



Holy Trinity

Catholic School

A Ministry of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

From the desk of Mrs. Luzzo: February 13, 2023

- **Valentine's Day Treats** – The deadline to send in money to purchase Valentine treats to support the athletic department has been extended to **8 AM on Tuesday, February 14**. See the school website for more details.
- **Valentine's Day Attire** – Students, faculty, and staff are invited to dress in their favorite Valentine's clothing on **Tuesday, February 14**.
- **Family STREAM event** – Last call for any family that wants to join us for the STREAM event we are hosting in the multipurpose room at **3 PM on Thursday, February 16**. Come learn a little bit about Lent and Easter and enjoy a variety of STREAM related activities as a family. Forms can be found on the school website. Please return by **Tuesday, February 14**, so we can plan accordingly. Families who will be attending are asked to pick up their students via the car line as normal, then drive around, park, and come in through the front office.
- **Hot Lunch** – March hot lunch order forms are due by **Thursday, February 16**. No late forms can be accepted.
- **5th Grade Playcard Field Trip** – Permission slips are due by **8 AM on Friday, February 17**. No late forms can be accepted. See the school website for the form.
- **Local 5k** – Our cheer squad will be at Ripley's Penguin Dash 5k Walk/Run on **Saturday, February 18**. Anyone interested in participating should visit [Ripley's Penguin Dash 5K Run/Walk \(runsignup.com\)](https://www.ripseys.com/5k/) to sign up. Be sure to use our HTCS discount code ROARSQUADPENGUIN. Note: The 5k option does not include a shirt or medal, but the one mile is still open.
- **Tuition and Grant Info for the 23-24 School Year** – ALL families (Catholic and non-Catholic) seeking tuition assistance MUST complete the online FACTS tuition aid application before **March 1**. Catholic families seeking tuition assistance MUST also complete the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Grant form that was sent home a few weeks ago. Completed forms should be returned to me prior to **March 1**.
- **Box Tops 4 Education** - Help our school: download the app and snap! It's that easy! <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/how-to-earn>



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- **Attendance** – Please e-mail your child’s teacher AND Mrs. Hines with all attendance related issues (absences, late arrivals, early dismissals). Ms. P should only be e-mailed regarding bookkeeping-related issues (FACTS charges and credits, payments for activities, clubs, after care, lunch, and uniforms).
- **Golf Tournament** – If you have not yet sent in your items for the golf tournament, please be sure to do so this week. Remember, the success of this fundraiser depends on the support of all families. See the school website for more information.

Catholic Faith Formation: Do Catholics Worship Mary? Scripture Teaches Devotion to Mary - Read carefully the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, verse 26-55. It is very hard to understand how any Christian can study this passage and then refuse to honor Mary. Why, the “Hail Mary,” which Catholics love to address to the Blessed Virgin, is explicitly given there; part of it was said by the angel Gabriel and part by Elizabeth. The angel was inspired by God and Elizabeth “was filled with the Holy Ghost” (v. 41). Let us put together the words that the angel Gabriel and Elizabeth addressed to Mary: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed are thou among women” (v. 28). “Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.” Here we have the salutation that Catholics address to Mary. The only addition we have made are the two names, “Mary” and “Jesus.” So that, in saying the Hail, Mary, Catholics are explicitly following the Bible. You will notice that Mary in that sublime canticle known as the *Magnificat*, which is recorded by the inspired writer from verse 46-55, declared: “Behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed” (v. 48). Who fulfills this prophecy: those who refuse to apply the adjective *blessed* to the Virgin Mary, or Catholics, who love to call Mary the Blessed Virgin? **Invocation of Mary** - Not only do we honor Mary; we also invoke her or ask her intercession. Some objectors say that we should pray to God alone. Well, Catholics certainly pray directly to God, for they regard the Our Father as the best and most beautiful of all prayers and frequently recite it. But they pray also to Mary, asking her to intercede *for* them with her divine Son. Our non-Catholic friends ask one another’s prayers, and in this we praise them. But, if I may say to a sinner on this earth, and he may say to me, another sinner, “Pray for me,” for what reason may we not say to the sinless Mother of God enthroned in heaven, “Pray for us”? If St. Paul asked the Romans to “help him in their prayers for him to God” (Rom. 15:16); if he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Pray for us,” why may we not ask Mary, who is far holier and nearer to God than the Roman and Thessalonian converts, to “pray for us”? In fact, we read in the Old Testament that God positively commanded Eliphaz and his two friends to go to the holy man Job and seek his intercession: “My servant Job shall pray for you; his face I will accept, that folly be not imputed to you” (Job 42:8). Therefore, Catholics act aright when they say: “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.”

HTCS Mission: *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.*

HTCS Vision: *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.*