



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 17, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 17

- Adoration | After 9 a.m. Mass
| Chapel
- First Communion | 10 a.m. | Tolton Center
- 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
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Tuesday, December 19

- **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 20

- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, December 21

- 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
- CHI Community Meal & Services
| 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Friday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 23

- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

Sunday, December 24

- Sunday Masses | 9 a.m. | 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Christmas Carols | 11 p.m.
- **MIDNIGHT MASS | 12:00 a.m.**

Monday, December 25

- **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS | 10 a.m.**



Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - December 23

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Silmon Reed
Ted Budzynski

Sunday 9 a.m. - December 24

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Eileen Foggie
Miriam Hunter
- Eucharistic Ministers: Shirley McKinney

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 24

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Silmon Reed
Christine Stewart
- Eucharistic Ministers: Lutricia Rawls

Sunday, Midnight Mass - December 24

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Keith Wilson
Denise Wilson
- Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Rhea
Earlene Hodges

Monday, Christmas Day Mass - December 25

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Katie Jordan
James Asenso
- Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP

Attendance December 9/10, 2023

4 p.m. Mass	15
9 a.m. Mass	69
11:30 a.m. Mass	202
1:30 p.m. Mass (Ghanaian)	7
TOTAL	293

Stewardship

Offertory - December 9/10, 2023

\$ 8,508.00
\$ 2,020.00 - online offertory
\$ 10,498.00

Offertory - December 10/11, 2022

\$ 6,992.00
\$ 1,530.00 - online offertory
\$ 8,522.00

Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)
\$ 10,498.00 - Total Offertory
\$ **(3,925.08)**

Thank you for your generosity!



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,
Tiffany Swann-Covington
Shawnece Wilson

Clergy

Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
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

IT Crew

Gloria Dean - *Lead*

Knights of Peter Claver

Thomas Rich - *Grand Knight*

Knights of Peter Claver

Lady's Auxiliary
Lena Young - *Grand Lady*

Maintenance

Tyrone Smith

Medical Ministry

Dr. James Hunter

Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - *President*

Music Ministry

Maestro Tyrone Pittman

OCIA

Kimberly Brooks

Peace and Social Justice

Byron Diggs - *Co-Chair*
Parris Washington - *Co-Chair*

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

Some Pictures from the UNITY MASS



TO SIGN UP FOR THE OLA NEWSLETTER

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE BY EMAIL:
OURLADYOFAMERICACHICAGO@GMAIL.COM
IT'S THAT SIMPLE!!



Third Sunday in Advent - Gospel Meditation by Fr. John Muir

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Theresa of Lisieux, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through various people. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

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.



"I AM THE VOICE
OF ONE CRYING
OUT IN THE
DESERT,
'MAKE STRAIGHT
THE WAY OF
THE LORD'"



**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".

First prize will be \$500.00
Second prize will be \$250.00
Third prize will be \$100.00

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



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 17

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O SAPIENTIA)

Readings: Is 61: 1-2a. 10-11/ Lk 1: 46-48. 49-50. 53-54/ 1 Thes 5: 16-24/ Jn 1: 6-8. 19-28

Mass Intentions:

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

9 a.m. | Our Lady of Africa Family

11:30 a.m. | Our Lady of Africa Family

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

Monday, December 18

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O ADONAI)

Readings: Jer 23: 5-8/ Ps 72: 1-2. 12-13. 18-19/ Mt 1: 18-25

OLA Book of Prayer: Susan Larry, Betty Lumpkins, Judy Michaelis, Maria Jossey Owen

Tuesday, December 19

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIX JESSE)

Readings: Jgs 13: 2-7. 24-25a/ Ps 71: 3-4a. 5-6ab. 16-17/ Lk 1: 5-25

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

Wednesday, December 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O CLAVIS DAVID)

Readings: Is 7: 10-14/ Ps 24: 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6/ Lk 1: 26-38

Mass Intentions:

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

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

Thursday, December 21

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O ORIENS)/ PETER CANISIUS, PASTOR, DOCTOR

Readings: Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a/ Ps 33: 2-3. 11-12. 20-21/ Lk 1: 39-45

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

Friday, December 22

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O REX GENTIUM)

Readings: 1 Sm 1: 24-28/ 1 Sm 2: 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8abcd/ Lk 1: 46-56

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

OLA Book of Prayer: McShan Family, Allen Peoples, Phyllis Shackelford, Sunnette Varnado Smith

Saturday, December 23

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)/ JOHN OF KANTY, PASTOR

Readings: Mal 3: 1-4. 23-24/ Ps 25: 4-5ab. 8-9. 10 and 14/ Lk 1: 57-66

OLA Book of Prayer: Nolan Humphries, Cindy Jirsa, Monica Lewers, Bernadine McNeal, Jeff Moore

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 Mass Schedule



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9 AM MASS
11:30 AM MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24/25
CHRISTMAS
MIDNIGHT MASS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
10 AM MASS

MONDAY, JANUARY 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
10 AM MASS



Adoration and Devotion to the Divine Mercy - DECEMBER 22nd



We invite you to come and experience Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

We 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.”

For more info:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/chaplet>

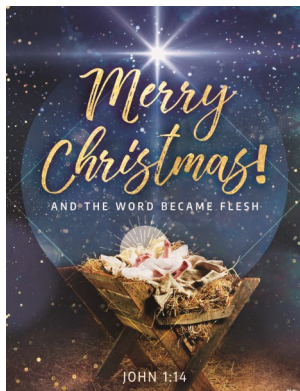
ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

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.