



November 30, 2022

Dear OLSS Families,

This past Sunday started the season of Advent, the 25 days, or four Sundays, before Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. We will be focusing on Advent in the classrooms and together during morning prayer every day.

Our Jesse Tree is in the Historic Church. It is a celebration of Jesus' genealogy, and during Advent we review the stories in the Old and New Testament. Each morning one of our students hangs an ornament on the Jesse Tree that corresponds with a story from the Bible.



Every classroom has an Advent wreath. The wreath, traditionally made of evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. One candle is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.

The first purple candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. The second purple candle represents faith and is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and is lit on the third Sunday of Advent to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. On the fourth week of Advent, we light the last purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Advent and Christmas are the time of year when we count our blessings and think about the needs of others. We remember how much God loves us and how much he has given us. When we reflect on this, our hearts grow in gratitude, and we want to share His love by helping others. In this spirit, each class has selected a local charity to sponsor this Advent season. Teachers will send more info to parents about donations and deadlines.

Let us prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus and receive his blessings.

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson
Principal

NEWS & REMINDERS:

ONE HOT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: Please join us for the Chili Cook-Off and Festival this Saturday evening! See the next page for more info.

- Visit the [Chili Cook-Off web page](#) to register as a contestant.
- Volunteers are needed to assist with this event; sign up [here](#)
- Donations of baked goods are needed; sign up [here](#)

ADW TUITION ASSISTANCE: The deadline to apply for the 2023-24 school year is **Dec. 2**. Log into your TADS account and select "Financial Aid Application". **Families must apply for ADW Tuition Assistance every year to be eligible to apply for OLSS Tuition Assistance.**

LUNCH HELP: We need volunteers to help with lunch in December; please sign up [here](#).

KINDNESS SHIRT: Students should wear their Kindness t-shirts to school on **Monday, Dec. 5** (first Monday of month).

CHORAL CONCERT: All classes are participating in a choral concert in the Parish Church on Thu, Dec. 15 at 6:30pm. More info will be sent home from teachers.



SANTA SHOP

Students will shop for Christmas gifts for their families next Monday (PK-3rd) and Tuesday (4th-8th). After shopping, they will visit with Santa (PK-3rd), and have Christmas cookies and hot chocolate.

- 🎄 **Children must bring their completed shopping list with them on Dec. 5.**
- 🎄 We have gifts for dogs and cats too!
- 🎄 **Gifts must be paid for in advance through the online school store [here](#).**
- 🎄 **Sign up to volunteer/donate cookies [here](#).**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🎄 **Dec. 3:** One Hot Christmas Festival
- 🎄 **Dec. 5-7:** Santa Shop
- 🎄 **Dec. 15, 6:30pm:** Christmas Concert
- 🎄 **Dec. 16:** 12:30pm Dismissal
- 🎄 **Dec. 19-30:** No School – Christmas Break



ONE HOT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Featuring Chili from the Chili Cook-Off

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
5:00-7:00pm

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL
90 Alexander Lane, Solomons



- Port of Leonardtown Winery
- Live Music
- Bake Sale
- Ornament Sale
- Kids Games, Crafts, & Stories

**Please come out and join us for this
fun family-friendly event!**

All proceeds benefit Our Lady Star of the Sea School

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE
EMAIL OLSSCHILICOOKOFF@GMAIL.COM

