



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, November 27, 2022



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## **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, November 27

- Adoration - 10 a.m. | Chapel
- First Communion  
- 10 a.m. | Tolton Center
- RCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Office
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

### Tuesday, November 29

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

### Wednesday, November 30

- School Mass - 10 a.m.  
| Holy Angels Catholic School

### Thursday, December 1

- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon  
| Tolton Center

### Friday, December 2

- Funeral Mass, +Hugh Hodges  
- 11 a.m. | Parish

### Saturday, December 3

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 2 p.m. | Parish

### 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 Office
- 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

## 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 November 27 and December 15th. Please contact Debra Crosby for more information.

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

## Ministry List for Next Weekend

### Saturday Vigil Mass - December 3

- Lectors: Keith Wilson  
Denise Wilson

### Sunday 9 a.m. - December 4

- Lectors: Sr. Joanne Delehanty  
Eileen Foggie
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Sonia Davis  
Rosemary Sykes

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 4

- Lectors: Larry Cope  
David Powell
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Sharon Binion  
Lena Young

## 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



Please mail your donations to the following address:  
Our Lady of Africa Parish  
615 E Oakwood Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60653

## 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.

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

- We continue to pray for **Deacon Michael Foggie** who is scheduled to have foot surgery this Wednesday.
- Please keep in your prayers **Irene Dove**. She is requesting prayers due to a recent medical diagnosis.
- Please pray for the soul of +Hugh Hodges who passed away last Sunday and his wife Earlene Hodges.



## Advent Happenings - A Message from the Pastor



Father Bob Kelly, SVD

Dear Parishioners,

This Advent is filled with special times and events that can help  
**"Prepare the Way of the Lord."**

**December 3** - There is a Catechist's Retreat held by the Archdiocese for all catechists in Vicariate VI. If you are a catechist and would like to attend, please register by visiting [bit.ly/3D9Vs2E](https://bit.ly/3D9Vs2E)

**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 10** - Eight of our parishioners have been selected to be delegates for a Day of Reflection in preparation for the 2023 National Black Catholic Congress: Taleah Cage, Tina Carter, Keisha Chavers, Katie Jordan, Ladell Johnson, Michael Morman, Tyrone Pittman and Marcheta Smith. Please pray for them as they discern how to help the Congress team better prepare for this important event in the life of our Black Catholic Church in the United States.

**December 21** - Special Service for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday Evening at 6:30 p.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.**

## Parish Directory

### Baptisms

Tina Carter  
[tinalcarter71@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bkellysvd@gmail.com)  
Fr. Carl Gales, SVD - *Associate*  
[galesce0422@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Seminararian

Fater 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



## Black Catholic History Month



### Deacon Mervin Johnson

Service to God and God's people is the first thing that comes to mind when talking to Deacon Mervin O. Johnson Jr.

Born in Mobile Alabama during the height of racial discrimination, Deacon Mervin learned early on the importance of holding on to one's faith from his Latina mother. He remembers fondly his mother and father attending Novenas weekly and being very active in the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver at St. Peter Claver parish in Mobile.

Even though Deacon Mervin attended public school, there was a practice at the time called release time, where public school children would go to their parishes to receive religious education instruction. It was at St. Peter Claver parish, that his understanding of the Catholic Church deepened.

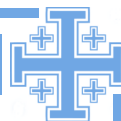
Unfortunately, racism and colorism were alive and well in his Mobile community. Blacks who had to attend the predominately white St. Vincent parish mass were only allowed to sit at the last two pews on the Blessed Mother's side. Being the darkest of his mother's children, he was overlooked to join some clubs until the leaders learned who his family was. Yet, ever proud of who he is and whom he belonged to, the young Mervin did not accept their invitation.

These experiences stayed with Deacon Mervin as he headed north to Chicago. He served in Seoul during the Korean conflict and when Mervin returned to Chicago after his time in the Army, he got married and had a son. By the 1970s, he was teaching at St. Leo Elementary School and within 3 years became the principal. For over 30 years, Mervin Johnson served the students and their families at St. Leo Elementary School and was active at St. Leo parish. It was through this activism that Mervin received the call to become a deacon in the church. With his wife by his side, he began the process. It was his own experiences within the church that helped his fellow deacons understand that God speaks to us all in different ways. In the mid-1980s, Mervin O. Johnson Jr. became Deacon Mervin.

Deacon Mervin's unique style of being in the pews with the parishioners helped him develop a personal relationship with those he was serving. He helped the parishioners see that he was one of them, not on the altar but with them in the trenches. When St. Leo parish and elementary school closed, Deacon Mervin and others migrated to Holy Angels. His service to God and God's people continued even after the death of his wife and son. Now in his 39<sup>th</sup> year as an Archdiocesan Deacon, Mervin Johnson continues to serve God and God's people at Our Lady of Africa as a mentor and spiritual leader sitting in the pews next to the parishioners.

## Welcome to OLA

Welcome to Our Lady of Africa Parish! Your presence is valued and appreciated. We are a community that is motivated to serve, We welcome you to become a part of our growing family. We are not the perfect community, but we are striving to do our very best for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your faith walk is personal and we hope that you can feel free to worship with us as you are. We are all on a journey to the Kingdom of God. Walk with us and share your gifts!



Advent has us look backward so we can look forward. Both views call us to live in the present. Advent is not a penitential season but a celebration of the coming of Christ among us. A special element of Advent is the anticipation of the second coming of Christ. Both in the incarnation and the second coming we have a powerful invitation to embrace the gift of today to walk with Christ.

Isaiah is the featured Old Testament author of the Advent Season. The beauty of his poetry is filled with hope for deliverance and longing for the final expression of God's saving power.

Matthew's message today, and in this time of Advent, is based on the fundamental confidence flowing from the Christian message. Christ will return in glory and with him will come the fullness of redemption. A new day is coming. Matthew is emphatic: we need to be ready.

This longing for the return of the Lord mirrors the passionate longing expressed in Isaiah. Yet it is incredibly enriched and supported by our gift of the Gospel reality. Paul tells us, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh." (Romans 13:14) So we join together in our liturgies and in our lives to proclaim the Advent yearning: **Come Lord Jesus!**

In the meanwhile, Isaiah, Paul and Matthew have a clear and simple message for us. Live today in faithfulness to the Lord. Enter into our reality. We do not know the future but we do know the present. We are called to live the Gospel with acts of mercy and forgiveness, with concern for justice and the constant struggle "to

beat the swords into plowshares and the spears into pruning hooks." Isaiah 2:4)

Swords and plowshares are not our ordinary arsenal in our daily battles with one another. We often have looks and words and attitudes that are up to the task of antagonism against our neighbor. We have anger and resentments with more than enough prejudices to create walls of isolation and hostility. We have a way of making our time, interests and convenience the measure of our actions, all to the detriment of fraternal charity. More often than not this is done with a faced of righteousness. Advent is a time to put away the weapons of hostility and division and isolation. It is a time to pray with a truly humble heart, **"Come, Lord Jesus!"**

Advent challenges us to look at the lost opportunities, the time wasted and misdirected. We all have more than enough to account for. Advent calls us to gather ourselves together and live today, in the grace of the present moment for tomorrow is in God's hands. We indeed need to cry out, **Come Lord Jesus!** *But a life seeking to walk with Jesus right now makes our cry all the more real and focused.*

God is very capable of keeping the schedule. He will do his job of finishing the program at the appropriate time. It is quite normal for us to use that familiar question of our youth, Are we there yet? God will let us know. In the meanwhile, our task is to be faithful to the Gospel message and express the hunger in our heart for a new day with the beautiful Advent prayer, **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.**

### Announcements in the Bulletin

Please submit your announcements and inserts for the bulletin no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday of each week. Thank you.





## Upcoming Events

CELEBRATING  
**20 Years**  
"Better Together"

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY CHORUS invites you to...  
**SONGS OF THE SEASON**  
**HANDEL'S Messiah**

FEATURING...  
The Chicago Community Chorus and Orchestra  
with Conductors Dr. Keith Hampton, Michele Douglas and Christopher Joyner

**Featured Soloists**

Josefien Stoppelenburg - soprano  
Teniya Mackey - alto  
Christopher Joyner - tenor  
Robert Sims - baritone

**SATURDAY 12/3/22**  
**7:00PM**  
Greater Harvest M.B. Church  
5141 South State Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
- MASKS ARE OPTIC

Scan to Purchase Tickets Today!

**\$25 ADULTS**

FOLLOW US ON: Dr. Keith Hampton Artistic Director and Founder

## AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

### TOO HOT TO HANDEL: THE JAZZ-GOSPEL MESSIAH

SAT, DEC 3 @ 7:30PM | SUN, DEC 4 @ 3:00PM

Save 30%  
when you attend  
with Vanessa on  
December 4!




Visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](https://AuditoriumTheatre.org) & use code  
**NESSA23** to unlock your discount!

312.341.2300 | [hzorn@auditoriumtheatre.org](mailto:hzorn@auditoriumtheatre.org)

30% discount offered in PL 1-5. Valid through November 11, 2022. Prices are based on demand and subject to change. No refunds or exchanges. Subject to availability. Per ticket fee is \$5.

Young Adult  
**Evening Prayer**

via Zoom with the  
 School Sisters  
of Notre Dame

**TUESDAYS**  
8p ET / 7p CT  
6p MT / 5p PT

September 27  
October 25  
November 22  
December 20

Register in advance at [ssnd.org/events](https://ssnd.org/events)



Scan me

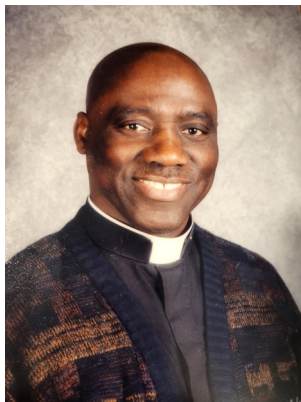
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## Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule



- **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

## Advent Revival



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.

## OLA Book Club



Our first book selection is Michelle Obama's latest book, **"The Light We Carry."**

"In 'The Light We Carry,' Mrs. Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us..."  
(Penguin Random House)

Please sign up in the Narthex for the OLA Book Club. We will have our first meeting in January 2023.



## 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  
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  
Hugh Hodges  
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  
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

