



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 11, 2022



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



3rd
SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

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)

2:00 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.

Pastor

Father Bob Kelly, 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.

Parish Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



This Week at OLA

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 16

- In Person Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

- Holy Angel's School Christmas Concert
11:30 a.m. | Parish

Saturday, December 17

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 5 p.m. | Parish
- KPC Meeting - 5:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

Sunday, December 18

- First Communion - 10 a.m. | Tolton Center
- RCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall -Meeting Room
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Knights of Columbus Meeting
After 11:30 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall
- Confirmation - 1:30 p.m. | Tolton Center

Scriptures for the Week

Monday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast
Revelations 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab/
Judith 13: 18bcde, 19/ Luke 1: 39-47

Tuesday, December 13

St. Lucy, Memorial - Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13/ Ps 34: 2-3,
6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/ Mt 21: 28-32 2022

Wednesday, December 14

John of the Cross, Memorial - Is 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-
25/ Ps 85: 9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Lk 7: 18b-23

Thursday, December 15

Advent Weekday Is 54: 1-10/ Ps 30: 2 and 4, 5-6,
11-12a and 13b/ Lk 7: 24-30 2022

Friday, December 16

Advent Weekday Is 56: 1-3a, 6-8/ Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 7-
8/ Jn 5: 33-36 2022

Saturday, December 17

Advent Weekday (O Sapientia) Gn 49: 2, 8-10/
Ps 72: 1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1: 1-17

Ministry List for Next Weekend

Saturday Vigil Mass - December 17

- Lectors: Dorothy Williams
Theresa Rhea

Sunday 9 a.m. - December 18

- Lectors: Don McKinney
John Preston
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Shirley McKinney
Zachary Smith

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 18

- Lectors: Velma Hill
Greg Chappell
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Stephanie Inis
Theresa Rhea

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass
For the OLA Community

Sunday, December 11

- 9 a.m. Mass
For the OLA Community
- 11:30 a.m. Mass
For the OLA Community

Requesting Mass Intentions

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.

Please keep in your Prayers

Prayers for Alice Thompson who suffered a mild stroke this past week. She is at the University of Chicago Hospital.

Prayers for Dianne Williams who had invasive surgery, December 6th.

Prayers for Carolyn McQuerter who is grieving the loss of her daughter, +E'sha McQuerter.

Conference Calls for OLA

For our Tuesday Night Bible Study and Angels on Air Prayer Line on Thursday, please call our Conference Call Phone Number: **(267) 807-9601**. The code to enter the group session is **340-355-967**.

Welcoming Our RCIA Class - 2023



Father Carl Gales, SVD
Associate Pastor

Dear Members of OLA,

It is a pleasure to announce that our newest members that are journeying with us to become Catholic will soon be welcomed by our community!

The Rite of Welcome will take place this coming **Sunday, December 18th at our 11:30 a.m. Mass.**

During this Season of Advent, new faith is springing up! The Church will begin to bring these baptized members into the fold of the Catholic Faith.

The Welcoming is important because we all have an active role in witnessing **WHY** we are Catholic and what it **MEANS** to be Catholic. Throughout these coming months, they will look to you for answers and they will also see how you are Catholic as witnesses to the Gospel. I pray that we will all help their faith to grow by our kindness, love and, most especially, by our prayers!

Father Carl

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



Parish Directory

Baptisms

Tina Carter
tinalcarter71@gmail.com

Blessed Sacrament Society

Linda Broadnax - President

Confirmation

Tina Carter, Stephanie Gado
Theresa Rhea

Clergy

Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD - Pastor
bkellysvd@gmail.com
Fr. Carl Gales, SVD - Associate
galesce0422@gmail.com
Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.
Dcn. Michael Foggie
Dcn. Ivan Lazcano
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

Tyrone Pittman

Parish Administrator

Shirley McKinney
773-624-5375

Religious Missionary

Brother Alu Aisi, SVD

School and Church Liaison

LaTanya Berry-Johnson

Seminarian

Frazer 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



GAUDETE!

Once upon a time, before we began to sing as the presider and cross-bearer and proclaimers of the Word process into church at the beginning of Mass, we either recited or sang an entrance verse, or antiphon, in Latin. For this Sunday, the beginning of that verse went like this:

Gaudete in Domino semper. Rejoice in the Lord always. Gaudete. Rejoice.

Today is still called Gaudete Sunday. There is a shift in the yearning of Advent. Even the vestment color is different. We're close to Christmas now. Joy.

In the Middle Ages, joy was used as a verb. I love that. Think of it. "I joy in you." "I joy in the sunset." "I joy in Chicago-style pizza." **Here's the kicker: "God joys in us."**

Joy is very important to Pope Francis. He thinks that a joyful believer is the best possible way to bring people to Jesus. I think he's on to something.

Joy is work. Right now it is Advent work. Today's Gospel faces us with the work of it. John, imprisoned, sends some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the one who is to come, or should they look for another? Jesus answers with evidence: Pay attention to what is seen and heard.

John and friends had to change what they thought, for Jesus was not what they expected. Yet John, imprisoned, had joy in the answer his disciples brought him, **because he did not let his expectations restrict God's action in life.** That kind of openness does not come without a lot of soul-work.

The Set Aside Prayer goes something like this: "God, please help me to set aside everything I think I know about myself and You, so that I may have a new experience of both." Therein lies the secret. Don't limit God or yourself. Resilience, openness, and adaptability seem to be key in this journey of faith and kingdom-building. That is work. And joy is the fruit of it.

Joy does not depend on what happens to us or goes on around us, because it comes from the grace of God's presence in us. We don't deserve that presence, or earn it. It's gift. Joy comes from leaning into that connection, that presence, WITHOUT CONDITION. We can't think: "If I don't have cancer, then I'll have joy." or "If my child makes good choices, then I'll have joy." or "If I win the lottery, then I'll have joy." or "If my neighbor is nicer to me, then I'll have joy." or "If fighting stops in Ukraine and Myanmar, then I'll have joy."

None of that. IN **EVERYTHING**, JOY!

It is a responsibility. And it leads to endless possibilities! Think of the ways you will come to know God! Gaudete!



Dear Friends,

The message of Advent has many rich and beautiful dimensions. Most center on the coming of the Lord. Today we are called to experience this coming in the saving acts of Jesus as seen in the past and experienced in our life today.

In today's Scripture, Isaiah draws a poetic picture of the Jews walking away into freedom after fifty years of anguish and exile in Babylonia. He uses his beautiful and poetic language to mirror the great event of the Old Testament, the Exodus from slavery to the Promised Land.

We have to see our life's struggles in this context of these biblical journeys to freedom. Jesus says, "Go tell John what you hear and see." (Mt 11:4) The real message of Advent makes us able to see that not only are the blind given sight but the lame who now are able to leap like stags are even ready to go Dancing with the Stars. This is because the Advent message tells us that our reality is pregnant with a graciousness that our faith in Jesus brings to life as we recall the Incarnation. We do need to let the cry of Advent burst forth from our hearts: **Come, Lord Jesus!** *Even more, we need to let this hunger in our heart for a new day lead us to live the Gospel message. We have to walk in the footsteps of Jesus today. Our lived commitment brings the transformation of reality we yearn for right now. A life lived in love is the greatest foundation for the fullness of salvation we long for in the future.*

Jesus' message to John in today's Gospel is clear. There is a new day breaking through in his conquest of evil and the demonic power in his healing miracles. Just as the return of the Exiles from Babylonia mirrored the freedom of the

great act of deliverance in the journey of people out of Egypt, God continues to manifest the great saving action of Jesus in our day.

Jesus' message to John in today's Gospel is clear. There is a new day breaking through in his conquest of evil and the demonic power in his healing miracles. Just as the return of the Exiles from Babylonia mirrored the freedom of the great act of liberation in the passage of people out of Egypt, our loving God still manifests the saving action of Jesus in our day.

The battle of good and evil still dominates our world. The pull to freedom, the quest for happiness and security still only find a lasting solution in Jesus. Jesus alone still possesses both the message and the power to draw us into eternal life. We still are the blind, the lame and the sinners that need healing and mercy. The answer to our deliverance from the overwhelming power of evil in our day is the found in our Advent prayer, **Come Lord Jesus!**

While we wait, we have to address our life situation now. St. Teresa of Avila gives us the direction in her classic Book Marker Prayer:

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing make you afraid.
All things are passing.
God alone never changes.
Patience gains all things.
If you have God you will want for nothing.
God alone suffices.

From the Men's Coalition - Thank You!

On Sunday December 12, The Our Lady of Africa Men's Coalition held its annual Breakfast with Santa in the church hall. This year's event was the first in person event held since the 5 parishes combined. The event continues a 20 year-plus tradition for the Men's Coalition. This year's Santa was Reggie Seay. Approximately 70 children and grandchildren of church members participated and had a great time!

President Michael Morman and the members of The Our Lady of Africa Men's Coalition would like to thank the generosity of church members who generously donated. Special thanks to Unison Consulting and The Knights of Columbus for their extraordinary donations.

Free pictures from the event will be available in the church hall beginning at the 4 pm Mass on Saturday, December 10th. Happy Holidays to all!



Christmas and New Years Mass Schedule

- **CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24, 2022**
4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass
- **CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25, 2022**
10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass of the Day
Nigerian Igbo Community
2:30 p.m. Christmas Mass of the Day
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE - Saturday, December 31, 2022**
4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- **NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sunday, January 1, 2023**
10:00 a.m. - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Ghanaian Community Mass
1:30 p.m. - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
French Speaking Community Mass
6:00 p.m. - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Jesse Tree Tradition

The Jesse Tree was created to help people remember the events leading up to Jesus' birth. The tradition of decorating the Jesse Tree is very old and dates back to medieval times. Advent means "coming". It is a season of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is usually recognized as the 28 days leading up to Christmas.

Our Advent Journey- Our Jesse Tree has 28 ornaments, one for each day of Advent. The picture on each ornament symbolizes a story from the Bible leading up to the birth of Christ. Each week of Advent our tree will feature a set of 7 new ornaments. Below the ornament will be a corresponding scripture and explanation to guide us through Jesus' human family tree. Have fun!

Who Is Jesse?--Before you get started on this journey, you might be wondering...Who was Jesse? The tree is named for Jesse, the father of the Great King David— who is a descendant of Jesus. The stump symbolizes Jesse. The branch growing out of the stump symbolizes the family line.

There is a scripture in the Book of Isaiah that prophesied the coming of Jesus. "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the LORD will rest on Him." Isaiah 11: 1 (Continued on page 7)



The Jesse Tree devotions are taken directly from the book "The Jesse Tree Kit" by Lynn M. Simms and Betsy Walter.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12/06 Alfrances Sharpe | 12/13 Thomas Calicott |
| 12/08 Tiffany Swann-Covington | 12/20 Argentry Mitchell |
| 12/09 Vicki A. Cooper | 12/21 +David Flippen Carpenter |
| 12/09 Denise Jackson-Wilson | 12/22 Eileen Foggie |
| 12/10 Regina Cook | 12/26 Lena Young |
| 12/10 Marjorie Heard | 12/28 Gloria Dean |
| 12/12 Tylie McShan | |

Please sign the calendar located in the Narthex with your Name and Birthday (please: no birth years). We can then recognize everyone's birthday as it comes. Thank you so much for your attention and understanding.



Sunday, December 11, 2022

Solomon

Read **Kings 3:3-14**

Solomon followed his father, David, as king of Israel. God had offered Solomon anything he wished for and was pleased when instead of riches or glory Solomon asked for wisdom to rule his kingdom. Solomon is also remembered for the beautiful temple he built for God in Jerusalem. The temple served the people of Israel as the central place of worship for over 350 years.



Monday, December 12, 2022

Elijah

Read **Kings 2:11-18**

The prophet Elijah lived 900 years before Jesus at a time when Israel was ruled by weak kings, and the people worshiped false gods. God gave Elijah much spiritual power to convince the Israelites to return to their true God. When his job on earth was done, God sent a chariot of fire that swept Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind.



Thursday, December 15, 2022

Jonah

Read **Jonah 1-4**

Jonah was told by God to go to the city of Nineveh to warn the people to turn away from their wicked ways. Instead of obeying God, Jonah tried to run away. He boarded a ship, but God sent a storm and Jonah was tossed overboard and swallowed by a whale. Jonah lived within the whale for three days praying to God to forgive him. Finally, the whale spit him out on dry land.

This time, Jonah obeyed and preached God's message so well that all the people of Nineveh repented and were saved.



Saturday, December 17, 2022 John the Baptist Read **Matthew 3:1-11**

Six months before Jesus was born, Elizabeth gave birth to a son and she and Zechariah named him John, just as the angel had instructed. When John grew up, he preached that the people should repent of their sins and be baptized. He baptized hundreds of people, including his cousin Jesus.

This is how he became known as John the Baptist. John's symbol is the shell.



Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Isaiah

Read **Isaiah 2:4; 7:14; 9:6-7**

Isaiah, another great prophet of the Old Testament, lived near the city of Jerusalem about 700 years before Christ. He gave hope to the Israelites that peace would come to their nation, "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares". He also foretold the birth of a child who would be called "Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." This child was Jesus.



Friday, December 16, 2022

Zechariah and Elizabeth

Read **Luke 1:5-23**

Elderly Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth (who was Mary's cousin) prayed for many years for God to give them a child. One day an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him Elizabeth would bear him a son who was to be named John. John would be the prophet promised by God to help prepare the people for the coming of the Savior. Because Zechariah could not believe what the angel told him, he was made mute and could not speak until after his son was born.



Please Remember Those on Our Sick and Shut-In List in your Prayers

Ophelia Adams
Curtis Albright
Dorla Allen
Patrice Anderson
Jessie Andrews
James Barker
Donald Barner
Louise Bates
Myra Baugh
David Berry
Mary Berry
Helen Brooms
Christine Brown
Barbara McGee-Berry
Arthur Brooks
Patricia Brown
Roscoe Burns
Michael Burt
Dean Brazier
James Brazier
Marilyn Campbell
Esperanza Carr
Russell Carter
Lillian Cherry
Michael A. Clark
Lydia Clark
Willie B. Clay
Catherine Crosby
Mary Crawford
Sr. Eleanor Doidge
Cecelia Douglas
Irene Dove
Judith Easter
Elsie Freeman
Wanda Finney
Ola Mae Forde
Nazaree Fuller
Tyrone Fuller
Rosemary Gardner
Frederick Gibson
Florence Glenn
Andre D. Golden

Mable Gray
Bettie Green
Eleanor Griffin
Barbara Golden
Anna Marie Hampton
Exie Haralson
Catherine Harper
Marjorie Heard
Lorraine Henderson
Justine Henderson
Jim Henkel
Kelly Robin Hill
Rita Holland
Sandra Houston
Doris Humphries
Nolan Humphries
George James
Janet James
Leslie Jackson
Mildred Jackson
Majorbelle James
Therese Jessie
Cindy Jirsa
Jan Johnson
Pamela Jones
Susan Larry McKeever
Denise Lawson
Annette Lee
Gloria Leonard
Lugenia Lewis
John Littleton
Betty Lumpkins
Lenda Mason
Gail McGruder
McShan Family
Bernadine McNeal
Anastacia Mebane
Judy Michaelis
Deborah Mitchell
Argentry Mitchell
Geraldine Moore
Jeff Moore

Michael Moore
Euphrasia Mutinda
Maria Jossey Owen
Gregory Papesch
Minnette Penman
Allen Peoples
Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.
Marionette Phelps
Jean Porter
Louise Ray
Clara Reisner
Tyna Rule
Phyllis Shackelford
Alfrances Sharpe
Beverly Sims
Shirley Simmons
Emma Stewart
Margaret Stewart
Alonzo Studstill
Janice Taylor
Alice Thompson
Cynthia Thompson
Renee Trotter
Audrey Tuggle
Joanne Wallace
Joyce Wallace
Tandra Watson
Rachel Watson
Cassiette West-Williams
Doris Whitaker
Eryn Whitaker
Rita White
Yvonne Whitenier
Arlene G. Williams
Dorothy Williams
Evelyn Williams
Naiya Williams
Michael Williams
Patricia Williams
Sheila Williams
Sunnette Varnado Smith

