



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, February 19, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

PRAY



“Love your enemies and
pray for those who
persecute you.”

MATTHEW 5:44

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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*)

2:30 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, February 19

- Adoration - after 9 a.m. Mass | Chapel
- OCIA - 10 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall Room
- First Communion - 10 a.m. | Tolton Center
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m. | Parish Hall

Monday, February 20

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, February 21

- Phone-in Bible Study - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22

- Holy Angel's School Mass - 10 a.m. | Gym
- **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS - 12 p.m. | Parish**
- **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS - 6:30 p.m. | Parish**

Thursday, February 23

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Saturday, February 25

- Mobile Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon
| Tolton Center
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 2 p.m. | Parish
- First Communion - 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Sunday, February 26

- OCIA - after 9 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall Room
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation - 1:30 p.m. | Tolton Center

Scriptures for the Week

Feb 19 SUN: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

Lv 19: 1-2. 17-18/ Ps 103: 1-2. 3-4. 8. 10. 12-13
(8a)/ 1 Cor 3: 16-23/ Mt 5: 38-48

Feb 20 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Sir 1: 1-10/ Ps 93: 1ab. 1cd-2. 5/ Mk 9: 14-29

Feb 21 Tue: Ordinary Weekday/

Peter Damian, bp, dr

Sir 2: 1-11/ Ps 37: 3-4. 18-19. 27-28. 39-40/
Mk 9: 30-37

Feb 22 Wed: Ash Wednesday

Jl 2: 12-18/ Ps 51: 3-4. 5-6ab. 12-13. 14 and 17/
2 Cor 5: 20 -- 6:2/ Mt 6: 1-6. 16-18

Feb 23 Thu: Thursday after Ash Wednesday/ Polycarp, bp, mt

Dt 30: 15-20/ Ps 1: 1-2. 3. 4 and 6/ Lk 9: 22-25

Feb 24 Fri: Friday after Ash Wednesday. Day of abstinence from meat (age 14 and up).

Is 58: 1-9a/ Ps 51: 3-4. 5-6ab. 18-19/ Mt 9: 14-15

Feb 25 Sat: Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58: 9b-14/ Ps 86: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Lk 5: 27-32

Ministry List for Next Weekend

Saturday 4 p.m. - February 25

- Lectors: Theresa Rhea
Silmon Reed

Sunday 9 a.m. - February 26

- Lectors: Zachary Smith
Edith Lane
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Rosemary Sykes
Eileen Foggie

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - February 26

- Lectors: Regina Cook
Donna McFarlane
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Sharon Binion
Silmon Reed

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 18

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass - OLA Church Family

Sunday, February 19

- 9 a.m. Mass - Andy Aphour
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Monica Broderick

Monday, February 20

- Ophelia Adams

Tuesday, February 21

- Myra Bough & Marilyn Campbell

Wednesday, February 22

- 10 a.m. Mass - Frederick Gibson
- 12 p.m. Mass - OLA Church Family
- 6:30 p.m. Mass - Judith Easter

Thursday, February 23

- Nolan Humphries

Friday, February 24

- Susan Larry McKeever

Saturday, February 25

- 4 p.m. Mass - Sick and Shut-In

Sunday, February 26

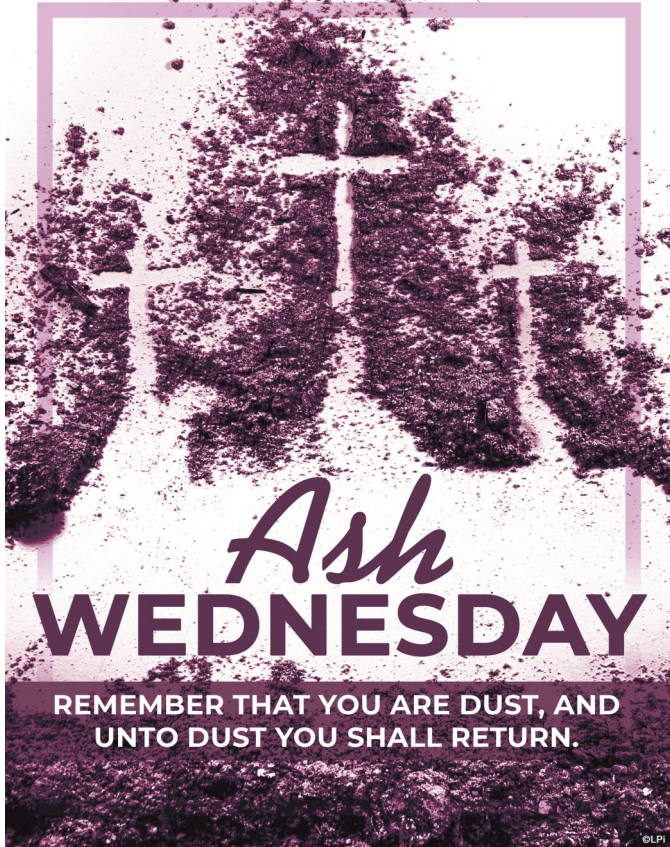
- 9 a.m. Mass - OLA Church Family
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - OCIA Candidates,
Catechumen, and Catechists

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.

Please Pray

Please keep M. C. Johnson, Florence Person and Jean Porter in your prayers.

Please call the Parish Office and ask for Fr. Carl if you would like to be on the prayer list.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES AT OUR LADY OF AFRICA

FEBRUARY 22nd

12 NOON MASS

and

6:30 p.m. MASS

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

Tasha McShan - 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

Maestro Tyrone Pittman

Parish Administrator

Shirley McKinney
773-624-5375

Religious Missionary

Brother Alu Aisi, SVD

School and Church Liaison

LaTanya Berry-Johnson

Seminarian

Frater 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



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Father Robert Kelly, SVD
Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We are very grateful and thankful for all the celebrations going on in our Parish for African American Heritage Month. This Sunday we welcome Deacon Mel Tardy from St. Augustine Church in South Bend, Indiana. He serves in many capacities for his Church and Diocese, and he is President of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He will lift us up with his preaching at our 11:30 am Mass.

Next weekend, we welcome Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD, from St. Joseph Parish in St. Petersburg, Florida. He is a gifted speaker who will preach at all our Masses next weekend. Please extend a warm welcome to Deacon Mel Tardy and Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD.

The Archdiocese of Chicago has begun the Annual Catholic Appeal for 2023. This is an important annual appeal that helps the Archdiocese mission and service in the areas of the Archdiocese that need it the most. The Annual Catholic Appeal is an invitation for every Catholic family to respond with a generous heart.

Your gift will provide inspiration, education and services to the less fortunate in our Archdiocese and throughout the world. I am grateful for those who have already made a gift to this Annual Appeal. I will speak more about the Appeal at the 4:00 pm and 9:00 am Masses this weekend. As we begin the Season of Lent, we hear the prophet Joel delivering a message of warning from God to the people in the southern Kingdom of Judah. He declares: "Rend your hearts and not your garments." In other words, "Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." This season offers us favorable moments to reach out to the poor, the lonely and those who do not have the necessities to thrive in their own homeland. Lent also provides a golden opportunity for each person to strengthen and/or heal one's own relationship with our Lord through prayer, meditation, service and the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass as often as possible.

Our journey through Lent invites us to renewal of our hearts, our mind and spirit. What will bring me to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ? How can I improve my relationship with others? What is Jesus asking of me this Lent? Let Our Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving help lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus and one another.

May we all be blest with the grace of the Holy Spirit as we begin our Lenten Journey!

Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD

February Birthdays

2/01 Christine J. Brown	2/19 Theresa Dishman
2/02 Ted C. Budzynski	2/19 Velma J. Hill
2/03 Katherine Shaw	2/22 Sylvia Earles
2/03 Yvonne Whiteneir	2/24 Eleanor Griffin
2/04 Geraldine Moore	2/25 Beatrice Green
2/07 Dorothy Williams	2/26 Roscoe Burns
2/11 Theresa Rhea	2/27 Irene Dove
2/12 David Johnson	2/27 Patricia A. Williams
2/18 Shirley Sargent	2/28 Lugenia Lewis
2/19 Marjorie P. Coombs	

Rest in the Peace of Christ

Please keep the Hill Family in prayer who are grieving the loss of Rev. Princella Brady Lee, Michael Hill's Aunt. May her soul rest in peace from all her labors for the Kingdom of God.

Please Keep in Prayer

Ms. Diana Williams has been in the hospital. She will be moved to a rehabilitation facility soon. Please keep her in your prayers

Celebrating Black History Month



February 18-19, 2023

Deacon Mel Tardy - Homilist for the 11:30 a.m. Mass
Liturgical Dance featuring Stefani Hicks
Presentation by Youth of the Church - Part One

February 25-26, 2023

Libations - Honoring Our Ancestors
Father Stephan Brown, SVD - Priest Celebrant for All Weekend Masses
Presentation by Youth of the Church - Part Two

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection by Fr Tracy

Turn the other cheek! Walk the extra mile! Give the cloak along with the tunic! It sure seems like Jesus is asking us to be a doormat for our enemies. That is totally different from Jesus' intentions. He wants us to engage the hostile one not with the escalation of violence but in a search for an opening to rebuild the relationship. Jesus is challenging us to offer no resistance in a world that savors and glories in revenge. As if this is not enough, Jesus is telling us to love our enemies. This is neither logical nor seemingly possible. However, it is so much less than what Jesus modeled in his Good Friday experience. We need to listen to it and bring it into our heart without blocking it with the common sense urge to say it just is not possible in our lived experience.

The following is one scholar's interpretation that makes some sense. However, even its practicality demands tremendous self-sacrifice and patience. The key is to understand the examples in today's Gospel as they were experienced in the culture of Jesus' time. Here is how it works. Jesus is asking us to shame the person so we can talk. Dialogue hopefully will lead to reconciliation. We saw an example of this in the work of Gandhi and Dr. King.

First is the cheek thing. Obviously, for someone to slap you on the cheek, the red zone of hostility will be shocked into full alert. However, in turning the other cheek, the person would have to use the back of the hand. This was a very shameful thing in the culture of Jesus' time. So, the choice for the aggressor was to discredit oneself or begin to talk.

The mile leading to the second mile is also a cultural trap. Roman soldiers by law were free to demand any Jewish person to carry their baggage for a mile. Anything beyond that and

the soldier was liable to be in serious trouble. Again, a conversation was possible.

The same principle works for the cloak and the tunic. Jesus is asking us to respond to violence in a non-violent way that leads to the possibility of peaceful resolution. He modeled this in His life and most profoundly in His Passion and Death.

All six items Jesus uses in this extended section of the Sermon on the Mount lead us to healing of human relationships. They all lead to the conclusion of the section in verse 48: **"So be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect". (Mt 5:48)** For all of us, it is a slow and stressful journey to free our heart from the depth of our bias and blindness. We need to try to free the wheat from the weeds that are so deeply interwoven in the depth of our hearts.

There are two passages in the Second Eucharistic Prayer for Children that are especially beautiful and simple. They offer an opening for today's Gospel call to walk in the way of love. We pray: **"He came to show us how we can love you Father, by loving one another. He came to take away sin, which keeps us from being friends, and hate, which makes us all unhappy".**

Later on, we pray: **"Remember, Father, our families and friends, and all those we do not love as we should".** I have a long list in that latter category of insufficient love that holds the invitation of prayer for a lot of people who would never dream of prayer from me. Here is a beginning. Eliminate the hatred as much as we can and expand our horizons of love to **"those we do not love as we should".**



Our African-American Candidates for Sainthood

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

For the month of February, there will be an Art Exhibit that features two church members of Our Lady of Africa.



Larry Cope, Artist

Larry Cope is an award-winning Graphic Designer with a strong passion for art. With his burgeoning talent displayed at a very young age, he was encouraged to apply to the Art Institute of Chicago but instead chose the University of Illinois Chicago.

He earned a degree in Graphic Design and has successfully worked in the field for more twenty years. He created numerous award-winning book designs and was also selected to re-design the ceiling medallions for Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

The logo of Our Lady of Africa that we currently use was created by Larry Cope.

Alan Emerson Hicks is a "creator of temporal sculpture". He uses plastic from found objects and stickers to create his sculptures and mixed media pieces in an effort to show how plastics do not bio-degrade in the environment. He received a BFA in Fine Art (Sculpture) from Illinois State University and previously taught at the Luther High School in Chicago for 7 years. His work has been exhibited at many galleries in and around Chicago.



Alan Emerson Hicks, Artist

PLEASE WELCOME OUR GUEST CLERGY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



PREACHER FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2023 at the 11:30 Mass

Deacon Melvin R. Tardy, Jr.

Deacon Mel Tardy earned a BA in Studio Art in 1986 and an MBA in International Finance in 1990 at the University of Notre Dame, where he serves as an Associate Advising Professor in the College of Arts & Letters.

Ordained a permanent deacon in May 2011, Tardy serves the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend at St. Augustine Parish; as chair of the Black Catholic Advisory Board; and as a member of the Deacon Admissions and Scrutiny Board.

Deacon Tardy also serves as president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and on the boards of the National Black Catholic Congress, the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons and the John S. Marten Program in Homiletics & Liturgics at Notre Dame.

Further service includes the Mission Integration Committee for the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne, IN; the Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network of the Lumen Christi Institute in Chicago; and, the African American Vocations Committee of the National Religious Vocations Conference.

He and his wife Annie are active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Tolton Ambassadors of Indiana, and Youth & Young Adult Ministry at their home parish.



Deacon Melvin Tardy

PRIEST CELEBRANT FOR FEBRUARY 25-26, 2023



Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD

Father Stephan Brown, SVD

Rev. Stephan Brown, S.V.D., M. Div., was born in, Cleveland Ohio. He now resides in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. He is a priest of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), order. He attended Divine Word College; the only undergraduate Roman Catholic seminary in the United States, dedicated to educating men and women for missionary service.

Fr. Brown speaks a number of languages, including Spanish & Portuguese. He has spent several years in the mission field. The people of Brazil hold a special place in his heart as he spent much time there working with the poor and marginalized.

Fr. Brown is alive in the Spirit. He has conducted many retreats and evangelization conferences in Dioceses and Archdioceses across the US sharing his passion & strong commitment to our faith.

He is a long time member of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He is a board member and consultant for the African American/Hispanic Relations for the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

HSMA LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER

How does Jesus's Passion and Death affect my Life?

Presentation by: Sr. Carol Welp, SSsP
Mary Ellen Rivera, HSMA

Location: Convent of the Holy Spirit

319 Waukegan Rd, Northfield, IL 60093

Saturday, March 4, 2023

9:30AM- 1:30PM

Transportation from Our Lady of Africa Parish
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 40 PERSONS WHO REGISTER

We ask Donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of the Bus & a Donation to the Sisters
Schedule. Scholarships available.

8:15 Bus Departs from Our Lady of Africa
9:30 Social with Light Refreshment
10:15 Presentation followed by Time for Silent Prayer
11:00 Mass
12:00 Dinner
12:45 Closure
1:30 Departure to return back to the Parish

Upcoming Events



Youth Ministry Bowling Sign-Up

Bowling Outing for Youth - Our
Lady of Africa



Youth Ministry is looking for youths ages 7 to 18 and their families to participate in our first bowling outing for the year.

Please sign up using the QR code or call the parish office by **March 5** if parents are interested in going.

We need at least 20 sign ups to make this possible.
The cost is \$15 per person.

OLA Book Club



Our next book for the OLA Book club was selected after our first meeting on the 22nd of January. We voted to read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.

"The first science fiction written by a black woman, *Kindred* has become a cornerstone of black American literature. This combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction is a novel of rich literary complexity. Having just celebrated her 26th birthday in 1976 California, Dana, an African-American woman, is suddenly and inexplicably wrenched through time into antebellum Maryland. After saving a drowning white boy there, she finds herself staring into the barrel of a shotgun and is transported back to the present just in time to save her life. During numerous such time-defying episodes

with the same young man, she realizes the challenge she's been given..."
(<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60931.Kindred>)

Our next meeting will be on April 23 after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact the Parish Office and provide your email and phone number.

We look forward to seeing you and discussing this important piece of African-American literature!





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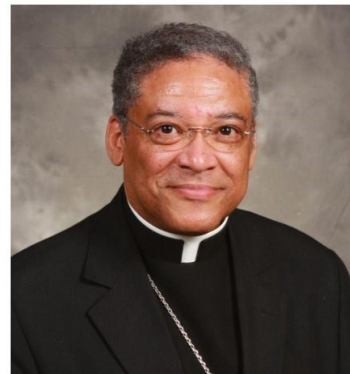
Evenings with Venerable Augustus Tolton



A five-part series featuring Bishop Perry

Join Bishop Joseph Perry at the Tolton Heritage Center in Chicago to learn about Venerable Augustus Tolton, the first recognized African American Roman Catholic priest. He is on the road to canonization. These events will include a short video, a presentation by Bishop Perry and plenty of time for conversation.

All events are free



Starting on March 8 | 4 – 6 p.m.

Tolton Heritage Center

44 East 41st Street, Chicago, IL 60653

March 8 The Man, Not Myth

Fr. Augustus Tolton's story begins more than a century ago, yet it remains relevant today. Who was Augustus Tolton? What does his life story teach us?

March 29 Tolton Spirituality

Fr. Augustus Tolton led an extraordinary and exemplary life. What tenets guided this former slave turned engaging Catholic priest? Is it possible to lead a holy life as Tolton did?

April 12 Spreading the Word

Venerable Augustus Tolton: The pioneer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate. Discover how Tolton's legacy extends beyond Catholics, and why everyone should know about his impact.

May 3 Embodying Forgiveness

Today, there are deep divisions in this country. What does Fr. Tolton's life teach us about forgiveness and understanding that would move us toward healing?

May 10 All Things Tolton

You've probably heard a lot about Tolton or perhaps nuggets about several organizations bearing his name. Learn about the various groups and how they work together to advance Tolton's legacy.

Sponsored by the **Tolton Spirituality Center**. Register at www.toltonspirituality.org under Events.



The Tolton Spirituality Center

2023 Online Spring Course Schedule

Theme: A Year of Healing

**UPCOMING EVENTS
REGISTRATION OPEN**

FEBRUARY 28

MARCH

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Self-Care for Lay Ministers

A two-part webinar that explores the importance of self-care as stewardship of the call in the Christian community. It examines the impact of neglecting the ultra-reliable volunteers.

MARCH

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

21

28

Generational Trauma in African-Americans

Violence in all its forms has become commonplace in our nation. This two-part course explores the church's role in healing and being a place of refuge.

APRIL

12 PM - 1:30 PM

5

Protecting Your Peace: Standing Up to Workplace Trauma

A toxic work environment affects your mental and physical health. Gain practical tips to reclaim your peace and start a healing journey in this workshop.

MORE INFO./REGISTER:

WWW.TOLTONSPIRITUALITY.ORG

GO TO PROGRAMS > COURSES & WEBINARS

QUESTIONS:

tolton.spirituality.center@gmail.com

REGISTER BY QR CODE

2023 Online Courses: A Year of Healing





PRESENTED BY: FR. CHARLES SMITH, SVD

BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY

LENTEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY



via ZOOM

**7:00 P.M.
EST**

*Every Thursday Beginning Thursday
February 23rd - Thursday March 30th*

go to: www.bowmanfrancis.org to register and to download
the study guide