



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 31, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



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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 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.**
- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

### Wednesday, January 3, 2024

- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall

### Thursday, January 4, 2024

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line | 9 a.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967
- Food Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon  
| Tolton Center
- CHI Community & Resource Meal  
| 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

### Friday, January 5, 2024

- Adoration, Taize, and Devotion  
| 6:30 p.m. | Church

### Saturday, January 6, 2024

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

### Sunday, January 7m, 2024

- First Communion Classes Begin | 10 a.m.  
| Tolton Center
- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting  
| 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

## Attendance December 23-25

4 p.m. Mass	23
9 a.m. Mass	69
11:30 a.m. Mass	122
Midnight Mass	162
Christmas Day	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>446</b>

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - January 6

- Priest: Fr. Brian Barrons, MM
- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams  
Arthur Reliford

### Sunday 9 a.m. - January 7

- Priests: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: Debra Causay  
Vita Faulkner
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Ladell Johnson  
Sonia Davis

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - January 7

- Priests: Fr. Brian Barrons, MM
- Lectors: Christine Davis Stewart  
Katie Jordan
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Regina Cook  
Earlene Hodges

**Father Carl will be on vacation starting the 3rd of January until the 9th. Daily Mass will resume on Wednesday, January 10th.**

## Stewardship

### Offertory - December 23/24, 2023

\$ 14,937.00  
\$ 3,315.00 - online offertory  
\$ 18,252.00

### Offertory - December 24/25, 2022

\$ 6,838.00  
\$ 1,055.00 - online offertory  
\$ 7,893.00

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 18,252.00 - Total Offertory  
\$ **3,828.92**

**Thank you for your generosity!**







Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African American people as well as Africans throughout the world African community. These values are called the Nguzo Saba which in Swahili means the Seven Principles. Developed by Dr. Karenga, the Nguzo Saba stand at the heart of the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa, for it is these values which are not only the building blocks for community but also serve to reinforce and enhance them.

Many congregations and other organizations observe Kwanzaa following Christmas, during the Sunday morning worship service, Watch Night service or a special Kwanzaa program. However, more and more congregations, communities and families are beginning to celebrate the principles of Kwanzaa throughout the year with youth groups, children's ministries, Rites of Passage.

## A Kwanzaa Prayer

We give thanks to God for all the blessings of the earth, and honor for the great goodness which is manifest in all of creation.

We ask that the spirit of Kwanzaa be infused into every aspect of our daily lives, that we may constantly remember the benefits and obligations of family, community and nationhood.

May the light of the seven candles illuminate our daily affairs and guide us into fulfillment of our true potential.

May we always remember our ancestors with reverence and love, and may they share with us their great wisdom and strength as we seek to preserve and continue the heritage they have left us.

May the NGUZO SABA become beacons to us to live lives in service, humility, unity, faith, love and strength.

Amen

**December 26 — Umoja (Unity):** To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

**December 27 — Kujichagulia (Self-Determination):** To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves stand up.

**December 28 — Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility):** To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems, and to solve them together.

**December 29 — Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics):** To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

**December 30 — Nia (Purpose):** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

**December 31 — Kuumba (Creativity):** To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

**January 1 — Imani (Faith):** To believe with all our hearts in God, our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

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



# zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

[ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com)



## Feast of the Holy Family - Reflection by Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, OCarm

Today we acclaim the feast of the Holy Family. We continue the Christmas celebration. The focus is the Incarnation, the Word made flesh. This takes place in a specific time, place, people and a particular culture. These were the circumstances of the family of Joseph and Mary as a Jewish family. The Jewish rituals of today's story basically were a recognition that a child, any child, is fundamentally a gift from God. You could even say the child was on loan from God.

In two Maccabees we read of a mother who has lost six sons in martyrdom. She is now encouraging her last child as he faces the emperor's wrath: **"I do not know how you came into existence in my womb; it was not I who gave you the breath of life, nor was it I who set in order the elements of which each of you is composed. Therefore, since it is the Creator of the universe who shapes each man's beginning..."** (2 Mc 7:22-24)

In the opening prayer of today's liturgy, we say that God gave us the Holy Family as an example. We pray **"graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity."**

Simeon and Anna are individuals deeply immersed in the traditions of the Jewish people and religion. Their hearts are filled with yearning for the long-awaited day of salvation. Prayer and fasting had prepared them for the mystery of this child. The arrival of this the poor family with its child immediately touched their hearts. Simeon and Anna were very different from the poor and simple shepherds and the Wise Men with their sophisticated worldliness. Yet, they too were gifted to recognize God's plan in this helpless baby and the poor and trusting parents.

Each these special individuals was open in a basic faith to the evolving contradictions of the gospel in their midst. Here they were encountering weakness, poverty, simplicity and peace. These characteristics of the child stood in deep contrast to the commonly held traits of the longed-for Messiah: power, wealth, prominence and military expertise. They were able to see the gospel truth in the family that uprooted the ordinary with the truth hidden in

their simplicity and freedom: **"a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."** (Lk 2:32)

Starting with the first visit of the angel, Mary and Joseph seemingly experienced little besides these paradoxes and upheavals of the gospel. Having been called to this special role in God's plan of salvation, the joy and wonder of the birth of their child captivated their hearts. At the same time, they were displaced from all the security and support of their family and village. They were caught in the poverty of the stable and its animals. The simplicity of the shepherds was joined by the glorious choirs of angels. Now, the two-elderly persons of prayer and wisdom offer further insight into the journey of faith that was emerging before them. Simeon and Anna represented the connection with the great figures of Israel's past and its longing for the saving power of God. Their lives proclaimed a deep trust in God's promises. Simeon's words recognized the magnificence of the child in his arms: **"My eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."** (Lk 2:35)

This passage captures the deep ambiguity that pierces the heart of any parent. All parents live with the burning hope for all God's good things for their child. The reality of the human journey offers a life filled with sin and grace. Justice is not a guarantee. All efforts at security face the severe arbitrariness of life that is the human condition. All of these elements that are part of every human journey are crystalized in the daily challenge of life's constant struggle with sin and grace.

Mary did not know what the future held. She was to learn it would be filled with confusion, ambiguity, fear and ultimately the overwhelming evil of the Cross. The same is true of any family. Love and trust are the only answer in the final measure of all human relationships facing the sword that assures the ever-present ambiguity of sin and grace. The Holy Family is the great model for all of us. In the end, we need to trust that the salvation recognized by Simeon and Anna will permeate our life. Then like Mary, we will learn that love will win out and life that is eternal will be the final word.

## 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](mailto:OURLADYOFAFRICACHICAGO@GMAIL.COM)  
**IT'S THAT SIMPLE!!**



## Birthdays

### DECEMBER 2023

12/26 Lena Young  
12/28 Gloria Dean  
12/31 Tillie Dishman

### JANUARY 2024

01/07 Edith Lane  
01/08 Shawnece Wilson

01/09 Alicia Davis  
01/12 Wendell Smith-Williams  
01/15 Ed Scott  
01/16 James Burgess  
01/16 Clarisse D. Credit  
01/16 Reggie Seay  
01/18 Florence Person  
01/19 James Brown

01/20 Shaka Rawls  
01/21 Marcella Aguda  
01/21 Jonathan McClure  
01/23 Brenda Boston  
01/25 LaTanya Berry-Johnson  
01/27 Sonia Davis  
01/31 Lillian Cherry  
01/31 Samira Rawls

## Mass Schedule

### Sunday, December 31

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**Readings:** Sir 3: 2-6. 12-14/ Ps 105: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9 (7a. 8a)/ Heb 11: 8. 11-12. 17-19 or Col 3: 12-21/ Lk 2: 22-40

#### **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:** Cecelia Douglass, Eleanor Griffin, Jim Henkel, Janet James

### Monday, January 1

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**Readings:** Nm 6: 22-27/ Ps 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2a)/ Gal 4: 4-7/ Lk 2: 16-21

#### **Mass Intentions:**

10 a.m. | OLA Church Family  
**OLA Book of Prayer:** Louise Ray, Emma Stewart, Audrey Tuggle, Eryn Whitaker, Michael Williams

### Tuesday, January 2

SAINTS BASIL AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS

**Readings:** 1 Jn 2: 22-28/ Ps 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4/ Jn 1: 19-28

#### **Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**OLA Book of Prayer:** Denise Lawson, Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

### Wednesday, January 3

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

**Readings:** 1 Jn 2: 29 -- 3: 6/ Ps 98: 1. 3cd-4. 5-6/ Jn 1: 29-34

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Elsie Freeman, Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

### Thursday, January 4

ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON

**Readings:** 1 Jn 3: 7-10/ Ps 98: 1. 7-8. 9/ Jn 1: 35-42

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Jan Johnson, Lugenia Lewis, Carolyn McQuenter, Michael Moore

### Friday, January 5

ST JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

**Readings:** 1 Jn 3: 11-21/ Ps 100: 1b-2. 3. 4. 5/ Jn 1: 43-51

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Janice Taylor, Tandra Watson, Arlene G. Williams, Wanda Finney

### Saturday, January 6

ST ANDRÉ BESSETTE

**Readings:** 1 Jn 5: 5-13/ Ps 147: 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/ Mk 1: 7-11 or Lk 3: 23-38

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Edith Lane, Alfrances Sharpe, Deniece Thomas, Rachel Watson, Dr. Dorothy Williams

**Father Carl will be on vacation  
starting the 3rd of January until the 9th.  
Daily Mass will resume on  
Wednesday, January 10th.**





OUR LADY OF AFRICA

# THEOLOGY ON TAP

*january 19  
at 8pm*

*haymarket pub  
737 w randolph st,  
chicago 60661*





## HOPE AND HEALING CIRCLE - JANUARY 13

Mark your calendars for January 13.

We will have a Hope and Healing Circle at Our Lady of Africa.

The ministry, going forward, will now be lead by Velma Hill.

To register, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 773-624-5375.

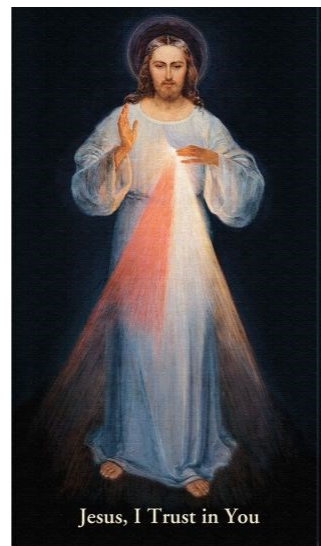
DATE: JANUARY 13, 2023  
TIME: 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.



Coffee and Donuts Provided

PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH CHURCH

## DIVINE MERCY - ADORATION - DEVOTION - FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM



“COME AND SEE”  
JOHN 1:29-34

“STAY WITH ME FOR ONE HOUR”  
MATTHEW 26:40-45