



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 3, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



BE WATCHFUL!  
**BE ALERT!**

— MARK 13:36 —

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPI

## 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 3

- **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
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

### Tuesday, December 5

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

### Wednesday, December 6

- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- Social Justice Committee | 6 p.m.  
| Tolton Center
- Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.
- Parish Council | 7:15 p.m. | Parish Hall

### Thursday, December 7

- 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 & Resource Meal  
| 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

### Friday, December 8

- **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION | Masses | 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

### Saturday, December 9

- Hope & Healing Circle  
| 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Church
- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

### Sunday, December 10

- KPCLA Meeting | 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Men's Coalition Meeting | 10 a.m.  
| Parish Hall Room
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

## Attendance November 25/26

4 p.m. Mass	34
9 a.m. Mass	67
11:30 a.m. Mass	114
2:30 p.m. Mass	109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Friday 10:30 a.m. - December 8

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Shirley McKinney  
Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Gladys St. Leger

### Friday 6:30 p.m. - December 8

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Eileen Foggie  
Miriam Hunter

### Saturday 4 p.m. - December 9

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams  
Eileen Foggie

### Sunday 9 a.m. - December 10

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Michael Morman  
Larry Carter
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Barbara Hill  
Eileen Foggie

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 10

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Dr. Donna Perisee-McFarlane  
Regina Cook
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Velma Hill  
Shawnece Wilson

## Stewardship

### Offertory - November 25/26, 2023

\$ 6,666.08  
\$ 3,385.00 - online offertory  
\$ 10,051.08

### Offertory - November 26/27, 2022

\$ 4,574.94  
\$ 1,190.00 - online offertory  
\$ 5,764.94

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 10,051.08 - Total Offertory  
\$ (4,372.00)

Thank you for your generosity!







Watch and pray. These three words were a constant reminder to our ancestors about never knowing what was going to happen in a day. Families, at the whim of cruel oppressors, could be torn apart. The possibility of something disastrous happening lurked at every moment. One never knew and so it was necessary to always be on guard.

The problem with this is an accumulation of stress. Stress has devastating effects on the psyche and our bodies. The effects of stress, over time, brings about a host of illnesses and psychological disorders. The vigilance about hygiene during the COVID 19 pandemic and all the stress that entailed gives us a clue about what it means to be watchful and alert to danger. The effects of the stress that the COVID 19 pandemic brought is still playing a huge role in our social and spiritual lives.

But what about the expectation of hope? When one anticipates a good result or outcome, our dispositions change remarkably. It's as if nothing else really matters when one is awaiting a gift or a prize. Waiting for things that you are excited about adds a special thrill to all the moments that proceed the thing to be obtained. This is more in line for us as Christians, because we are waiting in HOPE.

As baptized believers, our waiting for Christ's return is filled with the fulfillment of the promises that our Savior has given to us. And as we wait in expectation of HOPE FULFILLED, we have nothing to fear. Until Christ comes again, we remind ourselves during this Advent season to watch and pray knowing that our Redeemer is close at hand. And we can anticipate His Reign by preparing now to prepare the way for His Return by making room in your heart to receive Christ's Light, Christ's Joy, and Christ's LOVE. And this is done best by spreading Light, Joy and Love to those around us. Love God, Love People. It's that simple. May we have the courage to fulfill Christ's purpose in our lives now...preparing the way of the Lord by watching for our Undercover Jesus in the most unexpected places and being ready to meet Christ in our midst.

### **Our Lady of Africa is THE place to have your Wedding!!**



For all young couples discerning their future together, there is a lot of planning involved.

Along with the preparations for your wedding day, you should plan to meet with the priest and have wedding prep which should be about 3 months. The couple and priest would meet once a week, either in person or on Zoom to talk about their plans, their commitment to one another, and what the Sacrament of Marriage truly means. To discuss your future wedding plans, please contact Father Carl at the Parish Office: (773)624-5375



## First Sunday in Advent - Reflection by Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O'Carroll

Advent has us look backward so we can look forward.

Both views call us to live in the present. In the first three weeks of Advent the message of the scriptural readings calls our attention to the coming of Jesus in our lives and particularly at the end of time. The wonderful cry of Advent is: **Come Lord Jesus.** On the sixteenth of December we switch our emphasis to prepare for the celebration of the Word made flesh.

Isaiah is the featured Old Testament author of the Advent Season. The beauty of his poetry is filled with hope for deliverance and longing for the final expression of God's saving power.

Mark's message today, and in this time of Advent, is based on the fundamental confidence flowing from the Christian message. Christ will return in glory and with him will come the fullness of redemption. A new day is coming. Mark is emphatic: we need to be ready. **"May he not come to you suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: watch!"** (Mk 13:37)

This longing for the return of the Lord mirrors the passionate longing expressed in Isaiah. So, we join together in our liturgies and in our lives to proclaim the Advent yearning: **Come Lord Jesus!**

In the meanwhile, Isaiah, Paul and Mark have a clear and simple message for us. Live today in faithfulness to the Lord. Enter into the reality of our life. We do not know the future but we do know the present. We are called to live the gospel with acts of mercy and forgiveness, with concern for justice and peace, with a burning desire to maintain the gift of God's creation. In this constant struggle, Isaiah encourages us with these words **"O Lord, you are our father: we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands."** (Isaiah 64:7)

This beautiful image of Isaiah tells us we belong to God. As vessels of clay, God continues the divine artistry when we are open to his call. We

too often suffer a loss of hearing because of the noise of our consumer culture especially in these pre-Christmas days. Advent calls us to give God a free hand in kneading, shaping and refining our lives.

Advent challenges us to look at the lost opportunities, the time wasted and misdirected. We all have more than enough to account for. Advent calls us to gather ourselves together and live today, in the grace of the present moment. Tomorrow is in God's hands. We need to cry out, **Come Lord Jesus!**

We are told to have hope. The reality of our world is pulling us steadily into despair and hopelessness. The wars around the world continue to grow, sucking up resources that could so readily help the poor. In our neighborhoods, the car-jackings and drive-by shootings continue to escalate. The ravages of climate change are getting worse every day. There is no doubt futility and hopelessness are pounding at our door.

In the face of this very real and very grim reality, Advent challenges our hopelessness and helplessness. Advent tells us we are not alone. The Divine Potter has not finished the job on us and our world. When we cry out, **Come Lord Jesus, it is a cry of hope and faith and love from the deepest hunger in our heart.** It is the hunger for salvation and deliverance. This Advent prayer is all the more forceful when it comes from a life committed to walk with Jesus.

God is very capable of keeping the schedule. He will do the job of finishing the program and all the pottery at the appropriate time. It is quite normal for us to use that familiar question of our youth, Are we there yet? God will let us know. In the meanwhile, our task is to be faithful to the gospel message and express the hunger in our heart for a new day with the beautiful Advent prayer, **Come Lord Jesus!**

### 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.

## OLA Catechists ESSAY CONTEST



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".

**Third Prize - \$100  
Second Prize - \$250  
First Prize - \$500**

Submissions can be made via email at [tinalcarter71@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com)



## December Birthdays

12/06 Alfrances Sharpe

12/08 Tiffany Swann-Covington

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 3

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Readings:** Is 63: 16b-17. 19b; 64: 2-7/ Ps 80: 2-3. 15-16. 18-19 (4)/ 1 Cor 1: 3-9/ Mk 13: 33-37

**Mass Intentions:**

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

9 a.m. | OLA Church Family

11:30 a.m. | Mrs Aphour - In Gratitude

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Cecelia Douglass, Eleanor Griffin, Jim Henkel, Janet James

### Monday, December 4

ADVENT WEEKDAY/ JOHN OF DAMASCUS, P, R, DR

**Readings:** Is 2: 1-5/ Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4b. 4cd-5. 6-7. 8-9/ Mt 8: 5-11

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Louise Ray, Emma Stewart, Audrey Tuggle, Eryn Whitaker, Michael Williams

### Tuesday, December 5

ADVENT WEEKDAY

**Readings:** Is 11: 1-10/ Ps 72: 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17/ Lk 10: 21-24

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Denise Lawson, Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

### Wednesday, December 6

ADVENT WEEKDAY/ NICHOLAS, BP

**Readings:** Is 25: 6-10a/ Ps 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6/ Mt 15: 29-37

**Mass Intentions:**

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

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

### Thursday, December 7

ST. AMBROSE, BP, DR M

**Readings:** Is 26: 1-6/ Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21. 25-27a/ Mt 7: 21. 24-27

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

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

### Friday, December 8

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY S**

**Readings:** Gn 3: 9-15. 20/ Ps 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4/ Eph 1: 3-6. 11-12/ Lk 1: 26-38

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

**6:30 p.m. | OLA Church Family**

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

### Saturday, December 9

ADVENT WEEKDAY/ JUAN DIEGO, H

**Readings:** Weekday: Is 30: 19-21. 23-26/ Ps 147: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Mt 9: 35 -- 10: 1. 5a. 6-8

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

## PLEASE HELP

THE TEMPORARY SHELTER ON 35TH AND MICHIGAN AVE  
IS LOOKING FOR WINTER CLOTHES FOR MIGRANTS.

THEY NEED SPECIFICALLY:  
WINTER COATS, LUGGAGE and SOCKS

THANK YOU FOR THE OUTPOURING OF CARE AND ATTENTION TO THESE WHO  
ARE IN MOST NEED ESPECIALLY IN DURING THE BITTER COLD OF WINTER.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Mark your calendars for December 9th.

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: DECEMBER 9, 2023**  
**TIME: 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.**



Coffee and Donuts Provided

**PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH CHURCH**

## 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





## Adoration and Devotion to the Divine Mercy - DECEMBER 15th



Due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will not have Adoration this Friday, December 8th. The following week, December 15th, we will resume. Devotion and Adoration starts at 6:30 p.m.

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.

I 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.”

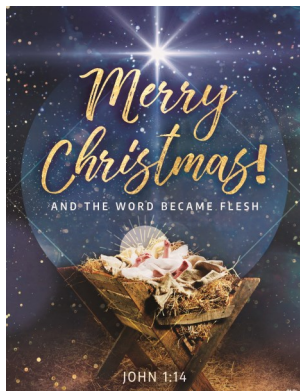
## ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

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.