

ISSUE

60

FEBRUARY

2021

MONTHLY NEWS  
from the ADVISORY  
COUNCIL'S CATHOLIC  
IDENTITY COMMITTEE

# Family Connection



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

### Violence Against Women

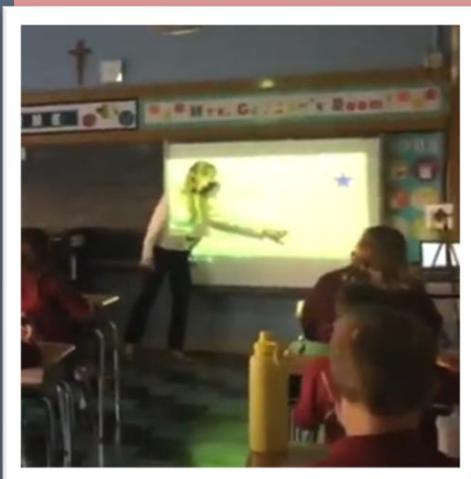
We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



**CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021**  
January 31 - February 6  
#CSW21



**Catholic Schools**  
Faith. Excellence. Service.



## **AFTER Catholic Schools Week... and AFTER Catholic School: An Interview with a Holy Trinity Grad**

### *Alumni Spotlight*

We asked **Brianna Palmer, HTS 2015**, how a Catholic education has affected her "FAITH, EXCELLENCE, and SERVICE" several years after leaving the doors of Holy Trinity School. Brianna went on to a Catholic high school (Villa Victoria) and now attends a public college (Monmouth University).

### **How did your time at Holy Trinity make an impact on the FAITH you have now?**

Of course coming from a Catholic school you have the basic experiences like religion class, but more than that, you have a deep understanding of who God is and how He is working in your life. As an altar server and lector, I was always involved in Holy Trinity's church community. Even throughout high school this commitment to my faith stuck with me as I continued to attend Mass and altar serve. (continued)



Impact of Covid Around The World



(continued)

In addition to this, my high school had an adoration chapel that students could visit and I always found myself there before a big test or basketball game. Even now as a college student, my faith is still a big part of my life as I still attend Mass and even participate in a Bible study with friends.

**How did your education at Holy Trinity impact your academic EXCELLENCE in high school and college?**

It made a major difference. I can recall getting assignments in 9th grade for books we had already read in 7th and 8th grade at HTS. From a young age, Trinity also instilled a strong work ethic in me and shaped my love for learning. I can even attribute my college major to the skills I learned at such a young age at HTS. For instance, as a Political Science major on a Pre-Law track, I am constantly enhancing my public speaking and writing skills—something that I built a strong foundation in from an early age thanks to Holy Trinity.

**How has SERVICE made a difference for you?**

Service was arguably one of the most important things at HTS. I can remember constantly competing with my classmates to get more hours and be involved in the community. This love for service followed me in high school as I went on to volunteer for numerous agencies, including Hospice care. Now, as a college student, it is important to note that nobody will force you to volunteer or get involved. But, because of the qualities HTS instilled in me, I still find myself finding opportunities to give back to my community. For example, I volunteer with the Saint Lucy Filippini Sisters and tutor high school English classes.

Currently, due to the pandemic I am taking my classes from home. However, because of this I have had the amazing opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me by working at HTS's after school Homework Zone program. This unique opportunity has allowed me to stay involved and meet the students who remind me so much of myself when I was a student at HTS.

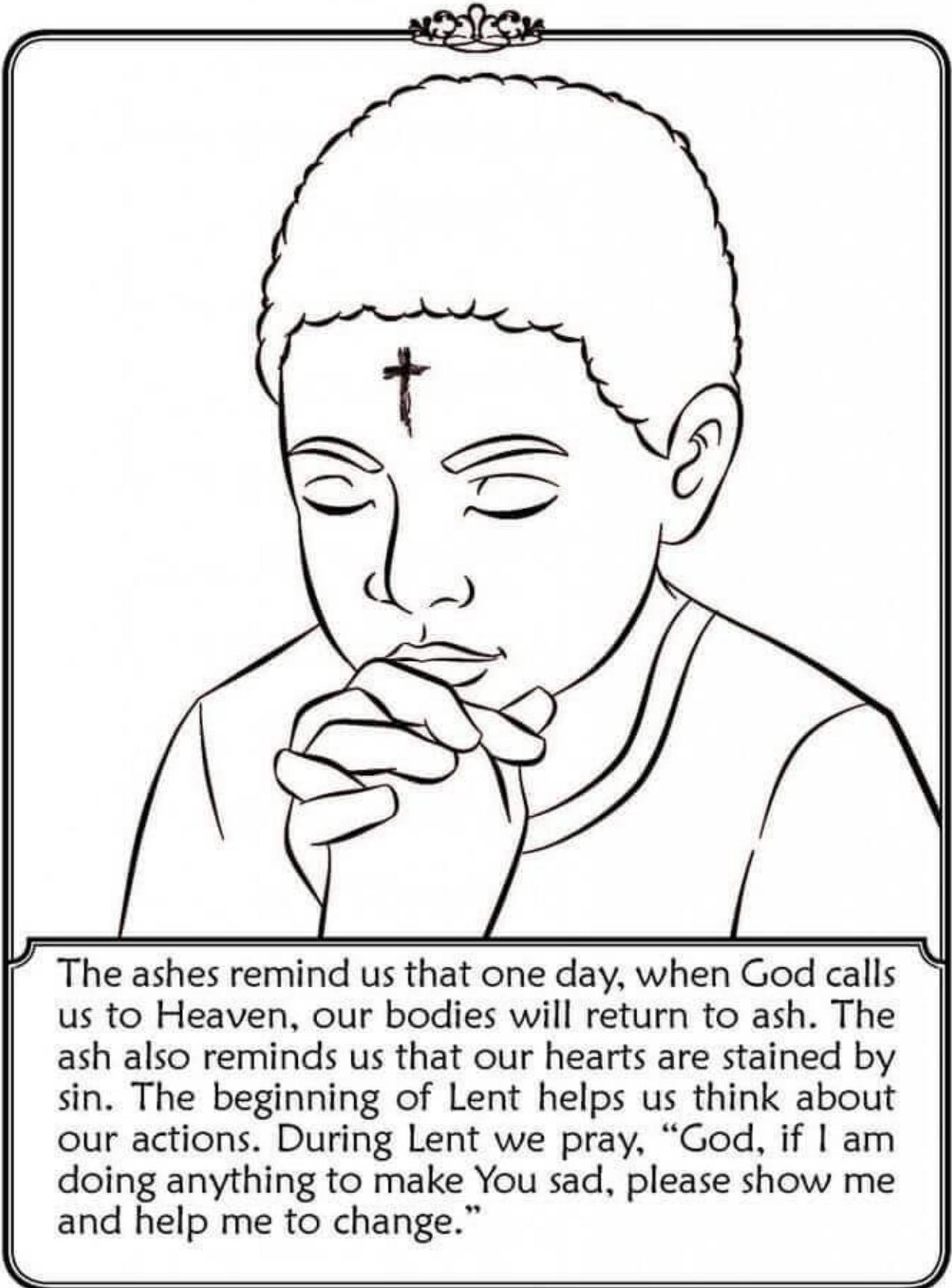
*Thank you, Brianna, for being a shining example of a Holy Trinity alum, a beautiful product of a Catholic education. Thank you also for your recent work with HTS after school programs. We wish you the best with your degree in the years to come. Go make a difference!*



...that the first Black American priest in the United States was born a slave? And guess what—he wasn't allowed to attend seminary in the US so he studied and was ordained in Rome! Father Augustus Tolton was called Good Father Gus. He was born in Brush Creek, Missouri on April 1, 1854 to slaves of a Catholic family. His family escaped slavery in 1862 by crossing the

Mississippi River into Illinois. His mother told him he was FREE and never to forget the goodness of the Lord. He faced many difficulties but became a priest in 1886 in Rome and was sent to a parish in Illinois. He spent his life serving the poor, the sick, the hungry, and those with spiritual needs. He died unexpectedly in 1897 at the age of 43 while at a retreat for priests. His cause for sainthood is ongoing; Pope Francis deemed him Venerable in June 2019. Venerable Father Gus, pray for us!!! [toltoncatholic.org/biography-of-father-tolton/](http://toltoncatholic.org/biography-of-father-tolton/)

ASH WEDNESDAY this year is FEBRUARY 17.



The ashes remind us that one day, when God calls us to Heaven, our bodies will return to ash. The ash also reminds us that our hearts are stained by sin. The beginning of Lent helps us think about our actions. During Lent we pray, "God, if I am doing anything to make You sad, please show me and help me to change."



## LENT 2021 CALENDAR IN THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The **Missionary Childhood Association**, one of the *Pontifical Mission Societies*, is for young Missionary Disciples. The purpose of **MCA** is to promote daily prayer, sacrifice and sacrificial giving for the growth and sharing of each child's faith. **MCA** is the Church's official Charity for children's overseas missions, and its members help more than 4 million children worldwide each year.

**The MCA motto is *Children Helping Children*.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Missionary Children, like this girl in Kenya, help other kids in need around the world through their prayers and sacrifices.</b></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Photo Nancy Wiechec CNS</p>			<p><b>February 17 Ash Wednesday</b> Ask God to bless your Lenten journey.</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Read about forgiveness: Matthew 18: 21-22. What does Jesus say?</p> 	<p><b>19 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and save an offering for MCA.</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Wake up early and help around the house!</p> 
<p><b>21 Go to Mass!</b> To prepare for Mass, read the Gospel for today, <b>Mark 1: 12-15</b></p> 	<p><b>22</b> What are the Corporal &amp; Spiritual Works of Mercy? Discuss with your family how you can live them out.</p>	<p><b>23 Jesus loves you!</b> Find a way to share that love with someone today.</p> 	<p><b>24</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of <b>Asia</b>.</p> 	<p><b>25</b> Pray a Hail Mary for children who cannot go to school. Make a donation for every classroom you enter today.</p>	<p><b>26 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Papua New Guinea.</p> 	<p><b>27</b> Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Start trying to break this habit during Lent.</p>
<p><b>28 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>Mark 9: 2-10</b></p> 	<p><b>1</b> Remember to give thanks for the food you eat and to pray for children who are hungry.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of Europe</p> 	<p><b>4</b> Share with your family what you learned this week!</p> 	<p><b>5 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child living in a refugee camp.</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Help a friend study a subject that they find difficult.</p> 
<p><b>7 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>John 2: 13-25</b></p> 	<p><b>8</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of <b>Africa</b>.</p> 	<p><b>9</b> Say a prayer of thanks for your home.</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for the children of the <b>Pacific Islands</b>.</p> 	<p><b>11</b> Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Earthly Father of Jesus and Husband of Mary.</p>	<p><b>12 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Cuba.</p> 	<p><b>13</b> Reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. Have you maintained it?</p>
<p><b>14 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on Gospel, <b>John 3: 14-21</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b> Cheer up someone who is feeling sad.</p> 	<p><b>16</b> Read about the poor widow in <b>Luke 21:1-4</b>. What did she do?</p>	<p><b>17 Saint Patrick's Day</b> Pray to this Mission Saint to bring others to Jesus.</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Offer to help a brother, sister or friend with their chores. It's more fun to work together!</p>	<p><b>19 Sacrifice</b> <b>Feast of Saint Joseph</b> Pray extra to him today.</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Think about decisions you made this week. What would you change if you could?</p>
<p><b>21 Go to Mass!</b> Reflect on today's Gospel, <b>John 12: 20-33</b></p> 	<p><b>22</b> "Adopt" a child in the Missions &amp; give to MCA.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Pray a Hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for kids in the <b>Americas</b>.</p> 	<p><b>24</b> Help out at home without being asked.</p> 	<p><b>25</b> <b>Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord</b></p> 	<p><b>26 Sacrifice</b> Give up a special treat and say a prayer for a child in Syria.</p> 	<p><b>27</b> Say a special prayer for loved ones who have died.</p>
<p><b>28 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Go to Mass!</b> Read &amp; Reflect <b>Mk 14: 1-15, 47</b></p> 	<p><b>29</b> Don't watch TV tonight. Instead reflect on the week ahead. Put <b>25¢</b> in your Mission Bank for each show you skip.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pray three Hail Marys for all the Religious Sisters who work in the Missions.</p> 	<p><b>31</b> Help make a simple dinner for your family. Thank God together for all His gifts.</p>	<p><b>1 Holy Thursday</b> Jesus washes the disciples' feet; we must also serve others. Try to attend Mass tonight.</p>	<p><b>2 Good Friday</b> Pray the Stations of the Cross and reflect upon God's great love for us.</p> 	<p><b>3 Holy Saturday</b> Pray for all who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.</p> 