



February 18, 2021

Dear OLSS Families,

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent, a six-week period (excluding Sundays) dedicated to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We engage in reflection to prepare for the great celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery in the Easter Triduum. It is here where we find our true identity. As Father Ken says, "It is during this Season of Lent that we have the opportunity to grow closer to God. The closer we grow to God, the more fully alive and truly ourselves we become!"

Ash Wednesday is the best way to begin a season which calls us into self-examination as well as self-denial, into deeper contemplation about the mystery and grace of God's mercy, and towards more radical giving towards those most in need of comfort, sustenance, and hope.

The ancient practice of Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are mortal. It causes us to pause and look at our lives-- remember what we are made, remember where we are going-- and encourages us to fully immerse ourselves in the Lenten season. I pray this Lenten season will be a time of blessing for you and your families. I will be praying for you.

Stay happy, healthy, and holy!

Mrs. Thompson

NEWS & REMINDERS:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Our 1st - 8th grade students will be going to Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church on Fridays at 2pm during Lent. This will also be livestreamed through the parish YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFFQa4WNp08&feature=youtu.be>

BOOST SCHOLARSHIPS: Maryland lawmakers will be voting soon on funding BOOST (Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today) for next year. These scholarships help families with lower incomes give their children the education that best meets their needs. Let lawmakers know how important BOOST is to Maryland families and children by signing up for the BOOST Action Network at www.marylandboost.org.

PALM SUNDAY BASKET AUCTIONS: We will host a Virtual Basket Auction on Palm Sunday weekend, **March 26-28**. Donated themed baskets will be photographed and posted online for bidding. Please consider donating a basket for this fundraiser! Baskets will be needed **by March 19**. Please see the flyer with today's news for more info.

HSA will hold a Zoom meeting for this even on **Mon, Feb. 22 at 6pm** to provide info on how we plan to run the auction, to request help from parents in creating baskets or asking for sponsors, and to discuss a potential bake sale. Anyone with great ideas on how to support/run the bake sale is welcome to attend the meeting.

Date: Mon, Feb. 22 at 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6826643577?pwd=aDNhd2xEVjRGdkFidnlxc1pGY2hzZz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 682 664 3577

Password. Seahawks!

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD NOMINATIONS: The ADW Catholic Schools Office will award the 13th annual Golden Apple Awards for excellence in teaching this spring. If you or your student would like to nominate a teacher, please submit a letter to Mrs. Thompson **by Feb. 21** (deadline has been extended).

POLAR PLUNGE: HSA's annual Polar Plunge fundraiser will take place on **Sat, Mar. 6 from 11am-1pm**. The website for donations will be up and running soon. If you would like to help with the event, please email the organizers at: lcushm1@gmail.com

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY



100th DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS



Students played 100-themed games, made projects, had 100-piece snacks, and used their math skills to practice counting, addition, grouping, and problem solving on 100 Day projects.

SOUPER BOWL

Our students brought in over 200 canned food items for SMILE Food Pantry!

Thanks to our 1st graders who helped pack up all the cans.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Mar. 6: Polar Plunge Fundraiser
- Mar. 12: 12:30pm Dismissal
- Mar. 15: No School
- Mar. 26: End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 26-28: Palm Sunday Basket Auctions
- Mar. 31: 12:30pm Dismissal

APRIL

- Apr. 1-9: No School – Easter Break