



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, February 25, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



**LED THEM**  
UP A HIGH  
MOUNTAIN.

— MARK 9:2 —

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

©LPi

## **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](mailto: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 25

- Adoration | after 9 a.m. Mass | Chapel
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Class | 2:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

### Tuesday, February 27

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

### Wednesday, February 28

- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

### Thursday, February 29

- 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, March 1

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Stations of the Cross | 12 Noon | Church
- Stations of the Cross | 6:30 p.m. | Church

### Saturday, March 2

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

### Sunday, March 3

- First Communion Class | 10 a.m.  
| Tolton Center
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - March 2

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams  
Art Reliford

### Sunday 9 a.m. - March 3

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP  
Eileen Foggie
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Miriam Hunter  
Gladys St. Leger

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - March 3

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Christine Stewart  
Katherine Brown
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Regina Cook  
Earlene Hodges

## Stewardship

### Offertory - February 17/18, 2024

\$ 6,811.00  
\$ 2,950.00 - online offertory  
\$ 9,761.00

### Offertory - February 18/19, 2023

\$ 4,950.00  
\$ 1,510.00 - online offertory  
\$ 6,460.00

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 9,761.00- Total Offertory  
\$ **4,662.08**

## Attendance February 17/18

4 p.m. Mass	24
9 a.m. Mass	80
11:30 a.m. Mass	173
2:30 p.m. Mass	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340</b>

Thank you for your generosity!

## Migrants in Need

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





As we conclude our celebration of Black History month, we continue our celebration of Lent. Now, it might seem strange to put 'celebration' and 'Lent' in the same sentence. Some of us think of Lent as a period of self-torment. Lent has become a reminder of how far we painfully have to go in order to repent. However, Lent doesn't have to be looked at that way. We can celebrate it just as we celebrate Black History month or any holiday we commemorate. While repentance is part of the Lenten process, let us not lose focus on what the ultimate goal for Lent is, and that is transformation!

In our gospel reading for this week, we find the story of the transfiguration from Mark's gospel. Jesus takes his three trusted disciples in Peter, James and John to a mountain. When they get to a certain height of the mountain, it was said that Jesus' clothes got so bright that he was transfigured. The narrative then takes a mysterious turn when Moses and Elijah, ancient prophets who had been gone for centuries, appear with Jesus and they converse with him. Peter, knowing who these prophets were, was astonished by them. He let's Jesus know how good it is to be there to witness it and he suggested to make three tents, or tabernacles, for the three of them. The scene gets even more strange when a cloud is cast over them and then a voice from the clouds proclaims Jesus as the 'Beloved Son' and it instructs those present to listen to him. Then suddenly, the ancient prophets are gone and all is left is Jesus. On the way down from the mountain, Jesus tells the disciples with him not to tell anyone about this until he was raised from the dead.

When Jesus became transfigured, or transformed, the historical prophets appeared before him. One can imagine that this transformation of Jesus was not just of a visual sense but spiritual. Jesus fulfills not only his divine

purpose of being the Son of God but his human purpose of a prophet. As a prophet, he follows in the footsteps of Moses and Elijah. They were the ones who paved the way for Jesus earthly ministry. Their historical significance not only allows Jesus to operate with the Children of Israel but to elevate his status as the Messiah. Their presence allowed Jesus to glow, a symbolic reference to how Moses and Elijah validate Jesus divine character.

The appearance of the historical prophets confirms Jesus' divine purpose. Jesus did not come to earth to repeat what Moses and Elijah had already done but to fulfill something greater. This is what a full understanding of history should do for us. History is not just some mundane academic practice where we just memorize people, dates, times and places. It is meant to realize a purpose and to fulfill that purpose during our current time. And as we understand that purpose, we do not keep it in the past or present. It is our job to push it forward into the future to our descendants. This purpose of understanding history is to forge an identity. It is there to transform us to a higher calling.

Lent is a time of transformation, just like when we fully understand our history. Our Lenten purpose is to transform us into better people in the Body of Christ. Whatever spiritual practices we encounter during this time should be applied to our daily lives. Just like with Black History Month in February, whatever we gain in Lent should span beyond that time. This time should be a celebration. There is a celebration in heaven when we attempt to draw closer to God. Jesus taught us this in his parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). If God can celebrate when we try to draw nearer, why can't we do the same?

## 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)





## Unity and Black Excellence—OLA Church Member Julie Sumpter



For Julie C H Sumpter, a lifelong Catholic raised at St. John de la Salle and Holy Name of Mary parishes on Chicago's South side, the four pillars of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated - Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood - spoke to her spirit as a college student at Alabama State University and later Auburn University at Montgomery, AL. It was by invitation that Julie learned about the rich history of Zeta Phi Beta.

Founded in 1920 with members Arizona Cleaver, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler, Viola Tyler, and Fannie Pettie and with the encouragement of Phi Beta Sigma members Charles Robert Samuel Taylor and A. Langston Taylor at Howard University, Zeta Phi Beta's mission became *"to foster the ideals of service, charity, scholarship, civil and cultural endeavors, sisterhood, and finer womanhood, reflected in the sorority's national program for which its members and auxiliary groups provide voluntary service, community outreach, fund scholarships, support organized charities, and promote legislation for social and civic change."*

In addition, Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma are the first and only National Pan Hellenic Council organizations that are constitutionally bound. Zeta was the first sorority to establish a chapter on the continent of Africa in Monrovia, Liberia, and was granted Non-Governmental Organization status with the United Nations.

Members of the sorority's three youth and two adult auxiliaries work alongside graduate chapters to further the Zetas' commitment to

education and community: **Amicae** - women who believe in the principles of Zeta Phi Beta but do not have a college degree; **Archonettes** for young women in high school; **Amicettes** for girls in middle school; **Pearlettes** for girls ages 4 to 8; and the **Zeta Male Network** for men in the lives of members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The welcoming and down-to-earth nature of the members, their shared values, and their quiet strength was what made Zeta a good fit for Julie. In January of 1993, Julie and one other woman became Zetas for life. Julie's line name is "Devotion," and it is a name that fits her commitment to her work, her ministry as a cantor, and as a member of the Our Lady of Africa choir. An invitation from one of Julie's Zeta sisters brought her to Holy Angels in 1994. Because of this invitation, Our Lady of Africa is blessed with her talent, time, and treasure. Today, Julie continues to attend Finer Womanhood Month events and Founders' Day celebrations with her fraternity and sorority siblings.

For those who may be interested in joining a sorority, Julie offers this advice: Keep in mind that sorority life is a luxury. Understand why you want to join the organization in which you are interested and stay true to your values.

For this woman of faith, the pillars of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood that Zeta Phi Beta instills in its members live on in Julie. For more information about Zeta Phi Beta please visit:

<https://zphib1920.org/>

By Tina L. Carter





Cynthia Thomas Chappell is a lifelong Chicagoan who was raised in the Baptist church but converted when she got married in 1983. It was important to Cynthia that her family would be able to worship together. She witnessed how important faith was to her husband and his family, her father-in-law was an active deacon in the church and decided to convert and become Catholic. Cynthia currently volunteers as the fundraising chair and backup Sunday School teacher for Our Lady of Africa.

Cynthia's journey with Delta Sigma Theta began as an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago and continued at Roosevelt University where she pledged. For Cynthia, the values of constructive development for members and public service with a primary focus on the Black community spoke to her.

Founded in 1913 by twenty-two former members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority incorporated at Howard University, the women of Delta Sigma Theta's motto is "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." With over 200,000 members and over one thousand chapters worldwide, Delta Sigma Theta has been at the forefront of many culture-changing events for women. Just a few months after their founding, members of Delta Sigma Theta marched in the historic Women's Suffrage March held in Washington, D.C. as students. This was a bold move despite racial tensions and overt discrimination at the time. Delta Founder, Florence Letcher Toms commented, "We marched that day so that women might come into their own, because we believed that women not only needed an education, but they needed a broader horizon in which they may use that education. And the right to vote would give them that privilege."

Since its founding in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has distinguished itself as a public service organization that boldly confronts the challenges of African Americans and, hence, all Americans. Over the years, a wide range of programs addressing education, health, international development, and strengthening of the African American family have evolved. In realizing its mission, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provides an extensive array of public service initiatives through its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness, and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health Awareness, and Political Awareness and Involvement. These programs include partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and public libraries in the South. In addition, the Deltas offer college tours for high school students to HBCUs during Spring Break.

That commitment to service for the betterment of the community is one way that Cynthia continues to live out the values of Delta Sigma Theta. As co-chair of the Special Projects committee, she serves at the direction of the President of the chapter and oversees the annual book bag distribution at the Bud Billiken Parade each year where they distribute over eight hundred book bags to the community, offers back-to-school physicals, vaccinations, COVID vaccines, and voter registration.

Cynthia joined the sorority as a college student in the late seventies, a time when awareness as a race was coming of age. As a Christian woman, the values of the sorority were in alignment with the way she was raised as a young African American child growing up in a time when voices were beginning to be heard. It was important to her to make certain that there was a vehicle for her to express her views and to also give back to the community. Service is a big part of the Catholic faith and so it was a natural fit.

Cynthia offers this advice for anyone who may be interested in joining a fraternity or sorority. Decide based on your values and how you want to contribute to the betterment of the world. Also, reflect on which fraternity or sorority fits best for you and see how active the organization is on and off campus. If you are interested in learning more about Delta Sigma Theta sorority incorporated, please go to: <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/>

**By Tina Carter**

## 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 25

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**Readings:** Gn 22: 1-2. 9a. 10-13. 15-18/ Ps 116: 10. 15. 16-17. 18-19/ Rom 8: 31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

#### **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, February 26

MONDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Dn 9: 4b-10/ Ps 79: 8. 9. 11 and 13/ Lk 6: 36-38

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

### Tuesday, February 27

TUESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Is 1: 10. 16-20/ Ps 50: 8-9. 16bc-17. 21 and 23/ Mt 23: 1-12

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

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

### Wednesday, February 28

WEDNESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Jer 18: 18-20/ Ps 31: 5-6. 14. 15-16/ Mt 20: 17-28

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

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

### Thursday, February 29

THURSDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Jer 17: 5-10/ Ps 1: 1-2. 3. 4 and 6/ Lk 16: 19-31

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

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

### Friday, March 1

FRIDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Gn 37: 3-4. 12-13a. 17b-28a/ Ps 105: 16-17. 18-19. 20-21/ Mt 21: 33-43. 45-46

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

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

### Saturday, March 2

SATURDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF LENT

**Readings:** Mi 7: 14-15. 18-20/ Ps 103: 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12/ Lk 15: 1-3. 11-32

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



**ADORATION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH  
6:30 PM**





# 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

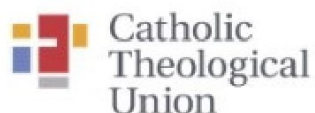
Complimentary parking available in the CTU garage.

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**





## LENT SERIES

### MARTHA TOLTON

MOTHER. ADVOCATE.  
SPIRITUAL GUIDE.  
GET TO KNOW THE  
WOMAN WHO MOLDED  
VENERABLE AUGUSTUS  
TOLTON.



March 7, 2024  
6 PM - 7 PM (CT)

**Tina Carter**  
Tolton Scholar

**REGISTER NOW!**

[www.toltonspirituality.org](http://www.toltonspirituality.org)

### Parish Directory

#### Baptisms

Tina Carter  
[tinalcarter71@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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