



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, February 4, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

HONORING BLACK HISTORY

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

©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 4

- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting  
| 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- First Communion Class | 10 a.m.  
| Tolton Center
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

### Tuesday, February 6

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

### Wednesday, February 7

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

### Thursday, February 8

- 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 9

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Adoration, Taize, and Devotion  
| 6:30 p.m. | Church

### Saturday, February 10

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

### Sunday, February 11

- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- OLA Book Club | after 11:30 a.m. Mass  
| Parish Hall Conference Room
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

## Attendance January 27/28

4 p.m. Mass	21
9 a.m. Mass	72
11:30 a.m. Mass	148
2:30 p.m. Mass	110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>351</b>

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - February 10

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: James Asenso  
Ted Budzynski

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

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Michael Morman  
Larry Carter
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Rosemary Sykes  
Sonia Davis

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

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Lisa Pruitt  
Silmon Reed
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Velma Hill  
Trish Rawls

### Wednesday 12 p.m. - February 14

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

### Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - February 14

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

## Stewardship

### Offertory - January 27/28, 2024

\$ 6,850.00  
\$ 4,300.00 - online offertory  
\$ 11,150.00

### Offertory - January 30/31, 2023

\$ 3,971.57  
\$ 2,150.00 - online offertory  
\$ 6,121.57

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 11,150.00- Total Offertory  
\$ **3,273.08**

**Thank you for your generosity!**



As I read the story of Job this week I think of the reality of sin, suffering, and pain in our wounded and broken world. We all hear these stories of people including each of us who have lost dear ones in violence or accident through terminal ailment or sudden deaths; and those who have been ditched by their partners or heart-broken by marital infidelity or betrayed by friends. The story of Job in today's reading is our own story; it is the story of our world and the story of, 'our silent tears.' The good news is that the Gospel shows us that the Son of God wishes to enter our human suffering and pain to bring healing and restoration.

The Gospel today reports many healing miracles which the Lord did for all those who came to him. The miracles of Jesus are signs of the coming of God's kingdom. The miracles also are signs and revelation to us of the divine identity of Jesus. The miracles point to the irruption of God's power in human history; and give us assurance that nothing is impossible for God. There is no human condition of brokenness which cannot be healed. When Jesus enters any human situation of pain, sin or evil, there is the assurance of healing, restoration, grace and peace for the troubled soul. The miracles are then the manifestation of the loving care of God and God's desire to restore creation. They also reflect the power of God over the forces of evil, over the forces of nature and all creation. The Lord invites us

today to lay our pains and wounds before him. What is it that is making you sad today? What is it that makes it impossible for you to sleep well at night? What is the pain or disappointment that is causing you so much anxiety? Why can't you smile today? Like Simeon's mother-in-law in the Gospel, the Lord can heal you if you come to him with faith. There is nothing impossible for him. We need to find time in our busy schedule to pray like Jesus did in the Gospel. We ought to lay our uncertainties and wounds at the feet of Jesus in prayer. We may have habits which are difficult to overcome; we may have ailments which we think cannot be cured; we may have some patterns of behavior which many people find offensive, and which have led us into trouble many times; we may even have a very sad past and wounded memories. We may live in dumps and in the depths of despair and brokenness because of our life situation. The Good News is that if we accept Jesus as our Master and Lord, he can do for us what we could never do for ourselves. Yes, Jesus has the power to change our conditions. He wishes to transform our lives here and now in as we worship God this Sunday. As the Responsorial Psalm says, God indeed wishes and wills to heal our broken hearts, if only we believe and are open to God's healing grace and miracles.

### 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 TASHA McSHAN



For this grounded, outspoken woman of faith, the rich sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has kept Tasha McShan committed to service to God for all Humankind. Her aunt, a fellow Soror, gave Tasha a sense of what service to others meant. Tasha followed her to various events and service projects as a teenager learning and observing the rich legacy formed in 1908 by a group of nine women at Howard University who dreamed of supporting and encouraging one another to be in service to their communities and beyond. Their mission today is *"to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of 'Service to All Mankind.'*"

By the time Tasha arrived at Northeastern University to study education, she knew that she wanted to be a part of this rich organization and pledged. While Tasha pledged alone, her line name was "Pink Innocence," she was surrounded by and supported by a network of women who mentored her, walked with her, and taught her life skills that she uses in all aspects of her life. The women of AKA taught her determination, resilience, the importance of service to others, sisterhood, networking, accountability, and how to focus on the goals at hand. She learned that service to others is expected from all Sorors and to that end, each group had to develop a service project plan to execute. These service projects could be anywhere from providing bookbags, to offering tutoring for

students, to providing help for the homeless. After these projects are completed, they are evaluated by leadership in the local chapters to see if goals have been reached and what the women learned from their experiences so they can share that information with those who come behind them.

Once Tasha completed her studies at Northeastern University, she joined the Evergreen Park graduate chapter in Chicago where she continued to hone her skills of service and sisterhood. She has served on many committees and is currently working on the welcoming committee for their regional conference that will be held in Chicago this year. The committee is responsible for setting up housing, developing service opportunities, and creating itineraries for places to visit in Chicago. As Tasha enters her 24<sup>th</sup> year in this rich network of professional women who support one another and serve their communities, she is blessed, humbled, and grateful for the love and unity that Alpha Kappa Alpha has given her over the years. She remembered the multitude of prayers, calls, and cards that she received from her Sorors when she was undergoing chemotherapy.

The lessons and work ethic that Tasha learned from the AKAs she has brought into her work as a teacher and as a lay minister for the church. In addition to serving as a Lady of Peter Claver, Tasha has been a Claver since second grade, she is also the president of the Blessed Sacrament Society and serves as a representative from Vicariate IV on the Archdiocese of Chicago parish council. This woman of fortitude and faith is keeping the legacy alive of the original nine members of the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated is part of the "Divine Nine" group of Black fraternities and sororities founded in the early 1900s devoted to service, brotherhood, sisterhood, and uplifting the community. Currently, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated has over 355,000 members in over twelve countries around the world. For more information about this magnificent organization, please visit <https://aka1908.com>.



# 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**

## 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 Patricia A. Williams  
2/28 Lugenia Lewis

## Mass Schedule

### Sunday, February 4

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Readings:** Jb 7: 1-4. 6-7/ Ps 147: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/  
1 Cor 9: 16-19. 22-23/ Mk 1: 29-39

#### **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:** Dorla Allen, David Berry,  
Roscoe Burns, Naiya Williams

### Monday, February 5

ST AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 8: 1-7. 9-13/ Ps 132: 6-7. 8-10/  
Mk 6: 53-56

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Rosemary Gardner,  
Barbara Golden, Kelly Robin Hill, Leslie Jackson

### Tuesday, February 6

ST PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 8: 22-23. 27-30/ Ps 84: 3. 4. 5 and  
10. 11/ Mk 7: 1-13

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Jessie Andrews,  
Helen Brooms, Dean Brazier, Lydia Clark

### Wednesday, February 7

WEDNESDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 10: 1-10/ Ps 37: 30-31. 39-40/  
Mk 7: 14-23

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

**OLA Book of Prayer:** James Barker,  
Christine Brown, James Brazier, Willie B. Clay

### Thursday, February 8

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, VIRGIN

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 11: 4-13/ Ps 106: 3-4. 35-36. 37  
and 40/ Mk 7: 24-30

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Curtis Albright, Myra Baugh,  
Patricia Brown, James Burgess, Russell Carter

### Friday, February 9

FRIDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 11: 29-32; 12: 19/ Ps 81: 10-11ab.  
12-13. 14-15/ Mk 7: 31-37

#### **Mass Intentions:**

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

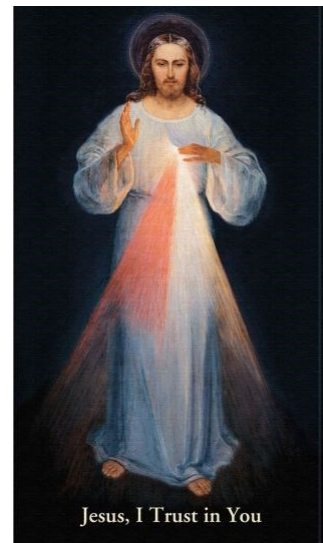
**OLA Book of Prayer:** Donald Barner,  
Barbara McGee-Berry, Marilyn Campbell,  
Catherine Crosby

### Saturday, February 10

ST. SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS

**Readings:** 1 Kgs 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34/ Ps 106: 6-  
7ab. 19-20. 21-22/ Mk 8: 1-10

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Ophelia Adams,  
Louise Bates, Arthur Brooks, Esperanza Carr





We carry tears in our eyes:  
good-bye father, good-bye mother.

We carry soil in small bags:  
may home never fade in our heart.

We carry names, stories,  
memories of our villages, fields, boats.  
We carry scars from proxy wars of greed.

We carry carnage of mining,  
droughts, floods, genocides.

We carry our islands sinking under the sea.

"Sometimes I feel like a motherless child...a long way from home." I used to hum this song often when loneliness seemed to overcome me. I came to the US as a 20-year-old with 20.00 Dollars in my pocket and one suitcase. Due to family issues, I knew I had to leave my home country of Germany, or I would lose my life.

The migrants that are coming today are even less fortunate than I was then. I already spoke English, and I had an education. I flew to Chicago, having saved up all my money to pay for the plane ticket working 3 jobs in Germany. Most of today's migrants do not speak English, have very few possessions, and did not fly here (except when Texas Governor Abbot, paid for a plane ticket).

Imagine leaving your home because life has become so difficult that you no longer have anywhere to turn. So, you risk everything. You do not know where you are going to, what it will be like, and for most of the migrants the

journey is arduous, tiring, dangerous. While traveling, often on foot, you must carry small children, because they can no longer walk. You sleep on the side of the road, restless for fear that somebody will rob you or worse. If you come by bus, you are dropped off in the middle of a strange city. The only comfort being that you are not alone, but there are many who have travelled with you. Still, you are strangers in a strange land, unfamiliar with the culture, the food, the language, and how things are being done here. You rely on the kindness of strangers, but some of these strangers do not want you here. They think the resources spent on you should go to them. But it should not be a question of either/or, it should be help for all.

"The Lord said, whatever you have done for the least of my brethren you have done for me." And in the Old Testament we read, "The Lord your God ... defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

Our Lady of Africa has a small migrant ministry working with the migrant shelter on 35th and Michigan and adopting a migrant from Togo. God calls us to be generous and kind and an example of the loving community.

Remember, "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark."





## OLA BOOK CLUB - FEBRUARY 11th

Come and join us!

# OLA BOOK CLUB

- Sunday, February 11th
- Time: After the 11:30 am Mass
- Book: *You Were Always Mine*
- Authors: Christine Pride and Jo Piazza



## 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**