



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, February 18, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee
proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the
gospel.” - Mk 1:14-15

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
Mail: 615 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60653

Church Address

607 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60653

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



This Week at OLA

Sunday, February 18

- First Communion Class | 10 a.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center
- Faith and Finance Presentation
| 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Monday, February 19

- **OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY**

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

- Bible Study | 11 a.m. | Parish Hall
- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**
- Social Justice | 6 p.m. | Tolton Center

Thursday, February 22

- 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, February 23

- **NO Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
**Fr. Carl is presiding at Mass for the
African American Heritage Prayer
Service at Holy Name Cathedral**
- Stations of the Cross | 12 Noon | Church
- Stations of the Cross | 6:30 p.m. | Church

Saturday, February 24

- Town Hall Meeting | 9 a.m. to Noon
| Church
- Mobile Food Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon
| Tolton Center
- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

Sunday, February 25

- Adoration | after 9 a.m. Mass | Chapel
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - February 24

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Theresa Rhea
Silmon Reed

Sunday 9 a.m. - February 25

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Don McKinney
Miriam Hunter
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Shirley McKinney
Eileen Foggie

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - February 25

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Donna McFarlane
Regina Cook
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Sharon Binion
Lena Young

Stewardship

Offertory - February 3/4, 2024

\$ 6,134.00
\$ 770.00 - online offertory
\$ 6,904.00

Offertory - February 4/5, 2023

\$ 6,584.00
\$ 695.00 - online offertory
\$ 7,279.00

Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)
\$ 6,904.00- Total Offertory
\$ **7,519.08**

Thank you for your generosity!

Attendance February 10/11

4 p.m. Mass	20
9 a.m. Mass	67
11:30 a.m. Mass	165
TOTAL	252

Migrants in Need

**Thank you for your continued
support of the migrants.
Your donations are really helping and
they are really grateful.**



1st Sunday of Lent - New Contributor Clarissa V. Aljentera



The last time my family and I took a trip, we packed our car and went toward the shores of Lake Michigan. We decided to go 'glamping,' which means I have certain comforts I desire. My family, on the other hand, might not share those same desires.

In the weeks and days we prepared for the trip, I would make lists of food and supplies to ensure our almost weeklong trip would be comfortable. There was the checking of the weather that week and looking for activities.

There was much preparation that went into our adventure. You may be the same way with lists and tasks to ensure your time away is enjoyable. Or throw caution to the wind and pack the morning before you hop in the car.

In these last few days, we entered the season of Lent, a journey of sorts. It is the season when we strip away the comforts and pay more attention to our prayer life and relationship with Jesus. We may have fallen back on things we decided to give up for Lent, such as coffee, sweets, and screen time. Participating in weekly Stations of the Cross or trying to pray at home might be more our speed this Lent.

There's a cadence to our time during these 40 days. We mark our Fridays by abstaining from meat. We begin with ashes on our foreheads. We are asked to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. The hope is that this can all prepare us for Easter and a Risen Christ.

I prepare for my vacations with such thoughtfulness and care. And my Lenten journey is so hastily thought about in the hours before Ash Wednesday.

In today's Gospel of Mark, we see this urgency and that the time is now. The time isn't in a year or several months. The time is today. We see that after the temptation in the desert, Jesus was ready to go out and 'proclaim the gospel of God.' We hear that the kingdom of God is at hand.

We're almost standing on a precipice and looking down at what's next. Where would our steps and actions take us if we give in to what's next? Can we give that 'Yes' to a deeper and more engaged relationship with God?

That 'Yes' that we're looking for is what we see in the first reading from Genesis 9 – God was clear in the actions and the promises that a covenant was being established right then and there with Noah. God made a promise that no more flooding would destroy the earth and harm living beings. There was every intention of upholding and remembering.

We might not feel it, but God is pressing that urgency into our palms. Our time and our 'Yes' are for now and for today. These actions that draw us closer to our faith can be uncomfortable and even cause us pause. Ask yourself how you might push past discomfort and enter the invitation to give that 'Yes.'

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



zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



UNITY AND BLACK EXCELLENCE—OLA CHURCH MEMBER SILMON REED



Silmon Reed's roots run deep in Bronzeville. For the lifelong Catholic who was baptized, received communion, and confirmation, and attended Corpus Christi School and Hales Franciscan High School, it was only natural for him to pledge to Phi Beta Sigma fraternity incorporated when he became a student at Southern Illinois University.

Founded on January 9, 1914, at Howard University, Phi Beta Sigma's founders wanted to focus on inclusivity in addition to brotherhood, scholarship, and service. The motto for Phi Beta Sigma is "Culture For Service and Service For Humanity." For A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown, they desired to "create an organization that viewed itself as "a part of" the general community rather than "apart from" the general community. They believed that each potential member should be judged by his own merits rather than his family background or affluence... without regard of skin tone or texture of hair." This meant establishing some of the first chapters at other schools, alumni, and international chapters. In addition to creating a credit union, and mentoring program for youth, Phi Beta Sigma also has the unique distinction of having a constitutionally

bound sister sorority in Zeta Phi Beta which was founded on January 16, 1920.

This focus of inclusivity that the Sigma men had from the beginning of their creation attracted Silmon to pledge and become a member in 1971. Following in the footsteps of notable fraternal brothers such as James Weldon Johnson, A. Phillip Randolph, Hosea Williams, Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, and Congressman John Lewis, who showed us how to get into good trouble, necessary trouble for the service of humanity, Silmon was able to incorporate the importance of social justice, faith, community, and solidarity that he found in the fraternity in his own life.

The advice that Silmon gives to any young man who may be interested in joining Phi Beta Sigma is to investigate and research to find out what any Greek organization stands for. Silmon also suggests that anyone interested in joining should observe the group to see if they are living out the mission and philosophy of the organization.

Still active in the philosophy of the Phi Beta Sigma, this twenty-five-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, Silmon served as an advocate for senior citizens for the last ten years before he retired from the force. Currently, Silmon volunteers as the coordinator for youth ministry, is a lector and serves on the security ministries at Our Lady of Africa Parish. In addition to those parish ministries, Silmon is also a member of the Knights of Peter Claver.

Today, Phi Beta Sigma has over 200,000 men in several countries around the world including South Korea, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, and several countries in Africa. For more information about the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity incorporated, please go to <https://phibetasigma1914.org/>





OLA TOWN HALL MEETING

TOPIC DISCUSSION

We will discuss how your suggestions
and input have been put into action.
A financial update and next steps will also be topics for discussion.

607 E OAKWOOD BLVD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
9 AM TO NOON

GROWING IN HOLINESS
WITH A MISSION TO SERVE



Our Lady Of Africa/Tolton Site
4058 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 268-1518

OUR LADY OF AFRICA FOOD PANTRY

Fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and non-perishable
groceries.

Info for Thursday food pantry...

Every Thursday

@10:00AM-12:00PM

Meats and non-perishable food

*You can only receive once a
month, identification is required
and no boundaries

4058 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60653

Info for Saturday food pantry...

Every fourth Saturday

@10:00AM-12:00PM

Fresh fruits, vegetables, and
non-perishable groceries.



February Birthdays

2/01 Christine J. Brown
2/02 Ted C. Budzynski
2/03 Katherine Shaw
2/03 Yvonne Whiteneir
2/06 Sylvia Walker
2/07 Dorothy Williams
2/11 Theresa Rhea

2/12 David Johnson
2/18 Shirley Sargent
2/19 Marjorie P. Coombs
2/19 Theresa Dishman
2/19 Velma J. Hill
2/22 Sylvia Earles
2/24 Eleanor Griffin

2/24 Robert Obeto
2/25 Beatrice Green
2/26 Roscoe Burns
2/27 Irene Dove
2/27 Jennifer Lacey
2/27 Patricia A. Williams
2/28 Lugenia Lewis

Mass Schedule

Sunday, February 18

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: Gn 9: 8-15/ Ps 25: 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/ 1 Pt 3: 18-22/ Mk 1: 12-15

Mass Intentions:

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

9 a.m. | OLA Church Family

11:30 a.m. | ✠ Michael Hill II ✠

- Requested by Velma Hill
Karson Powell

- Requested by Trish Rawls

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

Monday, February 19

MONDAY OF LENT

Readings: Lv 19: 1-2. 11-18/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10. 15/
Mt 25: 31-46

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

Tuesday, February 20

TUESDAY OF LENT

Readings: Is 55: 10-11/ Ps 34: 4-5. 6-7. 16-17. 18-19/
Mt 6: 7-15

Mass Intentions:

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

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

Wednesday, February 21

WEDNESDAY OF LENT

Readings: Jon 3: 1-10/ Ps 51: 3-4. 12-13. 18-19/
Lk 11: 29-32

Mass Intentions:

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

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

Thursday, February 22

CHAIR OF PETER, FEAST

Readings: 1 Pt 5: 1-4/ Ps 23: 1-3a. 4. 5. 6/
Mt 16: 13-19

Mass Intentions:

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

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

Friday, February 23

FRIDAY OF LENT (DAY OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT)

Readings: Ez 18: 21-28/ Ps 130: 1-2. 3-4. 5-7a. 7bc-8/
Mt 5: 20-26

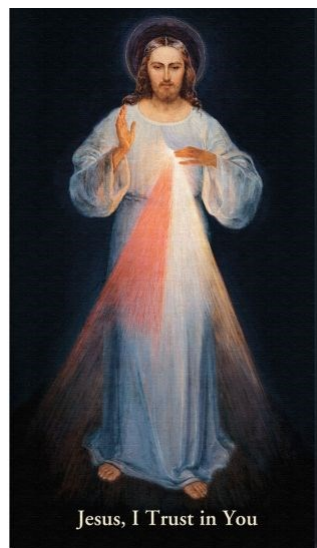
OLA Book of Prayer: Andre D. Golden,
Katherine Harper, Doris Humphries, Therese Jessie,
Gloria Leonard

Saturday, February 24

SATURDAY OF LENT

Readings: Dt 26: 16-19/ Ps 119: 1-2. 4-5. 7-8/
Mt 5: 43-48

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





Harambee!

Celebrating 30 years of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program

Join us for Harambee!

Saturday, March 9, 2024

IN-PERSON

Noon - 4:00 PM

Celebrating and Honoring the Ministry of

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, DD (Retired)

Vicariate VI, Archdiocese of Chicago

Postulator for the canonization cause of Venerable Augustus Tolton

Catholic Theological Union

5416 South Cornell Avenue | Chicago

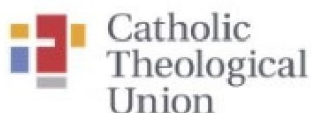
Complimentary parking available in the CTU garage.

Featuring a delicious meal, engaging program and entertainment.

To order on-line, please visit the website: <https://ctu.edu/event/harambee/>

If you're writing a check, make all checks payable to: **Catholic Theological Union**

Include in the memo: **Tolton Program**





OLA FOOD PANTRY



**Opportunity for High School Seniors
(Female)**

**The Archdiocesan Council of
Catholic Women (ACCW)**

4 Year \$1,000 Scholarship

Application and guidelines available on
accw.archchicago.org

Submit a 300-word essay titled, "How Would You,
as a Young Catholic Woman, Navigate the
Challenges We Face in the World Today?" (Typed
and double-spaced on a standard 8.5x11" page)

Deadline: APRIL 30th

For more information, call (312) 534-8325

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