



TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

September 2015

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 8/31 TCS Visitation Day
11:30 am & 6:00 pm
- 9/1 Staff Development Day
- 9/2 Staff Retreat Day
- 9/3 Welcome Back Students
JK—Gr.6
- 9/4 Pre-K Visitation Day
9:00—10:00 am
- 9/7 No School—Labor Day
- 9/8 Opening Day for Pre-K
- 9/10 All School Mass @ 9:30
Led by 6th Grade
- 9/14 Morning Prayer - 8:45
- 9/18 Noon Mass
- 9/21-25 TCS Wellness Week
- 9/24 Curriculum Night - 6:30
- 9/25 Jean Day
Noon Mass
Get Fit Friday
- 9/30 School Pictures

LOOKING AHEAD

- 10/12 **NO SCHOOL**
Columbus Day
- 10/16 **NO SCHOOL**
Superintendent's Day
- 10/27 **Share the Wisdom Day**
Begins at 9, ends with
Mass at 11. Children
dismissed after
Mass.



May the "FORCE" be with you? At first glance, it may seem a little odd for a Catholic school to use a popular secular movie for their yearly theme. Especially when that movie includes a lot of violence and dark themes. But, if you look a little closer, you will see

some very strong Christian ideas and lessons amongst the light sabers and X-Wing fighters.

For example, what IS the Force? Although we've chosen to use the words Faith, Optimism, Reverence, Courage and Empathy to embody the word, truly the Force can be seen as the Holy Spirit—an energy that encompasses the universe and gives strength, courage, vision and aid, when needed.

What exactly IS a Jedi Master? They can be of any race, green, black, or white, young or old, short or tall, but all of them are in tune with the Force and use it to bring guidance, justice and peace to the world. Sounds a bit like our own priests, doesn't it? At the very least, it reminds us of all of us who use the "Force" to better the world, just like Christians everywhere.

We will bring you more Star Wars Christian insights as the year progresses, but in the meantime, take some time to review those movies, as age-appropriate, with your family and look for those Christian ideals. When you come to those dark moments where some of those characters like Anakin make bad choices, ask yourselves and your children, how could things have been different? What would have happened if they had chosen good over evil, the hard road over the easy, humility over power?

We look forward to a fun, but meaningful year with the FORCE as our guide. May the "Force" Be with You...Always.

TRINITY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL'S
MISSION IS TO
NURTURE
SPIRITUAL,
ACADEMIC
AND PERSONAL
GROWTH IN AN
ATMOSPHERE
OF CHRISTIAN LOVE.

WWW.TRINITYCATHOLIC SCHOOL.NET

Stay tuned for a new look for our school website! Many thanks to parent, Ben LaValley, at Northern Computers and Technology for giving us a new, up-to-date "space" on the net. Be sure to regularly visit our school's website, as we know you'll love the pictures of your children, along with the updated lunch menu, monthly newsletter, and upcoming events. You may also want to like us on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter at TrinityCatholicNNY. Many thanks to Mrs. O'Neill for managing our website and keeping us all connected through cyberspace.





CHH CHH CHH CHANGES

*"If nothing ever changed,
there'd be no butterflies!"*

~Unknown

Welcome to a new year at TCS and a new face! We welcome Miss Juliana Brush to our faculty as she joins Mrs. LaValley in teaching 2nd grade. Miss Brush is no stranger to Trinity, having done her undergraduate student teaching in Mr. Pomainville's 5th grade, helping in our cafeteria and subbing for various grades throughout the year. As a literacy specialist, she comes to us with fresh ideas and great enthusiasm!

We also welcome back Mrs. Justine Braddy as a Teachers' Assistant in Mrs. Doe's 1st Grade class. Mrs. Braddy was a great addition to our 3rd and Pre-K classes last year and we look forward to seeing her beautiful smile again this year.

JEAN DAY

Did you know that JEAN DAY, perhaps the most exciting day of each month, occurs the last Friday of every month?

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church or completing their Sacraments of Initiation (Reconciliation, Communion or Confirmation) can attend a scheduled meeting Wednesdays at 10:00 am at the Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence rectory or call 769-2469 to set up a time to meet.



READING...REVISED

Students Pre-K through 2nd grade will be introduced to a new reading program this year.

"The Superkids Reading Program is a core literacy curriculum...that teaches children how to read. This phonics-based program seamlessly integrates all the language arts, giving students the skills they need to succeed as defined by the Common Core Standards. Built on scientific research, Superkids combines rigorous instruction with highly motivational materials—and it works for all children!"

Teachers already attended training this summer and are excited to begin this new program. Parents will receive more detailed information during Curriculum Night sessions with teachers.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Unfortunately, the times we live in are requiring all of us to be more vigilant when it comes to protecting our children. The Diocese takes this responsibility very seriously and has a Code of Pastoral Conduct. This code applies to all employees and volunteers. Part of this code is a required background check and Virtus Training for all parties who work in our school. Please pick up a release form in the office if you wish to volunteer. If you do not sign it, you will not be able to work in the school as a volunteer. A Virtus training will be offered at Trinity on **Wednesday, September 9 @ 5:30-7:30** You will also

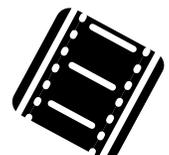
find an Internet Use Agreement for all students to respect, sign and return. If you have questions or concerns about these policies, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your cooperation.

STUDENT PHOTOS

From time to time we use student's photos for publicity and marketing purposes. In addition to our website, we sometimes publish pictures in the paper and post on FaceBook and Twitter. Last year, most of you sent in a release form instructing us on whether or not you would like your child's picture used. That release will remain in effect for as long as your child attends TCS. However, In this packet, you will find another picture release form to fill out if:

- **you are a new family,**
- **have an additional child attending, or**
- **want to change if we can use your child's picture or not.**

Please make sure to sign it and return it to your child's teacher, so we can be sure to either use or not use your child's picture in a way that is acceptable to you.





CAFÉ TRINITY

Two years ago the Trinity cafeteria began using the "Nutri-Kids" Program (*Heartland Payment Systems*) for lunch payments. Listed below are some helpful tips for using the "Nutri-Kids" Program.

- If you have a child attending Massena Central, you need to set up a separate account with a different email address.
- For payments made at school, the transaction can take 12-24 hours for you to view at home.
- If you choose to pay online: At the payment window you have 2 options—on left a one time credit card payment or on right you can pay with Paypal. You would need to login using Paypal account information, NOT, Nutri-Kids login information.
- If you want to have a low balance alert, under profile you need to set balance alert.

Mrs. Suzanne LaPage will be here on August 31 for Visitation Day. If you have any questions or want to set up your account she will be able to help you. Due to the increased costs of food for our cafeteria, we had to

raise the price of our school breakfasts and lunches. Lunches in the cafeteria will cost **\$2.00** Breakfasts cost **\$1.25** and milk will be **\$0.60**. We participate in the Federal Lunch Program; therefore parents who meet the guidelines are eligible to apply for the program. Information on Free and Reduced Price lunches is included in this mailing. Please apply if you are eligible. **This greatly benefits the school if you participate.** This information is kept strictly confidential: your child does not need to know that he/she is participating.

We will continue our new policy regarding charging lunches or ala carte items in the cafeteria. Charges may not exceed **\$20** for the school year. Students with charges of **\$20** on their accounts will not be able to receive regular menu items for lunch until their balance is paid in full. Students who have the maximum amount charged on their account will only be served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and milk.

Mrs. LaPage has been very busy planning new menu items for our children's tasting pleasure. We can look forward to another year filled with delicious and nutritious lunches.



TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

Enclosed in this parent letter is our 2015-2016 school calendar. I would like to thank all the businesses who sponsored our calendar and helped offset the cost of printing. Thank you also to Stubbs Printing for their work in helping us publish our School Calendar and Parent/Student Handbook, and especially for printing the beautiful, full-color front cover free of charge. Along with posting important school events, this publication contains Trinity Catholic's mission, philosophy and school policies. The handbook is updated each year to include any new policies and new listings of faculty and staff. Thank you to Terri Ann O'Keefe and Chris Britton for updating the calendar this year. **I ask you to read over the handbook carefully; then sign and return the enclosed statement saying you read it.** This will ensure a positive partnership between home and school.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The school dress code is printed in its entirety on our school calendar, but here is a thumb nail of that code to keep in mind when shopping for clothes this summer!

- No Cargo Pants.
- Leggings may be worn under skirts or sweaters that would be long enough to wear with or without leggings.
- Skirts should reach as long as the end of fingertips.
- Girls shirts or dresses may be sleeveless in warm weather, but tank tops and spaghetti straps are not permitted.
- Dress shirts should be polo-style, button-up dress shirts or Henley-style t-shirts.





ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Students who walk to school or who are dropped off by parents should not arrive before 8:15.

Since there is not classroom supervision until 8:15, students who arrive before 8:15 must go to the cafeteria for the Before School Program. Students being dropped off by parents between 8:00 and 8:15 will be charged \$1.00 per day. Students being dropped off prior to 8:00 will be charged the usual fee. At dismissal time, all parents are asked to remain outside the building or in your car. If the hall is crowded with parents, it is extremely difficult to keep order during dismissal. Students in grades **Pre-K-3** leave by the front door, while 4-6 students leave by the back door in the 4-6 building (near the 4th grade room). Students who have not been picked up by **3:05** will be sent to the After School Program.

The parking lots are very busy during arrival and dismissal time; therefore we ask everyone to be considerate. **Please pull all the way to the front of the parking lot by the Church.** If you drop students off at the cafeteria doors or front doors, please do not keep other drivers or buses waiting behind you for extended periods of time. Also, remember it is against the law to pass a stopped school bus even when it is in the school parking lot.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

During morning and afternoon drop off, the only doors that the students will be able to come in and leave through are the cafeteria and the front doors that face Main Street. Beginning at 8:40, **ALL** doors will be locked. After that time, everyone will be "buzzed in" through the front door in order to enter the school. At dismissal, all JK-3 children who will be picked up by a parent/guardian, will be dismissed out the front door. Bus children will be dismissed from the cafeteria door. For parents/guardians of students in grades 4-6, who park on Highland Avenue, your children will be dismissed at the north end of the building. **Pre-K students will**

be dismissed through the front door at 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. A teacher will be bringing the students to the front door. Parents/guardians should kindly wait in the front parking lot for their children.

VISITING SCHOOL

If you visit school during the day, please report to the office, sign in and retrieve a Visitors' Pass. It is important that we know who is in the building. It is also important that classes are not unnecessarily disturbed. If your child forgot something, you may drop it off in the office. If you would like to eat lunch with your child, you should sign in at the office and wait outside the cafeteria for his/her class to come through the lunch line. If you wish to speak with a teacher, please make an appointment to ensure uninterrupted time. Teachers are not free to meet after 8:15 in the morning. Although classes do not begin until 8:40, teachers are busy attending to the children's individual needs at this time. If you need to see me, an appointment will guarantee you my availability and undivided attention. Morning prayer begins at 8:40 and as a school community we wish to model the importance of prayer for the children. This means I will not be available from 8:35-9:00.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Forms for the Before and After School Care Program are included in this packet. Mrs. Denise Neves is the director of the program again this year. Cost for this service is \$3.00 per student/hour. If you do not sign up for the program on a regular basis, you may still use it in an emergency. In such an instance, we ask that you call the office so that Mrs. Neves and your child may be notified. You will also need to leave the name of the person who is authorized to pick your child up if it is someone other than yourself.





VISITATION DAY

Monday, August 31, will be our annual Visitation Day. All parents and students are welcome to visit classrooms and drop off supplies any time from 11:30-12:30 or 6:00-7:00 pm. All teachers will be in their classrooms anxiously awaiting to meet each of you. This is a great opportunity to relieve those first-day jitters and start the school year relaxed and ready for success.

In addition, Pre-K families will have an extra time to visit on **Friday, September 4 from 9:00—10:00 am**. This will be a great opportunity for parents to learn some more of the little details that make TCS such a special place.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Thursday, September 26, will be Curriculum Night at Trinity. We will begin with a meeting in the cafeteria at 6:30 followed by 3 sessions scheduled for you to visit your children's classrooms. Our teachers will be explaining their classroom procedures and objectives for their students' instruction. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to learn more about what their children will be learning throughout the year. It should be noted that Curriculum Night is not an evening for parents to conference with teachers about their child's progress. The evening is designed to strengthen the partnerships between parents and teachers; enabling us to guarantee each student's success.

GREEN NEWSLETTER

In an effort to be more "green," we stopped sending the monthly newsletter and monthly calendar home with students several years ago. Both can be found each month on our website at TrinityCatholicSchool.net. Like us on FaceBook and you will be notified each month when the information is available online. Please make sure to check the website monthly, since this is how we communicate important events that will be happening in our school. If for any reason your family would like a hard copy of the letter and calendar, please contact the school office at 315-769-5911 and we will gladly send them home with your child.

PARENT TEACHER CONNECTION—PTC



Did you know that when parents are involved at their child's school, it affects their child's academic progress? Studies show that students with involved parents earn higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school (www.centerforpubliceducation.org).

One of the best ways to become involved with TCS is to get involved with our Parent Teacher Connection—PTC. The purpose of our PTC is far more than just fundraising. It is the heartbeat of our school and is largely responsible for the positive atmosphere we enjoy here at Trinity Catholic. We depend upon our parents to help run student-centered events such as our Halloween Party, Wellness Weeks and Play Day. Yes, it does require some investment of time and work; but it is well worth it. The meetings are upbeat, positive, and a lot of fun!

We owe a HUGE "thank you" to Meredith Austin for chairing our fundraising events again this year. We will be selling cookie dough again this year. We hope to raise \$10,000 with this fundraiser. If everyone does their part, this will be an easy total to achieve. **You will receive a letter soon, explaining exactly how your fundraising totals are calculated each year.**

We would also like to thank **Shauna and Terry DuBray** for volunteering to be presidents of the PTC committee again this year. Their time and dedication is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Christy Valdez will not be able to help again this year as she will be busy with her new bundle of joy!

FORMS CHECKLIST

Feeling overwhelmed yet? Here is a checklist of forms you are receiving in this letter that will need to be returned ASAP (please note, some may not apply to you!)

- STUDENT INFO/EMERGENCY CONTACT
- IMAGE RELEASE FORM
- FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
- BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

