



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo

May 18, 2025

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Sunday and happy Easter, HTCS families. With tomorrow being the start of the last week of school, I wanted to send one final communication before things got totally crazy! 😊 Thank you all for your support and trust throughout the 24-25 school year. It has been quite the adventure and we accomplished many wonderful things over the past 180 days. We are already busy making plans for the 25-26 school year and we have lots of great things in the works. I hope everyone has a wonderful, relaxing, and safe summer. Please see below for important information about the final week of this 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. **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](#).

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.

EOY Ceremony - Our annual end of year ceremony will take place in the mpr at **8:30 AM** on **Friday, 5/23**. **Please be seated prior to 8:30 AM as the front office will be closed so that all faculty and staff may attend the ceremony.** All 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 - *How Catholic Families Can Make It a Faith-Filled Summer* By: Deacon Matthew Halbach, PhD "Deacon Doctor" - The Challenges of Summer Break for Catholic Families - During summertime the Son of God and the sun in the sky are in fierce competition with each other. Sunday Mass is up against a new set of enjoyable and meaningful extra-curriculars. Unless we prepare our own hearts and our families, summer can quickly pass us by, and so can our relationship with God.

Three Strategies That Will Help Catholic Families Keep Faith a Priority This Summer - To ensure Catholic families spend their summertime basking in the sun and the Son of God, they can:

1. Practice and Cultivate Gratitude
2. Share Personal Stories of Faith
3. Celebrate the Sacraments Together

Strategy 1: Practice and Cultivate Gratitude - Being a family of gratitude is foundational to being a family of faith. When we focus on gratitude, God takes first place, as everything good comes from him. Attending Sunday Mass becomes important for different reasons. With gratitude in our hearts and mind, church is where we will naturally gravitate to worship and thank God. Gratitude begins in our hearts. It starts with—and this sounds strange—*desiring to desire to be grateful*. Let me say that again: to grow in gratitude, sometimes we need to ask God for the desire to desire to be grateful. For many of us, unfortunately, gratitude is not a typical mindset. We are often focused on what needs fixed or corrected, what is wrong that needs to be righted. Gratitude is something we practice. It is a habit, a good one at that.

Being a family of gratitude is foundational to being a family of faith. The summertime affords us many opportunities to cultivate gratitude in our families. Many of these opportunities happen organically. You don't need to prepare in advance. But we do need to be mindful of these natural openings for grace and growth when they present themselves. For example, seeing my children playing on the trampoline together, one afternoon, and noticing how they are not shoving each other or pulling each other's hair for once—or jumping on top of each other! —I shouted, "I love you guys so much! Thanks for playing nicely." They smiled and laughed a little. Later that afternoon, we had a snack together around the kitchen table. Grace, my four-year-old, said to me, "Thanks for the snack, Daddy-waddy." I chuckled. And I thought about how contagious gratitude is. Just a few words of thanks to my kids resulted in a few words of thanks to me. It reminded me to ask the kids to give God gratitude. So we prayed a table blessing together. Practicing gratitude by being mindful of our blessings is a great way to stay connected with God throughout the summer! Download a takeaway sheet with three simple ideas for families to practice gratitude at home this summer or any time of year.

Strategy 2: Share Personal Stories of Faith - Parents can and SHOULD be their children's first and primary religious educators. Through my travels and speaking engagements, I often come across well-intentioned Catholic parents who are, to put it mildly, frightened about "teaching" their children the Catholic faith. But the truth is that every parent is already equipped to share their faith in transformative ways. It all begins with getting in touch with and sharing your own experience of God in your life. Many parents do not realize that they have stories of faith to tell their children. Moms and dads do not think or speak in the language of faith very often. Many of us will look back on our lives at moments of surprise assistance and good fortune, and we will say how lucky we were or how fortunate. These coincidental moments, and myriads of others, are God moments—every one of them! Because God exists and has created all things, there is little to no room for

chance, though it is true that we don't always understand why things happen the way they do. It's one of those questions we can ask God when we see him.

Every parent is already equipped to share their faith in transformative ways. It all begins with getting in touch with and sharing your own experience of God in your life. When it comes to teaching the faith at home, I prefer to use the language of "faith sharing." Faith is first experienced and later described and repeated in doctrinal form. Many young children and adults have profound experiences of faith though they lack the words to articulate them. They sense the hand of the Divine in their lives, but may not feel comfortable describing the experience. As primary faith sharers, parents have the ability to do three things:

1. Listen carefully to children's stories and experiences to help them identify those "God moments" or moments of grace in their own lives.
2. Reflect on their own life journey and the role God and faith have played in it.
3. Share their reflections with their children.

Strategy 3: Celebrate the Sacraments Together - Catholic families can celebrate the sacraments WELL together... even during the summer months! Whether a family has one child, or six children (like me!), they can utilize strategies for worship that help minimize the challenges and distractions that parents often face when bringing children to Mass and the sacraments. Worshiping well as a family takes some planning and some effort, but the payoff is worth it. I've seen my kids slowly evolve from not liking Sunday Mass, to not minding it, to sort of liking it. It's not perfect, but it's progress! Here are three things that our family has discovered out of necessity and experience that can help your family celebrate the Mass and sacraments together.

#1 Focus on Others - First, it helps to remember that sacraments are celebrations of God's love for his entire people, not just you. The sacraments are special encounters with God, who gives us his grace so that we can love him and our neighbor as ourselves—you guessed it—more *gracefully*.

Remembering that the sacraments are meant to offer us grace for the sake of healing and strengthening our family and community keeps us less focused on ourselves and more focused on others. A good mantra to have before and during Mass is, "I am here to receive the grace I need to serve my family and my Church."

#2 Take Time to Prepare - Second, celebrating the sacraments well means taking time to prepare for the celebration. If you know it will be difficult to pay attention during Mass, take time to read the Sunday readings with your spouse or the whole family before Mass. Discuss the readings. Remind children that they can listen for these readings during Mass, which will help them pay attention to the words being spoken and read. It is important to acknowledge the struggles that each of you are facing when attending Mass. Family prayer is a great way to do this! When you pray as a family throughout the week, add the intention of "paying attention at Mass" or "getting the most out of Mass" or "enjoying Mass together" to your list of intentions. Share with each other what would help you get the most out of Mass.

#3 Provide Kid-Friendly Resources - Third, make the small investment in a children's Bible and a children's Mass guide. If you have particularly squirmy kids, as I do, these and other kid-friendly resources can be a great way to keep them engaged in their relationship with God without providing them with an alternative activity that will distract them from the Mass. Being able to look at pictures of the Scripture stories they are hearing, or following along with the order of the Mass and praying along will help them actively engage and participate at Mass, which means less "shh-ing" from parents. Want more tips for enhancing your family worship? Download the *Three Things to Help Your Family Worship Well* Tip Sheet and use it to prepare for a great Sunday experience at Mass this weekend. [How Catholic Families Can Make It a Faith-Filled Summer](#)

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.