



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, April 23, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"  
- Lk 24:33-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (Livestream)  
1:30 p.m.—Ghanaian Community (*1st and 2nd Sunday each month*)  
2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*3rd and 4th Sunday each month*)  
6:00 p.m.—French speaking Community (*1st Sunday each month*)

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

By appointment—(773) 624-5375  
Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

### **Administrator**

Father Carl Gales, SVD

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 773-624-5375

Email: ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com

### **Church Address**

615 East Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60653

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Business Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



## This Week at OLA

### Sunday, April 23

- OCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

### Tuesday, April 25

- Phone-In Bible Study - 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 26

- Mass at Holy Angels School - 10 a.m.  
| Gymnasium
- Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall

### Thursday, April 27

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

### Saturday, April 29

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server - 2 p.m. | Parish
- First Communion - 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

### Sunday, April 30

- OCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- OLA Book Club - after 11:30 a.m. Mass  
| Parish Hall
- Confirmation Class - 1:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Heritage Center

### JOIN THE OLA CHURCH FAMILY

Welcome to Our Lady of Africa! We are thankful and grateful for your presence. Our Lady of Africa is striving to provide spiritual outreach and ministry to our church members and the community at large.

To become a member of our parish, please contact our Parish Office Administrator, Ms. Shirley McKinney at 773- 624-5375.

## Donations

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

<https://donate.holyangelschicago.com/give>  
Or Scan this QR Code



Or mail to: Our Lady of Africa Parish  
615 E Oakwood Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60653

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - April 29

- Lectors: Art Reliford  
Eileen Foggie

### Sunday 9 a.m. - April 30

- Lectors: Vita Faulkner  
Stephanie Gado
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Miriam Hunter  
Gladys St. Leger

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - April 30

- Lectors: Patrick Egwiekhor  
Taleah Cage
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Katie Jordan  
Shawnece Wilson

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, April 22

- 4 p.m. Mass - Divine Word College  
Benefactors

### Sunday, April 23

- 9 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College  
Benefactors
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College  
Benefactors

### Monday, April 24

- Christine Brown

### Tuesday, April 25

- Yvonne Whiteneir

### Wednesday, April 26

- Geraldine Moore

### Thursday, April 27

- Shirley Simmons

### Friday, April 28

- Janet James

### Saturday, April 29

- 4 p.m. Mass - Divine Word College  
Benefactors

### Sunday, April 30

- 9 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College  
Benefactors
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College

For those who would like to remember a loved one (living or deceased), a special occasion or a specific concern, Masses can be offered for those intentions. Please submit a Mass Intention request by calling the Parish Office.



Dear Friends,

This is the third of seven weeks in the Easter Season. The Resurrection stories and the Gospel reflections all invite us to enter into the mystery of the risen Christ. It is a journey from the head to the heart.

Today's story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is especially heartfelt. The two disciples tell the story to Jesus. For them it is a profound tragedy. They are frustrated and floundering in a world of shattered dreams. Their story conveys pain and hopelessness. In particular, they pass over the message of the women with the account of the empty tomb and the angels.

Jesus takes their story and transforms it into a message of hope and life. He showed that the mystery of the Cross unveiled the deepest level of reality. In God's wisdom weakness gives way to true power, emptiness expresses the fullness of God's presence and death gives way to life everlasting. This is the story of the Alleluia!

**"Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Lk 24:32)**

In the disciples' experience we have a fundamental insight into the Christian life. We need to measure the Gospel story against our life experience. Sooner or later, we run up against the common human fate of broken dreams, love rejected and the multiple consequences of our mortality. Much of our life's efforts tries to cover all the contingencies but in the end we are not ready for what life has in store for us. Who could ever really envision the coronavirus and its impact on our world? Or who could believe the number of mass shootings being greater than the number of days in the year? We are like the disciples engulfed in dreams of great things coming from Jesus, the one who would be their savior. Yet, like them, our vision of life holds no room for the rejection and Passion and Crucifixion on that fateful weekend.

Comparable to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we have to bring faith to the story. With faith we enter the story of the Scriptures and slowly we see that God is with us all along. This is the story of the Alleluia!

Luke uses the phrase **"opened eyes"** six of the eight times It appears in the New Testament. It is

always about the journey from the head to the heart. **"While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight."** (Lk 24:31-32) When we recognize Jesus, we begin to see the Resurrection for what it is. The victory of love over all. All is not lost. Indeed, the victory is ours when we walk with Jesus. This is the story of the Alleluia!

Thomas Merton has a beautiful definition of prayer: *Prayer is yearning to be in the presence of God, a personal understanding of His Word, knowledge of His will and the capacity to hear and obey. This is what happened to the disciples in their encounter with Jesus. They were walking away from life. They were fleeing the difficulty of their broken dreams. God's grace opened the eyes of their heart to the fire of love that was there all the time. Now, they were ready to return to Jerusalem and do God's work.*



The power of deep personal prayer can do the same for us. We can begin to see reality as pregnant with hope and new possibilities once we encounter the Risen Christ in deep and trusting faith. We need the Word of God to enter into the gracious presence. We need the Word of God to give us direction on the road so we

too can find our way back to the Jerusalem that is God's loving plan for us. This is the story of the Alleluia!

Prayer needs to lead us to the Eucharistic encounter where we meet Jesus in the Word and Sacrament. In telling the story in God's Word and breaking the bread, God touches the depth of the heart with the Bread of Life that is the risen Savior on **'our road to Emmaus'**, the struggle of our daily life.

Faith lets us see that Jesus turning the story of the two disciples and our story upside down as he did with so many experiences in his gospel teachings. Through the mystery of the Cross, he unveiled the deepest level of reality. In in this revelation of God's wisdom, weakness gives way to true power, emptiness expresses the fullness of God's presence and death opens the way to life that is everlasting. This is the story of the Alleluia!



## Third Sunday of Easter - Reflection by Gardis Watts, Tolton Scholar



If you are like me, you probably had a point in your life where you set a goal to lose weight. You set a goal on how many pounds you would like your weight to be at and then work hard over a period of time shedding those pounds. The amount of time you put into exercising and the effort of forging a disciplined diet to enhance your efforts of losing weight becomes your ultimate endeavor. And then when your pants are a little loose and your shirt doesn't seem so tight, you weigh yourself and you discover that you exceeded your goal. Hooray! Now that I have achieved that, I feel like I deserve a treat. All those delicious foods that I restricted myself from eating will be my reward for working so hard. We don't just eat it on that day, we eat it the next day, and the next day, and the next day. And as soon as you know it, that weight we worked so hard to shed is back faster than we can say 'cheesecake.'

Many of us are familiar with this situation. And even if this is not your experience, how many of us have reached a goal and then immediately set themselves back after achieving their goal? How many of us stopped educating ourselves after achieving a diploma or degree? How many athletes do you see neglect their workouts when they reach professional status? When was the last time you worked hard for an opportunity and discovered it was not as fulfilling as you thought it was. We just completed Lent. How many of us have gone back to the habits we restricted ourselves from doing during those forty days?

We often make the failure undervaluing the journey. In this week's Gospel reading, we see two of Jesus' disciples severely ignoring the journey to a point where they do not even recognize the man they call the Messiah. These two disciples were travelling down a road to a town called Emmaus. While they were travelling, they met up with a man they did not recognize at that point. The text identifies the man as Jesus but because the two travelers' eyes were blind to their trauma of Jesus being killed, they did not recognize him. Jesus asks them what were they talking about and they proceeded to express their depression on how

their leader was betrayed by the chief priest and handed over to the Romans to be executed. They got reports of him being alive by some women who went to the tomb and did not see Jesus' body. Unfortunately, even after other disciples verified Jesus' body missing from the tomb, they still had their doubts. Jesus, still not known to the travelers, explained to them about the fulfillment of scriptures and how Jesus would have to suffer in order to come into glory. As they got to Emmaus, they invited Jesus to stay with them for the night. At dinner, they finally recognized him when he said the blessing and gave them the bread he blessed. Then suddenly, Jesus disappeared and they pondered why their hearts were burning when he spoke to them about the fulfillment of scripture. They went back to Jerusalem and told the rest of the followers what happened to them.

The Road to Emmaus is an experience we all have faced. Many times, we focus so much on the goal that we fail to realize that it is the journey that shapes us. We must understand that the journey is not just about accomplishing a goal but about transformation. In this process of transformation, we must not lose focus on our development, which can easily be neglected when we aim our attention at our deficiencies. The two disciples going to Emmaus was so immersed in their anguish and confusion about what happened to Jesus that they did not see Jesus right before their eyes. And while they admitted that their hearts were burning when Jesus was with them, they ignored it during that time. As with the travelers to Emmaus, we ignore our true calling to Jesus because just like with the disciples going to Emmaus, they paid little to no attention to who was accompanying them on their journey.

When we reflect on our lives, let us not ignore the journey we are currently on. Let us also understand that the resurrected Jesus is still with us. Despite the hardships and agony we are facing in this world, Jesus is travelling with us. With Jesus as a companion on our road to salvation, our journey can shape us to be better followers of Christ.



## Parish Directory

### Baptisms

**Tina Carter**  
tinalcarter71@gmail.com

### Blessed Sacrament Society

**Tasha McShan - President**

### Business Administrator

**Shirley McKinney**  
773-624-5375

### Confirmation

**Tina Carter, Stephanie Gado**  
**Theresa Rhea**

### Clergy

**Fr. Carl Gales, SVD**  
Administrator  
galesce0422@gmail.com  
**Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.**  
**Dcn. Michael Foggie**  
**Dcn. Merv Johnson**  
**Dcn. Manie Manuel, SVD**

### Events Committee

**Keisha Chavers - Chairperson**

### First Communion

**Barbara Edwards-Hill**  
**Lisa Littleton**

### Food Pantry

**Ladell Johnson**

### Funerals

**Katie Jordan**  
kwcluwpresident@gmail.com

### Knights of Peter Claver

**Thomas Rich - Grand Knight**

### Knights of Peter Claver Lady's Auxiliary

**Lena Young - Grand Lady**

### Maintenance

**Bobby Malone**  
**Tyrone Smith**

### Men's Coalition

**Michael Morman - President**

### Music Ministry

**Maestro Tyrone Pittman**

### Religious Missionary

**Brother Alu Aisi, SVD**

### School and Church Liaison

**LaTanya Berry-Johnson**

### Seminarian

**Frater Zachary Smith, SVD**

### Sunday School

**Eileen Foggie**

### Tolton Heritage Center

**Regina Cook**  
773-268-1518

### Ushers and Greeters

**Jackson Lucas**

### Youth Ministry

**Taleah Cage**  
**Silmon Reed**

## Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

### Sunday, April 23

Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22-33/ Ps 16: 1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a)/ 1 Pt 1: 17-21/ Lk 24:13-35

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.,  
Alfrances Sharpe, Alice Thompson,  
Rachel Watson, Dorothy Williams

### Monday, April 24

Readings: Acts 6: 8-15/ Ps 119: 23-24, 26-27, 29-30/  
Jn 6: 22-29

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Marionette Phelps,  
Beverly Sims, Cynthia Thompson,  
Cassette West-Williams, Evelyn Williams

### Tuesday, April 25

Readings: 1 Pt 5: 5b-14/ Ps 89: 2-3, 6-7, 16-17/  
Mk 16: 15-20

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Jean Porter, Shirley Simmons,  
Renee Trotter, Doris Whitaker, Naiya Williams

### Wednesday, April 26

Readings: Acts 8: 1b-8/ Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/  
Jn 6: 35-40

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Louise Ray, Emma Stewart,  
Audrey Tuggle, Eryn Whitaker, Michael Williams



### Thursday, April 27

Readings: Acts 8: 26-40/ Ps 66: 8-9, 16-17, 20/  
Jn 6: 44-51

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Margaret Stewart,  
Joanne Wallace, Rita White, Patricia Williams

### Friday, April 28

Readings: Acts 9: 1-20/ Ps 117: 1bc, 2/ Jn 6: 52-59

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Tyna Rule, Alonzo Studstill,  
Joyce Wallace, Yvonne Whitenier, Sheila Williams

### Saturday, April 29

Readings: Acts 9: 31-42/ Ps 116: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17/  
Jn 6: 60-69

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Janice Taylor,  
Tandra Watson, Arlene G. Williams,  
Diana Williams, Sunnette Varnado Smith

## April Birthdays

4/05 Rosetta Batiste  
4/07 Thelma Jackson  
4/09 Chery Tyson  
4/11 Joyce Franklin  
4/15 Marcia Berry  
4/17 Dwight Hearn  
4/17 Merrill Tyson  
4/18 Julie Sumpter

4/22 Barbara Golden  
4/25 Gail Betty  
4/26 Ku-San Thomas  
4/27 Jean Parkham-  
Jacques  
4/28 Alan Emerson Hicks  
4/30 Edith Smith



## Upcoming Events



### A TOAST TO MOTHERS A MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Hosted by Community Senior  
Business Institute  
*Seating is Limited*

**When: Thursday, May 4, 2023**

**Time: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Tickets are \$25 Each**

**Reserve your seat by calling 773-919-1687**

**Or email [info@cbsinst.org](mailto:info@cbsinst.org)**

Music Provided by Violinist Samuel Williams  
and Vocalist Chuck King "Cole"

### **Vendor Event**

**May 6, 2023**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Location: Tolton Center  
50 E 41st. Street  
Chicago, IL 60652

**Please arrive**

**1 hour early for set up -**

**First come, first serve for**

**table placement**

**& location**

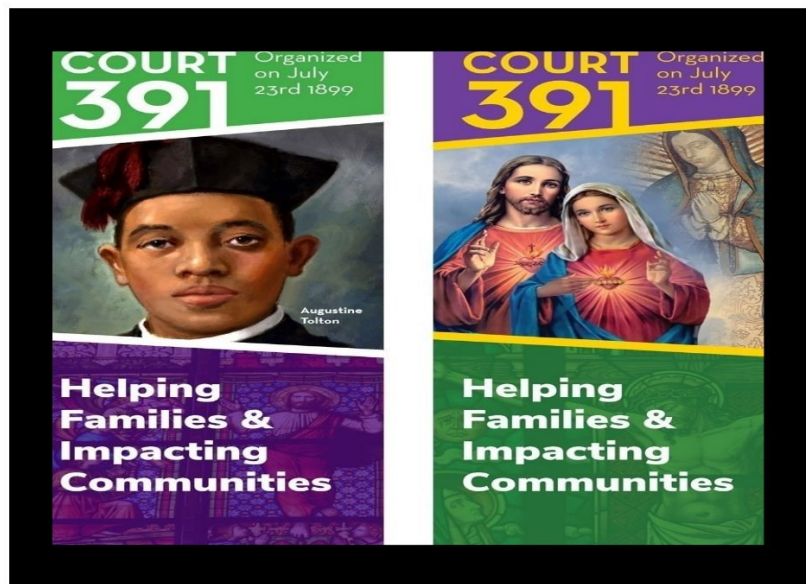
### **Pricing:**

[1 Table 2 chairs \$24.50 Stage]

[1 side \$49.50]

[Entire Stage \$100.00]

[Flyers \$10.00 for the entry]



Please Contact Donna:  
773-828-9034 leave a message  
or send a text.

Acceptable forms of  
payment: Cash (exact)  
Checks or Money Orders:  
written out to: **NCSF Court 391**



**BLESSED SACRAMENT SOCIETY**

**WOMEN'S DAY OF EMPOWERMENT**

**Our Lady of Africa Church  
607 East Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60653**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

**Donation: \$25.00**

**Zelle: [blessedsacramentsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:blessedsacramentsociety@yahoo.com)**

**9am-3pm**

**Guest Speaker**

**Shawn L. Hines (Motivational speaker)**



**Continental Breakfast  
Empowering Guest Speaker  
Paint & Sip Activity  
Meditation  
Lunch  
Women Vendors**



**For tickets contact:**

**Tasha McShan @ 773-474-2823 (President)**

**Lena Young @ 773-848-3581 (Chair)**

**Vircy Spight Harris @ 773-485-0885 (Financial Secretary)**



## Upcoming Events

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



# Evenings with Venerable Augustus Tolton



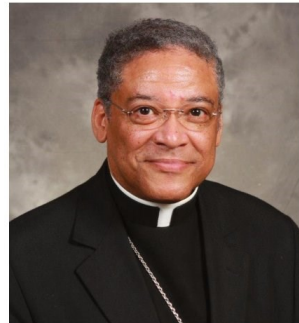
### A five-part series featuring Bishop Perry

Join Bishop Joseph Perry at the Tolton Heritage Center in Chicago to learn about Venerable Augustus Tolton, the first recognized African American Roman Catholic priest. He is on the road to canonization. These events will include a short video, a presentation by Bishop Perry and plenty of time for conversation.

All events are free

**Starting on March 8 | 4 – 6 p.m.**  
**Tolton Heritage Center**

44 East 41st Street, Chicago, IL 60653



### May 3 **Embodying Forgiveness**

Today, there are deep divisions in this country. What does Fr. Tolton's life teach us about forgiveness and understanding that would move us toward healing?

### May 10 **All Things Tolton**

You've probably heard a lot about Tolton or perhaps nuggets about several organizations bearing his name. Learn about the various groups and how they work together to advance Tolton's legacy.

Sponsored by the **Tolton Spirituality Center**. Register at [www.toltonspirituality.org](http://www.toltonspirituality.org) under Events.

## OLA BOOK CLUB - THIS SUNDAY!!!!



Octavia Butler, Author

**Are you an avid reader? Do you enjoy discussing books with your friends? Why not enjoy our next book club session with Octavia Butler's classic "Kindred"?**

**Our next meeting will be this Sunday, April 30 after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please sign up in the Narthex and purchase your copy of the book! If you are already a member, there is no need to sign up again.**

**Our lunch will be a potluck. Please let us know what you would like to bring.**

**We look forward to seeing you and discussing this important piece of African-American literature!**