



December 6, 2023

Dear OLSS Families,

We are celebrating the joyous beginning of Advent, when we embark on a spiritual journey of reflection and preparation. Each Sunday of Advent is marked by the lighting of a candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing different aspects of the Christian journey towards the arrival of Christ.

1st Sunday of Advent: The first purple candle symbolizes hope, and is referred to as the "Prophet's Candle," signifying the anticipation of the coming Messiah based on the prophecies in the Old Testament. This Sunday invites us to reflect on the hope that Christ's coming brings to the world.

2nd Sunday of Advent: The second purple candle represents love, and is called the "Bethlehem Candle," signifying the love of God that prompted Him to send His Son into the world. We are encouraged to reflect on the love that God demonstrated through the gift of Jesus.

3rd Sunday of Advent: The pink candle symbolizes joy, and is referred to as the "Shepherd's Candle," signifying the joy experienced by the shepherds who received the good news of Jesus' birth. We are called to rejoice in the anticipation of Christ's coming.

4th Sunday of Advent: The final purple candle represents peace, and is called the "Angel's Candle," signifying the peace proclaimed by the angels at Christ's birth. This Sunday invites us to reflect on the peace that comes through the arrival of the Prince of Peace.

Each lit candle symbolizes the increasing light of Christ coming into the world. The center candle, often white, is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and represents the Christ candle, symbolizing the fulfillment of God's promise and the arrival of the Light of the World.

During Morning Prayer, we lit the Advent candle on the wreath. We have also begun our Jesse Tree tradition. Each day of Advent is associated with a biblical character or event that played a role in the lineage leading to the birth of Jesus. Each ornament represents a different story, and we hang them on the Jesse Tree as a way to tell and remember them. Our middle school students read the Bible stories and verses aloud to the rest of the students, and our Kindergarteners hang the ornaments on the Jesse Tree.

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, let us not forget the true essence of Christmas—the miraculous incarnation of God's love. May the spirit of Advent permeate our homes, bringing warmth, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Grace and Peace,
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson



Our students had a great time at the Santa Shop! After shopping for gifts, our little ones visited Santa, and everyone had Christmas cookies made by OLSS parents.

SANTA SHOP

I would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs. Tamburri who worked so hard to make the Santa Shop such a wonderful experience for all of our students. I would also like to thank all our volunteers who spent so many hours working to make this event so much fun for our children, including setting up, helping children shop, serving hot chocolate and cookies, and wrapping hundreds of gifts. This event is a special tradition for our school that would not be possible to do without the help of so many volunteers.



NEWS & REMINDERS:

ADVENT CHARITIES: Please support your child's class Advent charity. Advent is a season of giving, and engaging in charitable activities reinforces the importance of generosity. It also helps children develop gratitude for their own blessings and encourages them to recognize the value of sharing with those who may not be as fortunate. Please contact your child's teacher if you need more info on their class's charity.

HISTORIC CHURCH: Our beautiful Historic Church is undergoing a restoration project, with new paint and carpeting being installed. We are gathering for Morning Prayer in the Providence Room but will be back in the Historic Church in January.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: We are looking for students in grades 4 and up who would like to be part of the children's choir at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass on **Sat, Dec. 24 at 4pm**. If interested, please email the school office.

BASKETBALL: Advent items, chocolate bars, and socks fundraising items are available [here](#). Games:

- **Sat, Dec. 9 at KCA:** 10:15am JVG vs. CHA / 3:15pm JVB vs. MCA
- **Sun, Dec. 10:** 1:00pm VB vs. SJS at Ryken

TEACHERS' CHRISTMAS TREE: Our teachers have put Christmas Wish List items on a tree in the school lobby. Please feel free to come in to take a tag from the tree, then send the item to school with the tag, Every contribution is deeply appreciated!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Our school Concert is **Sun, Dec. 17 at 1pm** in the Parish Church. All students are participating and are expected to attend.

ADW TUITION ASSISTANCE: Applications for the [Archdiocesan Tuition Assistance Program](#) for the 2024-25 school year are being accepted through Feb. 16, 2024 for PK-8th grades. To apply, 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.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER

- 🎄 **Dec. 9:** Christmas Delight & Chili Cook-Off
- 🎄 **Dec. 11:** Wear Kindness Shirts
- 🎄 **Dec. 17, 1pm:** Christmas Concert
- 🎄 **Dec. 18:** Wear 90th Anniversary Shirts
- 🎄 **Dec. 19:** Christmas Tag Day/12:30pm Dismissal
- 🎄 **Dec. 20-Jan 2:** Christmas Break



Our Lady Star of the Sea School

CHRISTMAS DELIGHT

Make the spirits bright with Christmas delight!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9,
5-8pm

Come Join Us for a Night of Food, Music, & Fun for the Whole Family!

CHILI COOK-OFF - CONCESSIONS - BEER & WINE TASTING - BAKE SALE - CRAFT & ORNAMENT SALE - CHRISTMAS GIFTS - GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN - LIVE MUSIC - LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

LOCATION:
Our Lady Star of the Sea School
90 Alexander Lane, Solomons, MD 20688

Please join us for this family-friendly event held in conjunction with the Solomons Christmas Walk this Saturday! It will feature our Chili Cook-Off, concessions, bake sale, ornament sale, and Christmas gift sale. The Chesapeake Room will be host to Santa's Village, where there will be many fun games and activities for children!

We are looking for middle school helpers as well. This would be a great opportunity for students to gain service hours for NJHS and for those preparing for Confirmation.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event. More info can be found on the sign ups:

Bake Sale Donations:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4CA4AC2BA4F94-46407672-christmas>

Donations:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4CA4AC2BA4F94-46409417-christmas>

Help with the Event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4CA4AC2BA4F94-46435486-christmas>