



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 24, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son,
and you shall name
him Jesus.”
- Lk 1:31

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 Sunday)
2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*last two Sundays*)
6:00 p.m.—French (*1st Sunday*)
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10 a.m.
Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
Or by appointment (773)624-5375

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. - 4:00 p.m.



This Week at OLA

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

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS | 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, December 26

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

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

- 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 29

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

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Monday, January 1, 2024

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - December 30

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: James Asenso
Theresa Rhea

Sunday 9 a.m. - December 31

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Don McKinney
Flora Smith
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Miriam Hunter
Gladys St. Leger

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 31

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Jamil Wilson
Shawnece Wilson
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Trish Rawls
Theresa Rhea

Attendance December 16/17, 2023

4 p.m. Mass	25
9 a.m. Mass	91
11:30 a.m. Mass	191
1:30 p.m. Mass (Ghanaian)	13
2:30 p.m. Mass (Igbo)	136
TOTAL	456

Stewardship

Offertory - December 16/17, 2023

\$ 8,346.00
\$ 1,775.00 - online offertory
\$ 10,121.00

Offertory - December 17/18, 2022

\$ 6,905.00
\$ 380.00 - online offertory
\$ 7,285.00

Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)
\$ 10,121.00 - Total Offertory
\$ **(4,302.08)**

Thank you for your generosity!

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!



The Christmas Season is Here!



Dear OLA Church Family,

The time has come! The Christ Child has come to us all to give hope, new life, and the possibility of a closer communion with God and each other! I pray that this Christmas Season will bring joy, peace, and love to you, your family, and all your loved ones.

As a community of faith, our hearts go out to those without the proper housing, the migrants, the homeless and the destitute. I thank you for all the actions you have taken to relieve the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Your donations of clothing, luggage, shoes, blankets and food have helped a great deal. Our partners at the 35th Street and Michigan Migrant Shelter extend to you their deepest gratitude for the floods of donations that have come to them. Thank you in advance for your continued support to those who are most in need.

I want everyone to know that my prayers on your behalf are constant. It is my duty and privilege to serve you and I will do this to the utmost of my abilities. Please pray for me as I pray for you that our church family will grow in love, devotion, and prayer for the year to come.

To those who are visiting during this Christmas Season, the Our Lady of Africa Church Family welcomes you. We hope you find in us a place of extraordinary fellowship and care.

A most blessed and holy Christmas Season!

Peace and all good,

Fr. Carl Gales, SVD



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



zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



Fourth Sunday in Advent - Reflection by Gardis Watts



Most of us make the mistake of waiting for the perfect scenario to act on something big. That we get very reluctant to carry out something important because we feel 'the time wasn't right' or 'the situation is not perfect.' Opportunities get missed when we misread the circumstances because we are waiting on a 'precise moment' to seize. In many cases, these moments never come. In fact, some of these situations we feel are the wrong time to act and we wait until the time is right. Unfortunately, when we think the time is right, that opportunity is long gone. Mary could have been one of those people who could have turned down God's offer to be the mother of Jesus because her situation was not convenient. However, she saw her opportunity and took on God's calling despite the challenging situation she was facing.

Our gospel reading for this Sunday is from Luke where we find Mary, a young woman from Nazareth, being visited by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel starts to praise Mary and she is confused with fear by this greeting from the angel. The angel proceeds to inform her that she will give birth to a son and name him Jesus. Gabriel tells Mary how important Jesus will become. Mary, who is a virgin, and has not officially married Joseph yet, wonders how she will get pregnant. The angel informs Mary that the Holy Spirit will grant her the gift of bearing this child despite her status. Gabriel says that it's not impossible for God to make this happen and he makes a comparison of Elizabeth, Mary's older cousin, giving birth at her advanced age. Mary accepts her role and Gabriel leaves her.

Mary would have socially been right to turn down God's offer to bear Jesus. In first century Palestine, an unwed Jewish woman who is pregnant is subjected by law to be stoned to death, especially if the woman is arranged to be married to someone (Deuteronomy 22:23-24). She literally stared death in the face when she heard this news from the angel. Mary found the courage and calling to accept God's plan even though she faced stoning. She didn't tell Gabriel to wait until she officially married Joseph. She saw the divine plan in an imperfect situation.

How many times have we forsaken our calling because we felt that we were not ready for it? Do we remember a time when a golden opportunity was presented to us but passed it up because of some fear that our situation was not suitable for it? Don't be mistaken, there are times when we realize that certain things are just not for us. But then there are times when a burning desire in our hearts calls us to do something even though the situation does not look promising. In those moments, we miss them or walk away from them. We avoid them because we are led by fear. Nothing wrong with being afraid. Mary was afraid but she was not consumed by it like some of us are.

Some of us are looking for that "Gabriel Moment." Waiting for an angel to tell us something. Unfortunately, we don't get those moments because some of us are not open to God or even hearing him. We cannot hear God unless we have a line of communication to him and that starts with prayer. We cannot be open to God unless we allow God to walk with us. When we speak to God and allow him to walk with us, we begin to live in faith and not in fear. Mary lived in her faith. She lived in it so much that God not only chose her to bear his son but sent the Angel Gabriel to deliver the news. This is the same angel that ministered to the prophet Daniel (Daniel 8:15-25, 9:21-27).

As this season of Advent draws to a close, let us not just idly wait for Jesus but prepare ourselves in prayer and love. Our opportunity to be children of God is always there and if we accept that task then fear has no room in our lives because faith in our God will lead us to liberation.

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,
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

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.

TO SIGN UP FOR THE OLA NEWSLETTER

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



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 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: 2 Sm 7: 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16/ Ps 89: 2-3. 4-5. 27. 29 (2a)/ Rom 16: 25-27/ Lk 1: 26-38

Mass Intentions:

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors
9 a.m. | OLA Church Family
11:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

OLA Book of Prayer: Pamela Jones,
Anastacia Mebane, Euphrasia Mutinda

Monday, December 25

CHRISTMAS MASS DURING MIDNIGHT

Readings: Is 9: 1-6/ Ps 96: 1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13/ Ti 2: 11-14/ Lk 2: 1-14

Mass Intentions:

12 a.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE DAY

Readings: Is 52: 7-10/ Ps 98: 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6 (3c)/
Heb 1: 1-6/ Jn 1: 1-18

Mass Intentions:

10 a.m. | OLA Church Family

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

Tuesday, December 26

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Readings: Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59/ Ps 31: 3cd-4. 6
and 8ab. 16bc and 17/ Mt 10: 17-22

Mass Intentions:

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

OLA Book of Prayer: Judith Easter,
Frederick Gibson, Anna Marie Hampton,
Rita Holland, Mildred Jackson

Wednesday, December 27

FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE

Readings: 1 Jn 1: 1-4/ Ps 97: 1-2. 5-6. 11-12/
Jn 20: 1a and 2-8

Mass Intentions:

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

OLA Book of Prayer: Majorbelle James,
Annette Lee, Gail McGruder, Minnette Penman

Thursday, December 28

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Readings: 1 Jn 1: 5 -- 2: 2/ Ps 124: 2-3. 4-5. 7b-8/
Mt 2: 13-18

Mass Intentions:

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

OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Eleanor Doidge,
Bettie Green, Lorraine Henderson, George James

Friday, December 29

FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Readings: 1 Jn 2: 3-11/ Ps 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 5b-6/
Lk 2: 22-35

Mass Intentions:

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

OLA Book of Prayer: Andre D. Golden,
Katherine Harper, Doris Humphries,
Therese Jessie, Gloria Leonard

Saturday, December 30

SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Readings: 1 Jn 2: 12-17/ Ps 96: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10/
Lk 2: 36-40

OLA Book of Prayer: Mary Crawford,
Nazaree Fuller, Mable Gray, Marjorie Heard
Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.

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



OLA CELEBRATES KWAANZA DECEMBER 30/31

- ★ Umoja (unity)
- ★ Kujichagulia (self-determination)
- ★ Ujima (collective work)
- ★ Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
- ★ Nia (purpose)
- ★ Kuumba (creativity)
- ★ Imani (faith)

**AT ALL THE MASSES
WE WILL EMPHASIZE UMOJA
FOR OUR CELEBRATIONS**

Thank you from Sr Helen Strueder



THANK YOU to Everyone,
who made the birthday,
reunion, and tribute
celebration for
SISTER HELEN STRUEDER
and all the Sisters an
enjoyable event.
We promise our prayers for
God's Blessings to All.