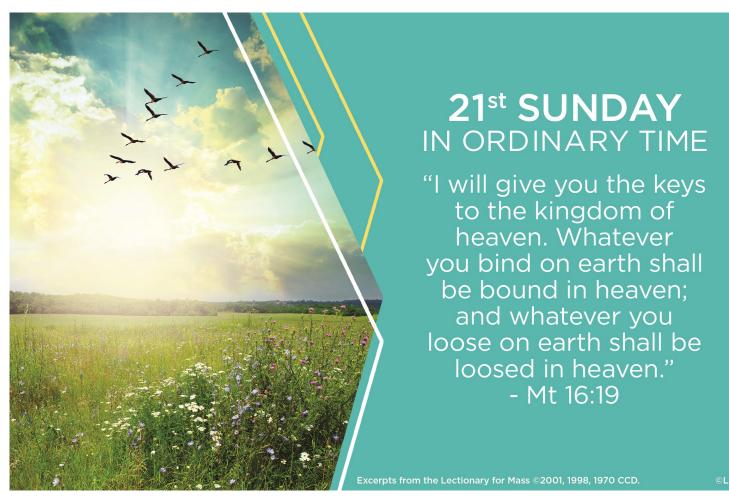


# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN Sunday, August 27, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



# 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.

## **Parish 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. Office Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



## This Week at OLA

#### Sunday, August 27

- Adoration after 9 a.m. Mass | Chapel
- Sunday School 11:30 a.m.
   Sunday School Room

#### Tuesday, August 29

Phone-In Bible Study - 6 p.m.
 (267) 807-9601 - Code: 340-355-967

#### Thursday, August 31

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line 9 a.m.
   (267) 807-9601 Code: 340-355-967
- Food Pantry 10 a.m. to noon ITolton Center

#### Saturday, September 2

- Choir Rehearsal 1 p.m.
- Altar Servers Training 2 p.m.

#### Sunday, September 3

- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School 11:30 a.m.
   Sunday School Room



The Hope and Healing Circle returns in October Every 2nd Saturday of the month. Stay tuned!!

# Stewardship

## Offertory - August 19/20, 2023

- \$ 5,377.66
- \$ 2,000.00 online offertory
- \$ 7,377.66

#### Offertory - August 20/21, 2022

- \$ 3,582.00
- \$ 400.00 online offertory
- \$ 3,982.00

### Expenses for August 2023 to date

\$ 47,061.89

Thank you for your generosity!

# **Attendance Last Weekend**

323

# Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

#### Saturday 4 p.m. - September 2

Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVDLectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams

Theresa Rhea

#### Sunday 9 a.m. - September 3

Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVDLectors: Rosemary Sykes Michael Morman

Eucharistic Ministers:

Rosemary Sykes Ladell Johnson

#### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - September 3

Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVDLectors: Christine Stewart Alicia Davis

• Eucharistic Ministers:

Katie Jordan Marcheta Smith

## **Mass Intentions**

#### Saturday, August 26

4 p.m. Mass - Lucille Moore +

## Sunday, August 27

- 9 a.m. Mass George Moore +
- 11:30 a.m. Mass Evelyn Morman +

#### Monday, August 28

8 a.m. Mass - Rachel Watson

#### Tuesday, August 29

• 8 a.m. Mass - Mary Crawford

#### Wednesday, August 30

 10 a.m. Mass at Holy Angels School Intention: Protection of Students

#### Thursday, August 31

• 8 a.m. Mass - Elijah Wall +

#### Friday, September 1

• 8 a.m. Mass - Nazaree Fuller

#### Saturday, September 2

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

#### Sunday, September 3

- 9 a.m. Mass OLA Church Family
- 11:30 a.m. Mass OLA Church Family

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. Mass stipends during the weekends (\$20 per intention) and during the weekdays (\$10 per intention) are the recommended donations.

Please submit a Mass Intention request by calling the Parish Office.

# 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Reflection by Gardis Watts



When my great-great-grandmother came to the shores of this country in the 19th century as an enslaved woman from Africa, she was sold to a tobacco planter and renamed Nancy. The renaming of an enslaved person was common to victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. This was to strip them of all their identity from their home country and establish them with a new identity as prisoners to serve the white captors who violently enslaved them. My great-great grandmother is of labo ethnicity and her original name is lost to us. And because my family does not know her Igbo name, we have no idea what her life was before her enslavement. Her identity was removed from her and lost to her descendants. Because of this, we suffer from an identity crisis. Many descendants of enslaved **Africans** struggling through the same thing.

Understanding and shaping an identity is a process that yields a powerful control over our lives. It is a power that not only identifies who you are but shapes your destiny in life. It also builds a reality that helps one realize their full potential. Human nature necessitates the need for an identity, not only as individuals but as a collective as well. We are constantly shaping our identity because with the changing of our experiences, relationships and values, our There are a identity is complex. characteristics of our identity that are static, however, even those are being shaped differently due to revelations we discover in this journey called life.

In our gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus challenges Peter not only to see a collective identity but also discovers his own. When Jesus presents the question to Peter asking what people say about him, that was not for Jesus' own validation. In framing the question, Jesus clearly understands his role when he identifies himself as the "Son of Man." The question was more for Peter to understand the importance of Jesus' role to the community. Peter in his answer said that the people has compared Jesus to some of the great prophets of old. He also included a contemporary prophet in John the Baptist. Peter from this point understood that the people who experienced him validated his identity as a great prophet.

Peter's understanding of what Jesus means to the people then leads to the next question of what he thinks of Jesus. Peter in his response

calls him the "Christ." A term that is not loosely thrown around during that time. But Peter in his own experience with Jesus, and hearing what the people had to say about him, realizes that Jesus has a much higher calling than just a prophet. When Jesus hears Peter's answer, he calls Peter the "Rock" that he would build his church on. He also empowers Peter with the ability to "bind" and "loose" things, an authority that is only given to the high priest. In our Catholic tradition, this is where we biblically root the historical identity of the pope. And even though some of our Protestant brothers and sisters in Christ would disagree with this assessment, they would claim that it was Peter's revelation being the rock instead of Peter himself. However, it seems nonsensical for Jesus to give the keys of heaven and authority to a revelation.

Peter did not ask for this role. Jesus gave him this title not because Peter was perfect. In fact, Peter was a sinner but Jesus appointing him as the leader of the church on earth shows Jesus' grace towards his people. Jesus understands Peter's flaws and issues but he does not let that get in the way of Peter fulfilling the mission of spreading the gospel message to the people. We identify with Peter because effective evangelization does not require us to be perfect people.

We as parishioners of Our Lady of Africa continue the process of building a community we can identify with. Most of us are still struggling with this process just as Peter was struggling with understanding Jesus. However, Jesus was able to identify Peter as the "Rock" where the church was founded on despite his flaws and shortcomings. Many of us are still dealing with the closing of churches we attended for years. Even the parishioners whose church was designated as the home church still had to give up their parish name they had for decades. But even as we attempt to work past the storms of the last couple of years, let us take on the mantle on continuing this journey together. We are in a unique time in our parish's history. Let us be the "Rock" of Our Lady of Africa that Jesus calls us to be.



# The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms during Sunday Mass are available at the following times:

September 24, 2023 October 29, 2023

For more information about the Sacrament of Baptism and Baptismal Prep Classes, please speak with Tina Carter or email her: tinalcarter71@gmail.com

# **August Birthdays**

8/01 Edowaye Adewola 8/03 Yonnie Anderson 8/05 Connie Holt 8/05 Linda Steward 8/08 Barbara Hicks 8/08 LaTonya Virgil 8/10 Silmon Reed

8/14 Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP 8/14 Rita Holland 8/18 Rebecca Danforth 8/21 Florine Brown 8/26 Courtnay McEwen 8/30 Donna Howard



# Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

#### Sunday, August 27

Readings: Is 22: 19-23/ Ps 138: 1-2. 2-3. 6. 8 (8bc)/ Rom 11: 33-36/ Mt 16: 13-20

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Jean Porter, Shirley Simmons,

Renee Trotter, Doris Whitaker

#### Monday, August 28

Readings: 1 Thes 1: 1-5. 8b-10/ Ps 149: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-

6a and 9b/ Mt 23: 13-22

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Susan Larry, Betty Lumpkins,

Judy Michaelis, Maria Jossey Owen

#### Tuesday, August 29

Readings: 1 Thes 2: 1-8/ Ps 139: 1-3. 4-6/

Mk 6: 17-29

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

#### Wednesday, August 30

Readings: 1 Thes 2: 9-13/ Ps 139: 7-8. 9-10. 11-

12ab/ Mt 23: 27-32

OLA Book of Prayer: Tyna Rule, Alonzo Studstill,

Joyce Wallace, Yvonne Whitenier,

Sheila Williams

#### Thursday, August 31

Readings: 1 Thes 3: 7-13/ Ps 90: 3-5a. 12-13. 14

and 17/Mt 24: 42-51

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Marionette Phelps,

Beverly Sims, Cynthia Thompson,

Cassiette West-Williams, Evelyn Williams

#### Friday, September 1

Readings: 1 Thes 4: 1-8/ Ps 97: 1 and 2b. 5-6. 10.

11-12/ Mt 25: 1-13

**OLA Book of Prayer:** McShan Family, Allen Peoples, Phyllis Shackelford,

Sunnette Varnado Smith

#### Saturday, September 2

Readings: 1 Thes 4: 9-11/ Ps 98: 1.7-8.9/

Mt 25: 14-30

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Nolan Humphries,

Cindy Jirsa, Monica Lewers, Bernadine McNeal,

Jeff Moore

# **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

Parish Administrator galesce0422@gmail.com

Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, OCarm Dcn. Michael Foggie

Dcn. Mery Johnson

**Events Committee** 

Keisha Chavers - Chairperson

First Communion

**Barbara Edwards-Hill** Lisa Littleton

**Food Pantry Ladell Johnson** 

**Funerals** 

Katie Jordan

kwcluwpresident@gmail.com

**HIV/AIDS Ministry Rosemary Sykes** 

**Knights of Peter Claver** 

Thomas Rich - Grand Knight

**Knights of Peter Claver** Lady's Auxiliary

**Lena Young -** Grand Lady

Maintenance

**Bobby Malone** 

**Tyrone Smith** 

**Medical Ministry** Dr. James Hunter Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - President

**Music Ministry** 

**Maestro Tyrone Pittman** 

Peace and Social Justice

School and Church Liaison LaTanya Berry-Johnson

Sunday School Eileen Foggie

**Tolton Ambassador** Jennifer Iwuchukwu

**Tolton Heritage Center** Regina Cook

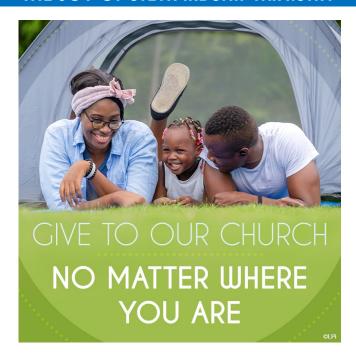
773-268-1518

**Ushers and Greeters Jackson Lucas** 

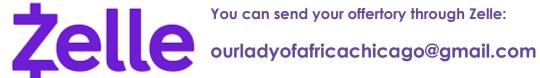
**Youth Ministry** 

Taleah Cage Silmon Reed

# THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY







You can send your offertory through Zelle:



# Our Lady of Africa Parish







What: Community Meal & Resource Assistance

Referrals and Assistance for Essential Resources like:

- Medicaid and SNAP signup help
- Government phone signup
- CHA housing application help

Where: Our Lady of Africa Parish

607 E Oakwood Blvd

Chicago, IL 60653

When: 1-3 PM, First and Third Thursday of

each month, starting

September 7th and 21st

Interested in volunteering at a meal?
Contact Father Carl Gales at 773-624-5375

# **Archery Event for Youth**





SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 23

**ARCHERY CLINIC** AT HAMILTON PARK 11AM TO 1PM

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S COALITION

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX!!

# Creation Care Corner



Sept. 1, 2023 Pope Francis' message for WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Pope Francis urges us to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity, and nature so that justice and peace will flow. Francis tells us to act now with greater urgency, so we do not miss our chance to create a more sustainable and just world. "We can and we must prevent the worst from happening." An "ecological conversion" is needed, which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: "the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator." We are challenged to be mindful "about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive" - using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, recycling waste, and making use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible. Francis reminds us we must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuels. "Truly, much can be done" (LS, 180).

**LAUDATO SI CARE OF CREATION** 

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD TO **CARE FOR MOTHER EARTH** 





## Formative Parish and Finance Councils

#### **Finance Formative Council**

Appointed until July, 2024

Until time when a New Pastor will be assigned to Our Lady of Africa

Cyprian Alaribe
Vanessa Beavers
Greg Chappell
Theresa Dishman
Deacon Michael Foggie
Karyn Price
Theresa Rhea
James Teemer

#### **Parish Formative Council**

Appointed until July, 2024

Until time when a New Pastor will be assigned to Our Lady of Africa

Tina Carter
Keisha Chavers
Larry Cope
Trent Dean
Deacon Michael Foggie
Ladell Johnson
Mark Kutame
Michael Morman
Marcheta Smith
Gardis Watts

# Want to become Catholic? Let's talk about OCIA\*\*\*!

Becoming Catholic is to enter into history. You become linked to the earliest traditions that are at the roots of all Christian denominations.

What you will discover is that being Catholic unites all peoples all over the world. You will travel to one side of the world to the other and still experience the worship of the One Holy Catholic Church.

Beautiful in its unity and multifaceted in its diversity, Catholicism embraces the most humble to the richest philosophical and theological minds. In prayer and through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, the diverse gifts of each member shines through the ages in the history of the Saints.

If you would like to explore becoming Catholic, please let us know. You can contact the Parish Office (773) 624-5375 and start your process of discernment.

\*\*\* OCIA stands for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) . It was changed by the USCCB in November 2021.

