



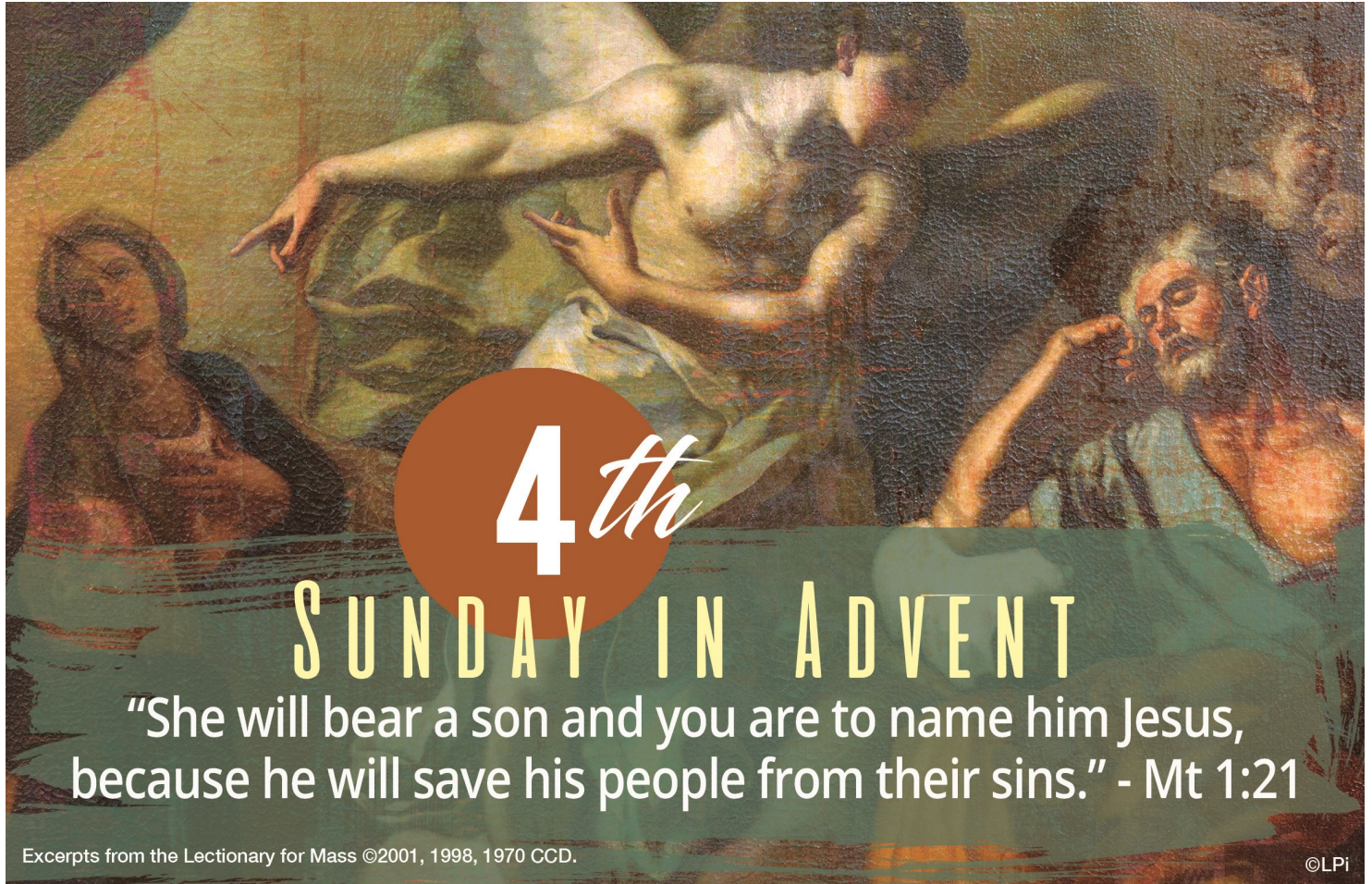
OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 18, 2022



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



4th

SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

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

Sunday, December 18

- Adoration - after 9 a.m. Mass | Side Chapel
- 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

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

- In-Person Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Reconciliation Service - 6:30 p.m. | Parish

Thursday, December 22

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon
| Tolton Center
- Christmas Decoration Party
5:30 p.m. | Parish

Saturday, December 24

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish

Scriptures for the Week

Monday, December 19

Advent Weekday (O Radix Jesse) Jgs 13: 2-7.
24-25a/ Ps 71: 3-4a. 5-6ab. 16-17/ Lk 1: 5-25

Tuesday, December 20

Advent Weekday (O Clavis David) Is 7: 10-14/
Ps 24: 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6/ Lk 1: 26-38

Wednesday, December 21

Advent Weekday (O Oriens)/ Peter Canisius, p.
dr Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a/ Ps 33: 2-3. 11-12.
20-21/ Lk 1: 39-45

Thursday, December 22

Advent Weekday (O Rex Gentium) 1 Sm 1: 24-
28/ 1 Sm 2: 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8abcd/ Lk 1: 46-56

Friday, December 23

Advent Weekday (O Emmanuel)/ John of
Kanty, p Mal 3: 1-4. 23-24/ Ps 25: 4-5ab. 8-9. 10
and 14/ Lk 1: 57-66

Saturday, December 24

Advent Weekday 2 Sm 7: 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16/ Ps
89: 2-3. 4-5. 27 and 29/ Lk 1: 67-79

Sunday, December 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Solemnity
Vigil: Is 62: 1-5/ Ps 89: 4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 (2a)/ Acts
13: 16-17. 22-25/ Mt 1: 1-25. Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps
98: 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6 (3c)/ Heb 1: 1-6/ Jn 1: 1-18

Ministry List for Next Weekend

Saturday Vigil Mass 4 p.m. - December 24

- Lectors: Keith Wilson
Denise Wilson

Sunday 10 a.m. - December 25

- Lectors: Edith Lane
Regina Cook
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Eileen Foggie
Ladell Johnson

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24

- The Poor Souls
-At the request of Divine Word College

Sunday, December 25

- 10 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

Jeff Moore, the brother of **Shirley McKinney** from our Parish Office, who had emergency surgery on Saturday. He will require another second surgery in a few days.

Marcia Berry of our Parish who is in the Hospital.

Alice Thompson of our Parish who was in the Hospital. She is now at home.

Charles Herbert who is seriously ill in a Hospital in Carbondale, IL. He is the son of Florine Brown of our Parish.

Floyd Bates, the brother of **James Brown** of our Parish. He is seriously ill in the Hospital.

Michelle Farrar of our Parish who fell down and broke her shoulder in 2 or 3 spots. She will probably have surgery in the morning.

RIP **+Harold Charles Grangier**, brother of **Eleanor Griffin** of our Parish, who passed away in Louisiana.

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**.

Pastor's Message for the Week Ahead



Father Bob Kelly, SVD
Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to all of you as we enter this Fourth Week of Advent and prepare for the celebration of Christmas!

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Christ coming into the world to be one with us, the Word made flesh, God's son born for us. Christ came on earth to reveal an extraordinary message of love, hope, joy and peace. Christ asks us to have love for one another, to be reconciled to one another and to accept one another. Christmas always reminds us of God's extraordinary love for us.

All the religious staff who serve here and I give thanks for you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you do to make this parish a visible sign of Christ's love. We want to thank all those Parishioners who serve and volunteer in the various ministries and organizations. They make a difference for us each day.

All of us wish each of you and your Families a blessed and joyous Christmas filled with hope. You and your intentions will be remembered at all our Christmas and New Year's Masses.

Wishing you an abundance of God's Blessings this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year!

Fr. Bob Kelly SVD, Fr. Carl Gales, SVD, Brother Alu Aisi, SVD
Senior Deacon Merv Johnson, Deacon Michael Foggie,
Deacon Manie Manuel, SVD Deacon Ivan Lazcano,
Seminarians Frater Zachary Smith, SVD, Frater Friday Onoja, SVD

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

Frater 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



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)



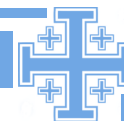
The Jesse Tree devotions are taken directly from the book "The Jesse Tree Kit" by Lynn M. Simms and Betsy Walter.

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.

Rest In Peace, Father Mark Weber, SVD



February 14, 1954 – December 14, 2022

The SVD Community and many friends, parishioners, family and loved ones are mourning the passing of a great man, priest, confrere, and friend.

Fr. Mark Weber, SVD, was truly a generous and compassionate soul.

Due to the West Nile Virus, Fr. Mark had been battling with its complications since late August. He finally entered his Eternal Reward this past Wednesday, December 14th at approximately 9 a.m.

Please keep his family and the SVD community in prayer.

Reflections on 4th Sunday of Advent - Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.

Dear Friends,

All religious experience tries to balance two dominant forces that flow from being a creature in the presence of the Creator: comfort and challenge. Only a mature faith is able to balance the two in a creative tension.

In today's Gospel story we have two phrases that are profoundly comforting: **"be not afraid"** and **"Emmanuel"** which means God is with us. These phrases mark the change in focus of the Advent message. The Incarnation of the coming Christmas Season is moving to center stage. Each of today's readings is on this theme. Emanuel is born in time to be forever with his people and to call his people to be forever in the love of our saving God.

While the phrase **"be not afraid"** is used over three hundred times in Scripture, the Infancy narratives of Luke and Matthew convey this expression four times. It is always related to the supportive presence of God in a challenging situation such as Joseph's dilemma with Mary's pregnancy.

Just like the great ambiguity that Mary and Joseph faced, our lives are engulfed with the consequences of evil in our midst. Sickness, ignorance, prejudice, violence, and hatred come at us in all manner of ways. This is the reality of living with the seemingly endless battle of good and evil that is our daily fare. No sooner has Covid been reduced as a threat, than we have Putin's war in the Ukraine. This incredible horror confronts us with human carnage, destruction of the environment, threat of nuclear disaster and the waste of all these resources to the neglect of the poor and hungry. This gross manifestation of evil affects everyone.

"Emmanuel" *"reveals God's faithfulness and involvement in all human reality. God is always present calling us into the mystery of new life and*

new love. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we begin to recall the great event of God becoming human in the person of Jesus. This is the ultimate revelation of God's saving involvement in our broken world. It is a call to new life and new love. Our challenge is to be open and accepting of the call on God's terms.

While **"be not afraid"** and **"Emmanuel"** are profoundly comforting statements, Mary and Joseph needed all the support they could get. If you do the minimal analysis of their situation, the challenge to their relationship was enormous. Anytime the betrothed says she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit, where does the dialogue go from there? Add the fact that the child is to be the Savior of his people, the only saving grace would have to be divine intervention. That's what happened!

Mary and Joseph had to dig deep into the comforting and reassuring message of the angel to make any kind of sense of the reality of their poverty and uprooting that was part of the crisis that engulfed them. It truly challenged them to look with faith on the baby born in circumstances of such total vulnerability.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent as we recall the wonder of God's becoming flesh, we are invited to embrace the great gift of Emmanuel. God is with us in love, mercy and saving grace in the person of Jesus, the son of Mary. Our challenge is to respond to this call of love on God's terms.

For Mary, it was just the beginning of a long journey of confusion and bewilderment. Only her faith and trust could comfort her in the midst of a challenge that ultimately brought her to the foot of the Cross.

When you think about it, it is similar to our journey! It is no wonder that the great prayer of Advent is so relevant to our life. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Upcoming Events



When: Saturday, January 14th, 2023

Where: Augustus Tolton Heritage Center

44 E 41st Street

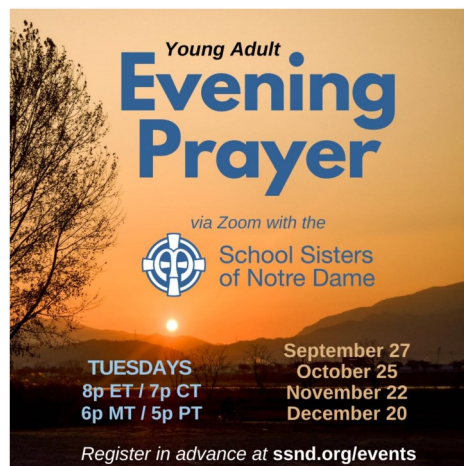
Chicago IL 60653

Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm

This training is for any church volunteer or employee who has **NEVER** had the Protecting God's Children training before.

Protecting God's Children® for Adults is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods, and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Two videos are the centerpiece of the training: **A Time to Protect God's Children™** and **A Plan to Protect God's Children™**. The facilitators incorporate policies and procedures into the training defining child sexual abuse, addressing the reporting of child sexual abuse, the screening and selection of employees and volunteers, and victim advocacy.

To register, please contact the Parish Office (773) 624-5375



OLA Book Club



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Our Book Club's First Meeting will take place on **January 22, 2023!**

If you still want to join the book club, please contact the Parish Office. We have purchased books for those that signed up. We ask now that you purchase your copy wherever you can.

Looking forward to sharing a meal and discussing your thoughts!

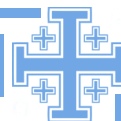
Christmas Decoration Party

Our Christmas Decoration Party will be this coming **Thursday, December 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Please come and bring in the Christmas season together with some fun, food, and libations!

Santa hats will be provided!!! See you all there!

Jesse Tree



Sunday, December 18, 2022
Anne and Joachim

According to tradition, Anne and Joachim were the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The book is the symbol of the way St Anne taught Mary. It was from her that Mary heard the story of the chosen people and of the Messiah who was to save the whole world. Little did Mary realize that one day God would choose her to be the mother of his Son.



Monday, December 19, 2022
Mary
Read **Luke 1:26-38**

God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth. Gabriel told her the Lord was with her and that she was chosen among all women to bear God's Son, the king of all people, whom she should name Jesus. Mary answered "I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." The symbol of a loving heart represents Mary, our mother in heaven.



Tuesday, December 20, 2022
Joseph of Nazareth
Read **Matthew 1:18-25**

Joseph was a descendant of King David, and worked as a carpenter. While he was engaged to Mary, an angel appeared to him and told him that Mary had conceived a son by the power of the Holy Spirit and that this son would be the Messiah. Joseph agreed to take Mary as his wife, as the angel instructed and he loved and protected Jesus, the Son of God, as his foster son.



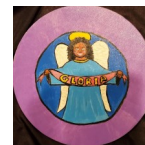
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Star of Bethlehem
Read **Matthew 2:1-6**

Many years before, the prophet Micah had predicted that from the town of Bethlehem a ruler would come who would save Israel. And so it happened that a census was ordered and Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be taxed. They stayed in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn. And while they were there Mary gave birth to Jesus. That night a special bright star shone in the sky over the place where Jesus was.



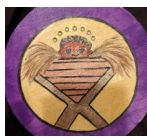
Thursday, December 22, 2022
Shepherds
Read **Luke 2:8-20**

On the night Jesus was born, there were some shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks. An angel appeared to them and told them their Savior had been born. They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw Baby Jesus lying in a manger. The shepherds were the first to welcome Jesus and they went away singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen.



Friday, December 23, 2022
Angels
Read **Luke 2:8-14**

The angel of the Lord who appeared to the shepherd announced: "I bring you good news of the great joy for all the people, for unto you is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Suddenly the sky was filled with a great choir of angels, singing their praise to God: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all people."



Saturday, December 24, 2022 **Jesus** Read **Luke 2:1-20**

And so it was that Jesus, God's Son, came to be born in Bethlehem. He was the Messiah whose coming had been foretold by the prophets and long awaited by the people of Israel. As the star shone down from on high, Jesus lay in his manger bed, the greatest sign of God's infinite love for his people.



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
Carolyn McQuenter
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

