

OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH

615 E. OAKWOOD BLVD. CHICAGO, IL 60653-2309, PHONE: 773-624-5375

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022



Served by: The Society of the Divine Word... Popularly known as the Divine Word Missionaries

Pastor: Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD, Brother Alu Aisi, SVD, Frater Andrew Wang, SVD

Transitional Deacon Carl Gales, SVD, Frater Manie Manuel, SVD, Frater Zachary Smith, SVD

Senior Deacon Mervin Johnson, Deacon Ivan Lazcano, Deacon Michael Foggie

Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm., Fr. Mark Weber, SVD, Weekend Assistants

Welcome to Our Lady of Africa Parish.

We are overjoyed with your presence here with us today. We have been walking with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. All of us are the missionary disciples walking with Jesus telling the story to him about what happened in Jerusalem. It is in the Gospel of Luke 24: 13-35. And, as they told the story, they were unable to recognize Jesus. When they invited Jesus to share a meal with them, they recognized him in "*the breaking of the bread.*" Let us recognize Jesus in one another as we gather to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Africa today and every Sunday. The Eucharist is the "*summit and source of our lives as Christians.*" (Vatican II)

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Contact: Shirley McKinney

Phone: 773-624-5375

Fax: 773-624-8393

Email:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Africa Parish,
615 E. Oakwood Blvd, 60653

Sunday Mass: 9:00AM and 11:30AM

Facebook Livestream 11:30 AM Mass
and YouTube after 6:00 PM at:

Our Lady of Africa Chicago

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal

Making all things new...
God's promise and our responsibility



Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday

8:00 PM Tolton Heritage Center Rectory

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Confession)**

Saturday 3:00PM—3:30PM

Holy Days: 10:30 AM: TBD

French Community Mass: 6:00PM

First Sunday of Month

Fr. Joseph Mukuna, SCJ

Ghanaian Community Mass: 1:30PM

First and Second Sunday of Month

Fr. David Ahiahornu

Igbo Community Mass: 2:30 PM

Third and Fourth Sunday of Month

Fr. Stan Chu Ilo

Lenten Bible Study:

Every Wednesday at 11AM

Fr. Clements/Fr. Smith Parish
Hall with

Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm

Bible Study

Tuesday at 6-7 PM

Use Conference Call & Code

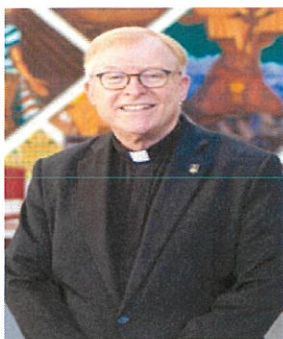
Food Pantry

Every Thursday at
4058 S. Michigan Ave, and every
Fourth Saturday of month at
44 E. 41st. Hours for both are:
10:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

All are welcome!



Our Lady of Africa
WE ARE ONE
Holy, Catholic & Apostolic
Est. July 4, 2021 • Chicago



Message from our Pastor...

Dear Parishioners,

GOD IS NOT DISTANT

"For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him?" (Deuteronomy 4.7)

Hope reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to lead us to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. God is present in the history of humanity, "God-with-us." God is not distant but is always with us, to the extent that very often God knocks on the door of our heart. God walks beside us to support us. The Lord does not abandon us but accompanies us through the events of our lives to help us discover the meaning of the journey, the meaning of everyday life, to give us courage when we are under duress or when we suffer. In the midst of life's storms, God always extends a hand to us and frees us from threats. This is beautiful! We have this grace of having God close to us. We await God, we hope that God shows himself to us, but God also hopes that we show ourselves to him!

What most helps me to remember that God is present with me and in me?

REJOICE IN GOD'S LOVE

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called "laetare," that is, "rejoice," because this is the opening antiphon of the Eucharistic liturgy that invites us to joy. What is the reason for this joy? God's great love for humanity which, even when the situation seems desperate, intervenes to offer us salvation and joy. Indeed, God does not remain apart from us, but enters our history to animate it with grace and save it. We are called to listen to this message, rejecting the temptation to value our own self-confidence, to think we can do without God. We recognize ourselves for what we are--people called to take our weaknesses and our limitations into account. It is good to know our limitations and our weaknesses, not in order to despair, but to offer them to the Lord. And God helps us on the path of healing, takes us by the hand and never abandons us, never! God is with us and for this reason we rejoice today. **-Pope Francis**

When have I most experienced that God has really been with me this Lent?

Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Your continued donations to support Our Lady of Africa Parish can be given by going to the following link:

<https://donate.holyangelschicago.com/give>
or

Scan QR Codes
YouTube

Facebook

Online Giving



Donation offerings are mailed to the following address:
Our Lady of Africa Parish
615 E Oakwood
Chicago, IL 60653

Website for Our Lady of Africa

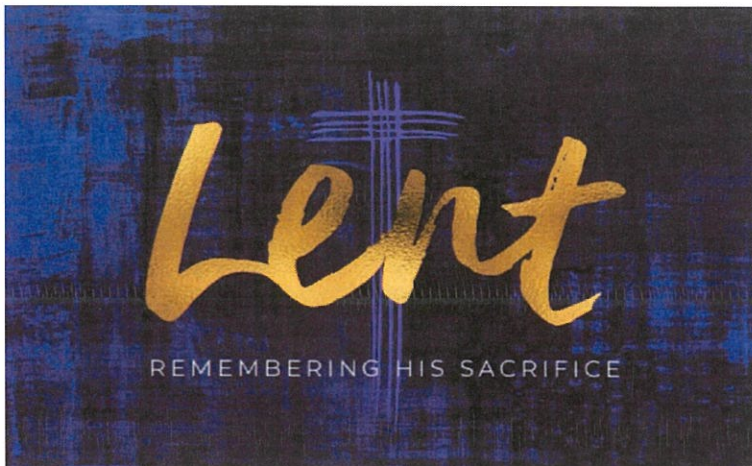


Father Tracy's Blog
Praying Alone Together

THE FREE CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER

The new phone number is 1-267-807-9601 and the access code will remain the same: 340355967.

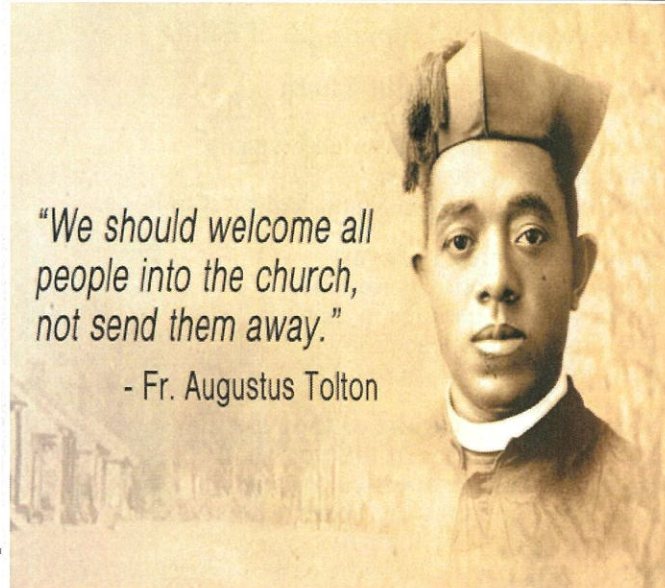
Currently this line is used for Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM, the Prayer Line on Thursday morning at 9:00 AM and the Dial in Prayer Service on Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM.



March 27 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

A Vocation View: God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God.

**DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and
SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



Parish Up Coming Events

03/30– Holy Angel School Mass 10:00AM

03/30- Lenten Bible Study 11:00 AM at

Fr. Clements/Fr. Smith Parish Hall
with Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm
followed by a light Fellowship

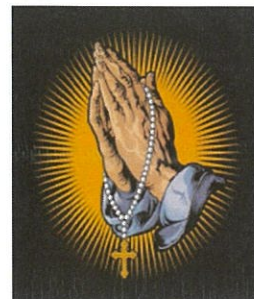
04/01- Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM
Church Doors open at 2:15 PM

04/03– Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting
10:00AM at Fr. Clements/Fr. Smith Hall

**Please remember the following in
your prayers for healing:**

Argentry Mitchell
Florence Person
Donald McKinney, Jr.

Repose Soul of :
+Roger E. Lewis
+Edward Chambers



The Prayer of Our Lady of Africa

Our Lady of Africa,
mother of the human family,
Be mindful of your African children,
at home or dispersed on other continents.

You who are full of grace,
look upon all those who do not know Jesus, the Son
sent by the Father. May his light draw them and
make them receptive to the gift of Faith.

You, who are one with Christ
In suffering and in glory,
Be mindful of those assailed by trials,
That they may discover
His liberating Passover, and live by it in hope.

You who turned to Jesus
When the wine of joy ran out
Be mindful of peoples in distress,
That justice and peace may prevail
In a united world where Charity reigns.

You who, in the midst of the Apostles,
Received the breath of the Spirit
Be mindful of the apostles of today.
May they announce the Word with assurance
And proclaim it by their lives.
May young people hear the call of Christ
And follow him with joy.

Our Lady of Africa, Queen of the universe,
Be mindful of humanity on the way.
May Christ your Son, gather all peoples
In the unity of his Spirit
To the glory of the Father
For ages to come.

Amen.



SICK & SHUT-IN LIST

Curtis Albright	Rita Holland	Alice Thompson
Dorla Allen	Sandra Houston	Cynthia Thompson
Patrice Anderson	Doris Humphries	Renee Trotter
Jessie Andrews	Nolan Humphries	Audrey Tuggle
James Barker	George James	Joanne Wallace
Donald Barner	Janet James	Joyce Wallace
Louise Bates	Thelma Jackson	Tandra Watson
Myra Baugh	Leslie Jackson	Mrs. P. Wells
Christine Brown	Mildred Jackson	Doris Whitaker
Barbara McGee-Berry	Trudy Jackson	Eryn Whitaker
Patricia Brown	Majorbelle James	Rita White
Roscoe Burns	Therese Jessie	Yvonne Whitenier
Michael Burt	Cindy Jirsa	Arlene G. Williams
Dean Brazier	Annette Lee	Evelyn Williams
James Brazier	Susan Larry	Naiya Williams
Calicott Family	McKeever	Michael Williams
Marilyn Campbell	Denise Lawson	Patricia Williams
Esperanza Carr	Gloria Leonard	Sheila Williams
Russell Carter	Lugenia Lewis	Craig Wright
Lillian Cherry	Jan Johnson	Euphrasia Ann Mutinda
Michael A. Clark	Pamela Jones	Sunnette Varnado Smith
Lydia Clark	Betty Lumpkins	
Willie B. Clay	Lenda Mason	
Mary Crawford	Anastacia Mebane	
Ella Crossley	Donna Perisee-	
Sr. Eleanor Doidge	McFarlane	
Cecelia Douglas	Gail McGruder	
Keith Devers	McShan Family	
Judith Easter	Donald McKinney, Jr.	
Deborah Edmundson	Deborah Mitchell	
Elsie Freeman	Argentry Mitchell	
Wanda Finney	Geraldine Moore	
Ola Mae Forde	Michael Moore	
Nazaree Fuller	Maria Jossey Owen	
Rosemary Gardner	Gregory Papesch	
Frederick Gibson	Minnette Penman	
Florence Glenn	Allen Peoples	
Andre D. Golden	Florence Person	
Mable Gray	Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.	
Avis Green	Marionette Phelps	
Bettie Green	Jean Porter	
Eleanor Griffin	Deborah Powell	
Barbara Golden	Louise Ray	
Vircy Spight-Harris	Tyna Rule	
Marjorie Heard	Phyllis Shackelford	
Lorraine Henderson	Alfrances Sharpe	
Justin Henderson	Beverly Sims	
Juanita Hern	Shirley Simmons	
Barbara Edwards-Hill	Emma Stewart	
Kelly Robin Hill	Margaret Stewart	
Velma Hill	Alonzo Studstill	
Hugh Hodges	Janice Taylor	

THE ROAD THAT IS
BUILT IN HOPE IS
MORE PLEASANT TO
THE TRAVELER
THAN THE ROAD
BUILT IN DESPAIR.
EVEN THOUGH
THEY BOTH LEAD
TO THE SAME
DESTINATION.

RAINBOW ZIMMER-BADLEY

CURTIS ALBRIGHT

Lent 2022



**Sacrament of Reconciliation on
Saturday: 3:00PM-3:30PM**

Take a moment to remember our sick &
shut-in members by calling and keeping
them in your prayers.

**Please notify the office when a name
need to be added to or removed from the
Prayer List.
Thank you.**



Fourth Sunday of Lent - C

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Dear Friends,

Luke's magnificent parable continues this Lent's theme of repentance. The name of the parable, the Prodigal Son, fails to grasp much of the drama and message of the parable. It is definitely about three persons. Each character has much to teach us.

The first son's story tells of human greed and indulgence encountering the harsh limits of the human condition. The way out is repentance and the encounter with mercy.

The second person is the father. Here we have the great insights into human relationships holding sway over the power of possessions and prestige. He shows us clearly the importance of people over property. The father's response deals with the abandonment of both sons. It is hardly possible to have a more simple and profound mirror of the unconditional love and mercy of God.

In the second son we have the image of interior alienation that has festered like a cancer over the years. The African American community has a rich description of the experience, the pity party. His self-absorption blinded him to the beautiful love right in front of him. Instead, a hidden anger and jealousy blocked out all the blessings of an incredible parent.

The first son found himself lost in the dark pit of total failure and utter despair. The painful conclusion was the degradation of feeding the pigs. He approached his father in fear and trembling with his well prepared plea for minimal acceptance. His last-hope spiel was cut off by the outrageous rush of mercy and forgiveness by the father.

The whole scene is a litany of violations of expected behavior by the father. It was totally uncouth to leave the house and even worse to run. The embrace was completely out of character for an older man in this culture. The fattened calf in these circumstances was simply unheard of. Every accepted ritual for an offended father was shattered in a total loss of dignity. All the broken cultural norms gave further force to the father's overwhelming cry: I love you! I forgive you! I accept you in great joy! You are back and nothing else matters. On with the party!

The same routine, in a more subtle way, was carried out in the case of the second son. The father left the house once again in violation of the demands of his dignity. He gave no credence to the despicable description of him as a horrible and unconcerned father. The hostility and anger was met with hand reaching out in mercy and understanding. The self-pity was countered with an invitation to give all that he had. The withdrawal was challenged with the invitation to join the celebration.

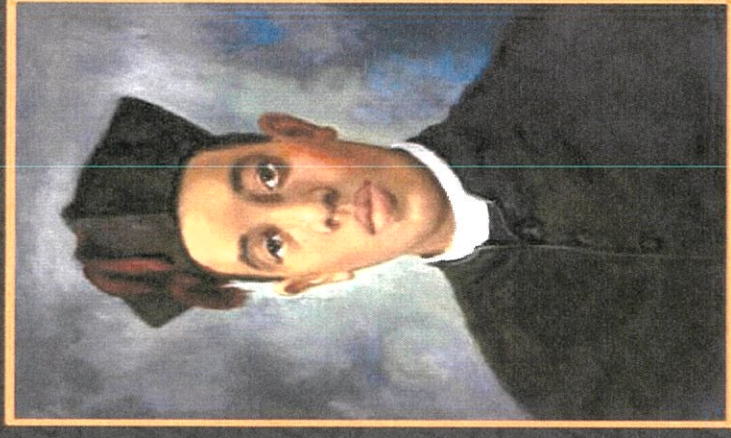
He did not let the son's pathetic anger and jealousy obstruct the dialogue. His only response to a sea of negativity was love, patience, encouragement and acceptance. In the father's actions, Jesus unveils the awesome wonder of the Father's mercy and unconditional love. Our Lenten call is to recognize ourselves in both sons. We are invited to the party. We are called to let go of our blinding indulgence in the dead-end pursuits of life. We are asked to forgo our self-pity and jealousy. Most of all, the utter life-robbing power of the long held grudge is laid out in revealing simplicity.

The indispensable response on our part is clear. We need to accept ourselves in our broken condition. We are called to share God's unconditional love with our brothers and sisters. We are asked to give up the feeling of resentment. We are invited to open up the dialogue in spite of all the perceived violations of our rights and dignity. We need to accept God's ever-present love and mercy on our Lenten journey to the great party of Easter Sunday.

The Venerable

AUGUSTUS TOLTON

(1854-1897)



- ▶ the first African-American Catholic priest to publicly acknowledge his African heritage
- ▶ born into slavery in Missouri, then escaped to Illinois
- ▶ discerned a call to the priesthood but was rejected by every American seminary because of his race
- ▶ accepted at a seminary in Rome, ordained in 1886 and was sent first to Quincy, Illinois, then to Chicago where, despite struggles with prejudiced clergy and laity, he served his people tirelessly and died at only 43
- ▶ declared “Venerable” in 2019 by Pope Francis