



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, August 27, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I will give you the keys
to the kingdom of
heaven. Whatever
you bind on earth shall
be bound in heaven;
and whatever you
loose on earth shall be
loosed in heaven.”
- Mt 16:19

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.

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
| Tolton 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, SVD
- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams
Theresa Rhea

Sunday 9 a.m. - September 3

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Rosemary Sykes
Michael Morman
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Rosemary Sykes
Ladell Johnson

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - September 3

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: 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.



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 Igbo 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 are 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 identity is complex. There are a few 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 Courtney 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,
Cassette 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. Merv 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



zelle

You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



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



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.**

