Mary was taken body and soul into heaven.
5. Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate: Mary plays a unique role in redemption.

Mary, Mother of God. If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. Saying Mary isn't the Mother of God denies the divinity of Jesus. This teaching is called "theotokos," which literally means "God-bearer." By affirming Mary is the Mother of God, we are affirming the most fundamental Christian truth: Jesus is God.

The Blessed Virgin Mary. God became man in Mary's womb. Mary fulfilled Old Testament prophecies by miraculously conceiving and giving birth to Jesus as a virgin, and she maintained her virginity throughout the rest of her time on earth. Her perpetual virginity celebrates that amazing moment when God became man. "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'" Luke 1:34-35

The Immaculate Conception. Mary was different from the moment she was conceived in her mother's womb. While we inherited the sin and brokenness of Adam and Eve, Mary was saved from that original sin. God saved Mary from ever having sin and brokenness in the first place. How appropriate that the woman who carried God in her womb would be pure and sinless! Now, that doesn't mean she did not need redemption. Mary did need redemption. Jesus redeemed all of us by his suffering and death on the cross. Those saving graces simply redeemed Mary in a special way. God used the graces from the cross to save Mary from the stain of all sin at the moment of her conception. How is this possible? God exists outside of time, so he can apply the graces of redemption at different times of history, as he did with Mary.

The Assumption of Mary. God granted Mary yet another gift. At the end of her time on earth, Mary was taken (or "assumed") body and soul into heaven. This means Jesus and Mary are the only two people in heaven who are there in both body and soul. Jesus chose to honor and give his mother this glory in heaven. "A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Revelation 12:1

Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate. Mary suffered with Jesus. As co-redemptrix, we acknowledge her intimate cooperation with Jesus in the redemption of humanity, in his amazing sacrifice for us on the cross. She bore him, raised him, supported him in his ministry, and walked with him every step of the way to his passion and death. "Woman, here is your son . . . Here is your mother." John 19:26b Now in heaven, our mother loves us as mediatrix and advocate. This means Mary tirelessly brings our needs to her son, and gives us his graces. Whatever we're struggling with or whatever our loved ones are struggling with, we can bring to Mary.

Follow Mary to Her Son. It's all about Jesus. Just as we learn much about the life, teachings, and person of Jesus from the Gospels, we can learn much about Jesus from Mary. She has a unique perspective. She can tell us things about Jesus, and teach us things that nobody else can. Everything Mary *does and is* brings us closer to Jesus.

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.*