



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, December 4, 2022



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



2<sup>nd</sup>

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."*

*- Lk 3:4*

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 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 4

- Blessed Sacrament Christmas Celebration  
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Parish Hall
- First Communion - 10 a.m. | Tolton Center
- RCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall - Meeting Room
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- Youth Ministry Group Meeting  
After 11:30 a.m. Mass | Parish
- Men's Coalition Breakfast with Santa  
After 11:30 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall
- Confirmation - 1:30 p.m. | Tolton Center

### Tuesday, December 6

- Advent Revival - Noon | Parish
- Phone-in Bible Study - 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 7

- School Mass - 10 a.m.  
| Holy Angels Catholic School
- Advent Revival - Reconciliation Service  
Noon | Parish

### Thursday, December 8

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
**Holy Day of Obligation - 10 a.m. | Parish**
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon  
| Tolton Center

### Saturday, December 10

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish

### Sunday, December 11

- KPCLA Meeting - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- RCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall - Meeting Room
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

## Ministry List for Next Weekend

### Saturday Vigil Mass - December 10

- Lectors: Arthur Reliford  
Eileen Foggie

### Sunday 9 a.m. - December 11

- Lectors: Edith Smith  
Reco Condiff
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Miriam Hunter  
Gladys St. Leger

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

- Lectors: Katie Jordan  
Shawnece Wilson
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Marcheta Smith  
Silmon Reed

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 4

- 9 a.m. Mass  
+Tamara Hudson and  
+Arthemise Washington  
*Requested by Taliva Tillman*
- 11:30 a.m. Mass  
+Ms. Mary Reuz \*\*

### Monday, December 5

- 8 a.m. Mass at Rectory (SVD community)  
+Loretta Lacey \*\*

### Saturday, December 10

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass  
+Margie Cook \*\*  
*\*\* Requested by Jennifer Lacey*

## Angel Tree Christmas Donations

Discover the Joy of Angel Tree Christmas. The Angel Tree Program helps give gifts to hundreds of thousands of children each year. We are asking for gifts for children between December 4th and December 15th. Please contact Debra Crosby for more information.

Email: [debracrosby7@yahoo.com](mailto:debracrosby7@yahoo.com)

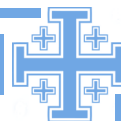
## Requesting Mass Intentions

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.

## 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**.

## Advent Happenings this Week - A Message from the Pastor



**Father Bob Kelly, SVD**

Dear Parishioners,

Advent offers us many possibilities for a change in our hearts and our souls. May the Holy Spirit fill us with Hope this week as we **"Prepare the Way of the Lord!"**

**December 6** - The Parish is having a One Day Revival with Father John Atoyebi. This will take place at noon and afterwards there will be a light lunch provided.

**December 7** - Special Service for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday at Noon.

**December 8** - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have one Mass that day at 10 a.m.

Please consider attending these events and continue to pray for the members of Our Lady of Africa parish as we help to **"Prepare the Way of the Lord"** as we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

## 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

**Frazer Zachary Smith, SVD**

### Sunday School

**Eileen Foggie**

### Tolton Heritage Center

**Regina Cook**  
773-268-1518

### Ushers and Greeters

**Jackson Lucas**

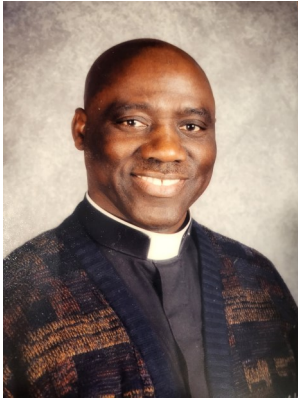
### Youth Ministry

**Taleah Cage**  
**Silmon Reed**





## Upcoming Events



We are pleased to welcome Father John Atoyebi for our Advent Revival. **It will take place on December 6th at noon.**

Fr. John Bola Atoyebi was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He attended grade school and high school in Nigeria.

He began his college education in Nigeria and completed it in Rome in 1986. While studying in Rome, he met an American priest who encouraged him to be-

come a priest in America. He was very reluctant at first but later accepted in 1987. He came to the United States on December 1, 1987, where he lived in Houston, Texas, for 18 months. He moved to Chicago in 1991 and resided at St. Philip Neri. He was ordained on May 21, 1994, becoming the first African in the Archdiocese. His first assignment was as an Associate Pastor at Benedict from 1994 – 1999.

In 1999, he was appointed Pastor of St. Clotilde, making him the first African to be appointed Pastor of a Church in Chicago. On February 6, 2006, he was appointed Pastor of Holy Angels Church.

Father John is now assisting at Ss. Peter and Lambert Parish in Skokie, Illinois.

## 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.**

## Christmas and New Year's 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

- **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



## Reflections on 2nd Sunday of Advent - Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.

Dear Friends,

One of Advent's many challenges is an invitation to ponder the Christian perspective on time. Time, for the Christian, is not the relentless and isolated moving of the hands on the clock. It is not the mindless and purposeless waiting for Godot. The Christ event has made time pregnant with the endless possibility of new life. Time is the messenger of God calling us into a gracious future where a new day will prevail.

In Advent, we see the mystery of time intimately connected to the past, present and future in the Christ event. The past recalls in the Incarnation of the Word. The present is the encounter with God's grace leading us to walk with Jesus in the concrete responsibilities and relationships in our daily life. The future is the final completion of Christ's victory in his Second Coming, the final fulfillment of human history.

To understand this mystery of time, we look back to the events of our saving past. Today, it is Isaiah who presents the beautiful passage of hope that foreshadows the coming of Christ.

**"Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.**

**Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;**

**The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.**

**The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest;**

**The lion shall eat hay like the ox.  
The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.**

**There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea"**

(Is 11:5-9).

Advent, more than anything else, is a time of joyful and purpose-filled waiting for God who has assured us of his coming.

The Gospel today draws us to John the Baptist. John tells us this gracious waiting for the Lord is not a passive event. Our role is as participant not as spectator. It is a call that generates true changes in our life, genuinely seeking to be faithful to Jesus' call. It is a call to prepare for Christ as the total mystery of the Word made flesh, not a nostalgic and play-acting return to the beauty of Bethlehem. We need to recall the entire Jesus event. This includes his challenging message and the saving events of the death and resurrection.

In facing Jesus, we understand John's message to **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** (Matt 3:20). More than anything else, the Advent message demands that we change our lives as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. It is a call for the transforming event of conversion, an absolute change of mind and will. It is a response to God's continual knocking at the human heart.

The waiting of Advent is not like the drudgery of getting stuck in traffic nor is it the seemingly endless line in the market. Nor is it the anxiety-driven time waiting for the results of a test or other life-changing news from a doctor. Advent waiting is a joyful anticipation of new life. This new life demands a creative openness that leads to repentance and conversion. We need place ourselves in God's hands with a deep sense of trust and faith. We prepare for all of this Advent waiting with the special prayer of the season, **Come, Lord Jesus!**

## Birthdays

**We need your birthday information! We know some birthdays, but we would like to know all the members of Our Lady of Africa birthdays. 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.**



## 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  
Annette Lee  
Susan Larry McKeever  
Denise Lawson  
Gloria Leonard  
Lugenia Lewis  
Jan Johnson  
Pamela Jones  
Betty Lumpkins  
Lenda Mason  
Gail McGruder  
McShan Family  
Bernadine McNeal  
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



**Our Lady of Africa**  
**WE ARE ONE**  
Holy, Catholic & Apostolic  
EST. July 4, 2021 • Chicago

## Jesse Tree

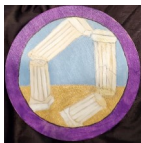


**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**Moses**

Read **Exodus 20:1-17**

It was during the time when the people of Israel had become slaves in Egypt that God saved the life of a little Hebrew baby who was placed in a basket among the reeds of a river. The baby was Moses, and when he was grown, God chose him to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt and slavery. In the desert on the way to the Promised Land, Moses climbed Mount Sinai. There God gave him the Ten Commandments, the laws God wants us all to obey.



**Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

**Samson**

Read **Judges 16: 21-30**

Years later, the Israelites became enslaved by the Philistines, and God sent them a new leader with incredible strength, Samson. After winning many victories for his people, Samson was tricked and captured. Taken to the pagan temple of the Philistines, Samson stood between two pillars and knocked them down, causing the destruction of the temple and all the Philistines who were inside it.



**Monday, December 5, 2022**

**Aaron**

Read **Exodus 5: 22, 11:5**

God told Moses to let his brother Aaron speak for him in trying to persuade the Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people leave Egypt. To show how powerful his God was, Aaron threw down his rod before the Pharaoh and it became a serpent, swallowing up the serpents that had been produced by the Pharaoh's magicians and sorcerers.



**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**Ruth**

Read **Ruth 1: 15-18**

The symbol of gathered wheat stands for Ruth, who collected grain from the fields of an Israelite farmer in Bethlehem. She was a foreigner who had married a Hebrew, and after his death she took care of his mother Naomi and remained faithful to his God. Later she married the farmer in whose fields she worked, and God rewarded her goodness by sending her a son, Obed. Obed became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of the great Jewish king David.



**Saturday, December 10, 2022 David** Read **Samuel 5: 1-5**

The Star of David has come to represent the nation of Israel. As a shepherd boy, David's faith in God enabled him to slay the giant Goliath. Later he became a king and ruled Jerusalem for thirty-three years. He was a great king because he trusted God and tried to obey him. David made some mistakes, but he continued to turn to God for forgiveness and guidance, and Israel became a strong nation under his leadership.



**Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

**Joshua**

Read **Joshua 6:20**

Moses died before he got to the Promised Land, and Joshua was appointed the new leader of the Hebrew people. Joshua planned to capture the city of Jericho. He ordered the Israelites to march around the city seven times. Then, when the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted, the walls of the mighty city fell.



**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**Jesse**

Read **Isaiah 11: 1-2**

Many years after Jesse lived, the prophet Isaiah would foretell the coming of the Messiah and would trace Jesus' ancestry back to Jesse. *"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."* And so it was in the family line of Jesse that Jesus Christ was born in fulfillment of the prophecies.



## Letter from Cardinal Cupich

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org

December 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the Third Sunday of Advent, our parishes will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Our senior religious are a treasure—both for their service to our Church and for the ways their prayer and witness enrich our faith. “Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bear fruit even in old age” (Ps 92:14-15). As I reflect on the ministry of women and men religious—past and present—I am grateful for the ways they have shaped my own faith. I also value the tremendous service they have offered our Archdiocese. Perhaps you, too, recall an older religious who made a positive difference in your life.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide financial support that helps religious communities care for aging members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute what you can at masses the weekend of December 10-11. Most importantly, please pray for God’s continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured that they are praying for you.

Wishing you every blessing during this Holy Season of Advent. With kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago