



December 2, 2020



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Dear OLSS Families,

I wish you a blessed Advent Season as we all prepare our Hearts for the Birth of Jesus Christ. What is great about celebrating the coming of Jesus with children is that they help us approach the season with fresh eyes and insight. They present us with a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge they present is the way they soak up the values of the culture that has had them anticipating Christmas since the beginning of November. The opportunity they present is that we can introduce them to the timeless rituals celebrating the coming of the Messiah that will add depth to their spiritual lives. One Ritual, the Advent Wreath, is described below.

Make an Advent wreath and place it in the middle of the dining room table. An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens. The greenery in the wreath symbolizes the promised new life in Jesus. The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent. There are three purple candles and one rose candle. Purple is a sign of penance, and rose is the color denoting the anticipation of joy. Light a candle on each Sunday evening of Advent, saying a short prayer or singing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Blessing the Advent Wreath with Children

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Advent Blessings,

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson



DECISION AID

Please see the Decision Aid below, issued by the Maryland Dept. of Health and Maryland State Dept. of Education on November 13. This is used by our school nurse uses to inform you of our Protocols.

If you traveled to a state with a *high positivity test rate, or entertained out of town guests over Thanksgiving Break, please do not hesitate to have your child complete a second week of virtual learning. Please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible if this is your plan.

*A state high positivity test rate is considered to be 10 or higher on the following website: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/public-health/states-ranked-by-covid-19-test-positivity-rates-july-14.html>

Attachment **Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps**

For the purposes of this decision aid, COVID-19-like illness is defined as: Any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, **OR At least 2 of the following:** fever of 100.4° or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with 1 new symptom **not meeting the definition of COVID-19-like illness.**

Exclude person and allow return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable. **If person develops symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, follow processes below for person with COVID-19-like illness.**

An **asymptomatic person** (child, care provider, educator, other staff) who **tests positive for COVID-19 (confirmed case).**

The asymptomatic person (**confirmed case**) should stay home for 10 days from positive test.

Close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

Person (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19-like illness:

- **Exclude** person and recommend that they talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19 or whether there is another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat, otitis) or a pre-existing condition that explains symptoms.
- **The ill person should isolate pending test results or evaluation by their health care provider.**
- **If the ill person is a [probable case of COVID-19](#)** (e.g., COVID-19-like illness and close contact with a person with COVID-19), **close contacts of the ill person should quarantine.**

The ill person has a positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR for COVID-19 (**confirmed case**).

The ill person should stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** until no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication **AND** improvement of other symptoms.

The ill person has a negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19 without a confirmatory RT-PCR.

The ill person should stay home for 14 days and talk to their health care provider to determine if COVID-19 is still suspected and if another test is needed.

The ill person does not receive a test for COVID-19 or another specific diagnosis by their health care provider.

The ill person should stay home until symptoms have improved, no fever for at least **24 hours** without fever-reducing medication, **AND** criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met as applicable.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 **AND** had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

If symptoms do not improve, the ill person should talk to their health care provider to determine if they should be tested/retested for COVID-19.

The ill person has a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 and **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Health care provider documents that the ill person has another specific diagnosis **OR** that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition **AND** the ill person had **NO** close contact with a person with COVID-19.

If the ill person is still suspected of having COVID-19, close contacts should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure **even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative COVID-19 test done during quarantine.**

If COVID-19 is not suspected, close contacts **DO NOT need to stay home** as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Close contacts of the ill person DO NOT need to stay home as long as they remain asymptomatic.

NEWS & REMINDERS:

TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2021-22: The deadline to apply for the ADW Tuition Assistance Program for the 2021-22 school year is this **Friday, Dec. 4**. Families must apply each year to receive assistance. We encourage all families to apply; please click on this link:
<https://adwcatholicschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesan-tuition-assistance-program/>

SPIRIT NIGHT: We have a Spirit Night at The Ruddy Duck in Solomons on **Wed, Dec. 9** from **4:30-8:00pm**.

SCHOOLSTORE.COM: OLSS has joined [SchoolStore.com](https://www.schoolstore.com/), an online shopping mall where online merchants including Walmart, Kohls, & Best Buy give a percentage of sales to schools. This is a great way to support our school when you shop online. You can also purchase a Caring for Classrooms gift card that will directly help your child's classroom with supplies.

VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK: We will have a Virtual Learning week and the school campus will be closed the week after Christmas Break; **January 4-8**.

LIFETOUCH RETAKES: Lifetouch portrait retakes will be done on **Thu, January 14**.

MINTED FUNDRAISER: Shop holiday cards at [Minted.com](https://www.minted.com/) and save 20% on your purchase, and Minted will donate 15% to OLSS! Use code **FUNDRAISEOURLADYSTAR**.

QUILT RAFFLE

OLSS parishioners made a [beautiful quilt set to raffle for our school](#) which will be displayed in the parish church this weekend.

Raffle tickets are \$5/each or five for \$20 and may be purchased from the [online school store](#) or after masses this weekend. HSA is looking for volunteers this weekend to sell tickets after masses. If interested please email olssvolunteerhours@gmail.com

The drawing will take place on Wed, Feb. 3 during the School Mass.



SANTA SHOP

Our Santa Shop will be held on **Mon, Dec. 7 & Tue, Dec. 8** for students to shop for gifts for their families.

Gifts are \$4/each and must be paid for in advance through the online school store.

Each child received a shopping list on green paper to bring home and fill out. **This list must be brought to school with them on Mon, Dec. 7.**

We also need volunteers to wrap gifts on both days. Please email Amber Tamburri if you can help at: websales@olsss.org

ADVENT CHARITIES

Each class is participating a service project to support local charities for the Advent Season:

- PK-1st: Project Echo Homeless Shelter
- 2nd: SMILE – Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers
- 3rd: Calvert Animal Welfare League
- 4th: Birthright Pregnancy Support Center
- 5th-8th: SMILE – Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers

SMILE donation deadline is Dec. 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER

- Nov. 30-Dec. 4: VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK
- Dec. 7-8: Santa Shop
- Dec. 9, 4:30-8pm: Spirit Night at Ruddy Duck
- Dec. 18: 12:30pm Dismissal
- Dec. 21-Jan. 3: No School - Christmas Break

JANUARY

- Jan. 4-8: VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK
- Jan. 13: End of 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 14: Lifetouch Portrait Retakes
- Jan. 15: 12:30pm Dismissal
- Jan. 18: No School – MLK Day
- Jan. 31-Feb. 6: Catholic Schools Week