



December 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you parents for coming to our Christmas bazaar and supporting the HSA efforts! The day was a lot of fun for both parents and children! I went with my two children, who are in their twenties, and they too enjoyed seeing all of the crafts and baked goods! We went home with lots of goodies! We are very blessed to have our dedicated HSA parents who work very hard to support our school. Last month, the students collected nearly 800 can food items for the poor. This act of service reminded all of us what it means to be a Christian and the importance of serving others. Thank you to all!

We are entering the most beautiful time of year in our Catholic faith - the season of Advent! This is the time when we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ! OLV School will begin the Advent season by having a school-wide Advent prayer service in church on Monday, December 4th at 9:00 led by some of our 8th grade students and myself. All are welcome to attend this service. On Monday, all of the students will receive an Advent calendar which I recommend that you place in a prominent place in your home. Use the Advent calendar to remind you daily to talk with your child about the birth of our Lord this Christmas. It's an opportunity for you to share your love of Jesus with your child. Every year I try to come closer to Jesus during the Advent season because I don't want to be consumed by all of the busyness of the season. I created a parent Advent Parent Resource page to help you stay connected. Click or cut and paste the link <https://sites.google.com/olvnj.com/cynthia-casciola-kitts/advent-parent-resource-page> or just go to the Principal Page and find the tab. Sign up for daily Advent Gospel Reflections <https://adventreflections.com/> It only takes a moment each day to stay connected to Jesus!

All of the students were given "lightbulb ornaments" to decorate and remind them of our school wide spiritual theme "You Are the Light of the World". It is really wonderful seeing them hanging in our school. Our creative team of teachers made them come alive! Your child's ornament will be sent home later this month, so that it can be hung on your own tree.

There are many Christmas activities planned for this month! The HSA is holding a "Breakfast with Santa" on December 3rd after the 9:00 mass. Please come out for the fun of seeing Santa in person! HSA is also hosting our "The Penguin Holiday" on December 6th and 7th which allows children to purchase small gifts for their family members. Please make sure your child is ready for these special days.

Our brilliant music teacher, Mrs. Lucas, has been very busy preparing the students for the upcoming OLV Christmas Concert – December 15th at 7:00 pm. I enjoy hearing all of the children practice their class' Christmas song. Their beautiful voices are making my spirit bright in anticipation of the concert. I'm excited about attending the concert and seeing them perform in person and I look forward to seeing you all there as well! Have a wonderful and restful Christmas break!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Casciola-Kitts