



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 10, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



ONE MIGHTIER
THAN I IS
COMING.

MARK 1:7A

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPI

Weekend 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, 2nd, (3rd) Sunday of each month*)

2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*last two Sundays of 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, December 10

- KPCLA Meeting | 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Men's Coalition Meeting | 10 a.m.
| Parish Hall Room
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Blessed Sacrament Society Joint Holiday
Party | After 11:30 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 12

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967
- Parish Council | 6:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 13

- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- Social Justice Committee | 6 p.m.
| Tolton Center
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, December 14

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line | 9 a.m.
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967
- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Food Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon
| Tolton Center

Friday, December 15

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Adoration, Taize, and Devotion
| 6:30 p.m. | Church

Saturday, December 16

- Turkey and Food Give-away
| 9 a.m. to Noon | Narthex and Parish Hall
- Men's Coalition Christmas Wrapping Party
| 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Parish Hall
- Ushers and Greeters Meeting | 2:30 p.m.
| Parish Hall
- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

Sunday, December 17

- Adoration | After 9 a.m. Mass
| Chapel
- HIV/AIDS Ministry Meeting | 10:15 a.m.
| Parish Hall
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Breakfast with Santa | After 11:30 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - December 16

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Keith Wilson
Denise Wilson

Sunday 9 a.m. - December 17

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Edith Smith
Reco Condif
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Sonia Davis
Rosemary Sykes

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 17

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Patrick Egwiekor
Desmond Ansa
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Stephanie Inis
Silmon Reed

Attendance December 2/3, 2023

4 p.m. Mass	28
9 a.m. Mass	80
11:30 a.m. Mass	140
1:30 p.m. Mass (Ghanaian)	7
6:30 p.m. Mass (French)	33
TOTAL	288

Stewardship

Offertory - December 2/3, 2023

\$ 6,808.00
\$ 1,933.50 - online offertory
\$ 8,741.50

Offertory - December 3/4, 2022

\$ 6,992.00
\$ 1,740.00 - online offertory
\$ 8,732.00

Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)
\$ 8,741.50 - Total Offertory
\$ **(5,681.58)**

Thank you for your generosity!





Dear OLA Church Family,

The sump pumps and electrical panel for the sewage system for the parish has been replaced. Also, the waste removal underground pipes have been cleared. The cost for these repairs are \$45,000. The monies are coming from our Building Maintenance Account at the ArchBank. These funds have been set aside for Capital Projects and do not affect our annual budget that is reflected in our weekly budget needs for the parish.



FUTURE PROJECTS

- New HVAC System
- Replacement of all doors on the Garden Side of the Church
- Revamp of Audio System and Media Equipment
- Security Systems for Parish Office, Church Building, Tolton Center and Hall, Rectory

Again, all these maintenance and repairs are possible because of past contributions from parishioners, benefactors, as well as the sale of properties that are forthcoming. Thank you for your continued support and generous donations that keep our parish thriving. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call. Our OLA Finance Council will meet and discuss them and respond.

Thank you and God's peace!

Fr. Carl

Our Lady of Africa is THE place to have your Wedding!!



For all young couples discerning their future together, there is a lot of planning involved.

Along with the preparations for your wedding day, you should plan to meet with the priest and have wedding prep which should be about 3 months. The couple and priest would meet once a week, either in person or on Zoom to talk about their plans, their commitment to one another, and what the Sacrament of Marriage truly means. To discuss your future wedding plans, please contact Father Carl at the Parish Office: (773)624-5375



Second Sunday in Advent - Reflection by Sr Joanne Delehanty, OP

Today's first reading opens with these lovely words: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Comfort: relief, ease, encouragement. God offers comfort in all three readings today, in the form of announcements and a charge.

In Isaiah even the landscape will change in ways that make it easier to move ahead, and God's glory will be witnessed by all who recognize grace, in a communion of awe and reverence. The announcement is world-changing. The charge to us is praise.

In the second letter of Peter, we are reminded of "what sort of persons we ought to be." By reflecting divine holiness in our living, we realize that we need not be fearful, worried, anxious. The announcement is that God's power is awesome, but love is who God is first of all. The charge is to understand that we can't manage God. It is ours to be encouraged by the understanding that we are loved into being, and to trust that love.

Mark's Gospel begins with an explosive announcement: This is the proclamation of the good news of the Christ, for whom history has longed. He has come, and remains present within and among us. And how do you recognize him? By repentance, by positioning ourselves in relation to God. Pay attention. Mirror the divine in whose image you were created. That is always our charge.

Each Advent we pitch our hearts to hear the announcements and to embrace the charge.

"Here is your God!"

"Be eager."

"Prepare."

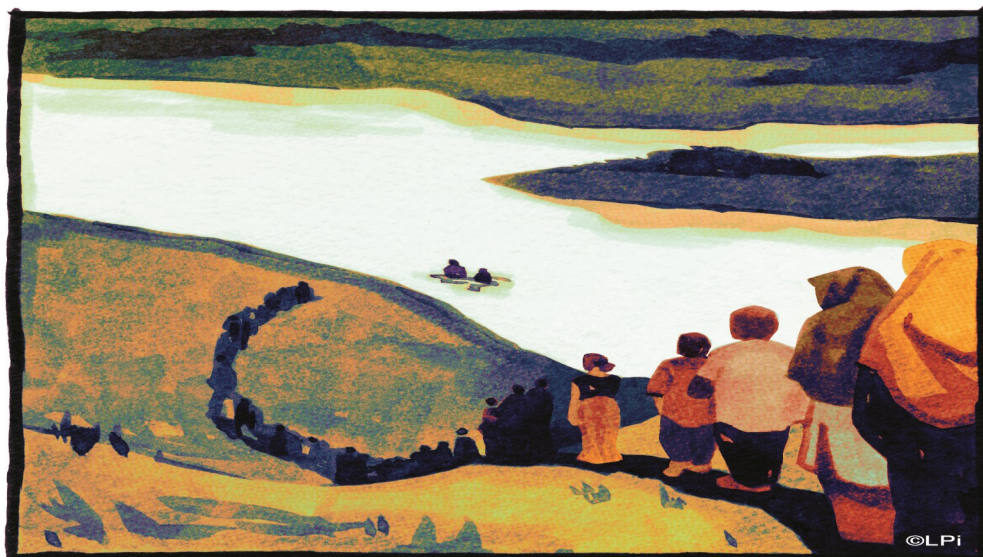
O come, Emmanuel...

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 sign up in the Narthex or contact our Parish Office: (773)624-5375.



OLA Catechists ESSAY CONTEST



OUR LADY OF AFRICA'S CATECHISTS
PRESENTS

BE THANKFUL
BE GRATEFUL
BE BLESSED

Essay contest
Please write a minimum of 100 words about:
"What Thanksgiving means to me".

**Third Prize - \$100
Second Prize - \$250
First Prize - \$500**

Submissions can be made via email at tinalcarter71@gmail.com
or
in person in the back of the church.

If submitting by email, please include "Essay contest 2023" in the subject heading.

Open to students ages 7 to 16.
Submissions are due by Saturday, December 23.

The winner will be selected by a committee and the announcement of the winner will be made at
the Mass on December 31st.

The essay will appear in the bulletin in January.

Special thanks to Ms. Judy Adimekwe, Dr. Dorothy Williams
and
all donors of the contest.

*IN ALL
things
GIVE
thanks*

God Loves a Cheerful Giver - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



GIVE TO OUR CHURCH
NO MATTER WHERE
YOU ARE

zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



December Birthdays

12/06 Alfrances Sharpe
12/08 Tiffany Swann-Covington
12/09 Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
12/09 Denise Wilson
12/10 Regina Cook

12/10 Marjorie Heard
12/12 Tylie McShan
12/13 Thomas Calicott
12/16 Demetris Jantuah
12/17 Mario Steward

12/20 L. Vance
12/22 Eileen Foggie
12/26 Lena Young
12/28 Gloria Dean
12/31 Tillie Dishman

Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 10

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
(8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Mass Intentions:

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

9 a.m. | Delia Price ✠ | Offered by the family of
Arthur and Carol Reliford and the family
of June Sargent

11:30 a.m. | Nancy Aphour ✠ | Offered by Monica
Broderick

OLA Book of Prayer: Dorla Allen, David Berry,
Roscoe Burns, Naiya Williams

Monday, December 11

ST DAMASUS, I POPE

Readings: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

OLA Book of Prayer: Irene Dove,
Rosemary Gardner, Barbara Golden,
Kelly Robin Hill, Leslie Jackson

Tuesday, December 12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Mass Intentions: Intentions of Innocent Asevameh

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

OLA Book of Prayer: Jessie Andrews,
Helen Brooms, Dean Brazier, Lydia Clark

Wednesday, December 13

ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

Readings: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Mass Intentions: Intentions of Innocent Asevameh

6:30 p.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

OLA Book of Prayer: James Barker,
Christine Brown, James Brazier, Willie B. Clay

Thursday, December 14

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE
CHURCH

Readings: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

OLA Book of Prayer: Curtis Albright, Myra Baugh,
Patricia Brown, James Burgess, Russell Carter

Friday, December 15

2ND FRIDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Mt 11:16-19

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

6:30 p.m. | OLA Church Family

OLA Book of Prayer: Donald Barner,
Barbara McGee-Berry, Marilyn Campbell,
Catherine Crosby

Saturday, December 16

2ND SATURDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

OLA Book of Prayer: Ophelia Adams,
Louise Bates, Arthur Brooks, Esperanza Carr

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: 773-624-5375.



OLA CHRISTMAS

40 TURKEYS
100 FOOD
BASKETS
AVAILABLE
DEC 16TH
9AM-NOON

CALL THE OFFICE

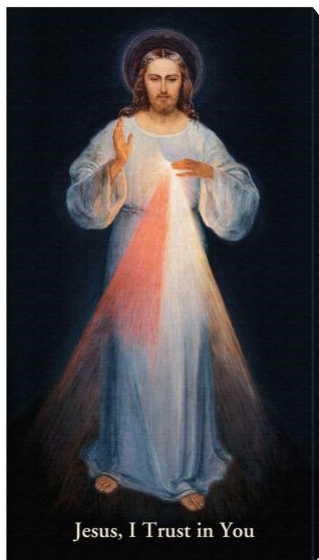
TO RESERVE!
773-624-5375

ONE TURKEY PER HOUSEHOLD





Adoration and Devotion to the Divine Mercy - DECEMBER 15th



Due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will not have Adoration this Friday, December 8th. The following week, December 15th, we will resume. Devotion and Adoration starts at 6:30 p.m.

After a hectic and busy week, you can come and spend time in communal prayer. Our world has been besieged by injustice and cruelty. The war in the Middle East is but one effect of all the hatred that is plaguing humanity. Prayer changes things. And the Devotion to Divine Mercy is powerful in moving mountains.

I hope you will come and spend time in prayer and devotion on at least one Friday of the month. In addition to the Divine Mercy Chaplet, there will be time for sharing, reflection, music, contemplation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

“For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

Angel Tree provides an opportunity for local congregations to extend the hope of the Gospel and enfold Angel Tree families into church life through delivering Christmas gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents. We are asking for OLA Church Family members to be generous and extend love to kids are really in need of care and support through the holidays.

Please bring your gifts to the church for the Angel Tree Christmas no later than December 19th.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office 773-624-5375 or Debra Crosby.

Your gifts will make a difference in the youth of our future. Help bring hope and healing through love and compassion and acts of care.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 - CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

This year, we will have Midnight Mass for the first time in many years! I am very excited and I hope that you will be too! We will start Carol Singing at 11 p.m. For those concerned with safety, we will have police patrolling so as to make sure that we are all safe.



Our Lady of Africa Joint Holiday Party

**The Blessed Sacrament Society invites all
Ministries to participate in a joint **Holiday Party!****

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Immediately following the 11:30 mass

\$25.00 per person



**Roasted Turkey
Sage Dressing w/ Gravy
Baked Ham
5 Cheese Mac & Cheese
Green Beans
Garden Salad
Dinner Rolls
Cake
Frappe, Coffee & Bottled Water**

All monies due by Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Cash, Check or Zelle (blessedsacramentsociety@yahoo.com)

For more information contact:

Gloria Dean (Financial Officer) @ 773-502-5035

Virey Spight Harris (Financial Officer) @ 773-651-0891

Tasha McShan (President) @ 773-474-2823



Our Lady of Africa



**Men's Coalition & Sponsors
Buffalo Soldiers and Unison Consulting**



**Annual Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 17, 2023**



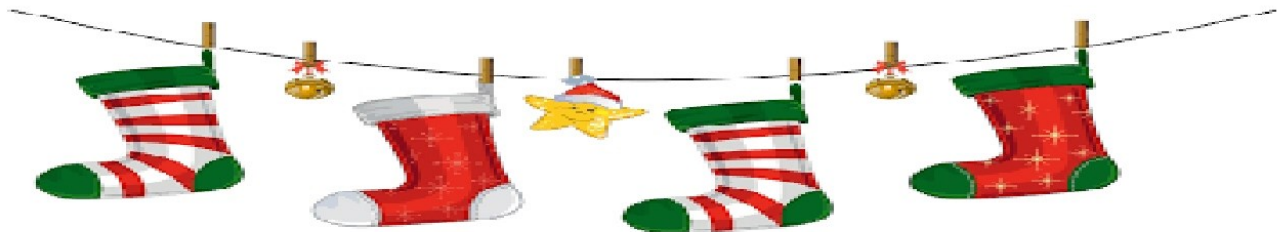
Immediately Following 11:30 a.m. Mass

Please RSVP by 12/15/2023 by calling the Rectory during business hours and providing the children names with ages & gender or sign up in rear of church

The wrapping party will take place on 12/16/2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please RSVP in rear of the church

**Merry
Christmas**

If you wish to donate unwrapped toys you can bring to church and place in Santa's Bin located in the Narthex. Cash, Checks or Gift Cards should be given to one on the Men's Coalition Members! Thanks



This years event will be held in the lower Hall