



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, January 1, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.  
- Lk 2:17-19

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, January 1

- Sunday School - 10 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall

### Monday, January 2

- Parish Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 3

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

### Thursday, January 5

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

### Saturday, January 7

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish

## Scriptures for the Week

### Sunday, January 1

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Solemnity  
(Octave of Christmas) Nm 6: 22-27/ Ps 67: 2-3. 5.  
6. 8 (2a)/ Gal 4: 4-7/ Lk 2: 16-21

### Monday, January 2

Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bps, drs  
M 1 Jn 2: 22-28/ Ps 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4/ Jn 1: 19-28

### Tuesday, January 3

Christmas Weekday/ Holy Name of Jesus  
1 Jn 2: 29 3: 6/ Ps 98: 1. 3cd-4. 5-6/ Jn 1: 29-34

### Wednesday, January 4

Elizabeth Ann Seton, r M  
1 Jn 3: 7-10/ Ps 98: 1. 7-8. 9/ Jn 1: 35-42

### Thursday, January 5

John Neumann, bp M  
1 Jn 3: 11-21/ Ps 100: 1b-2. 3. 4. 5/ Jn 1: 43-51

### Friday, January 6

Christmas Weekday/ Andr Bessette, r  
1 Jn 5: 5-13/ Ps 147: 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/ Mk 1: 7-11 or Lk 3: 23-38

### Saturday, January 7

Christmas Weekday/ Raymond of Peafort, p  
1 Jn 5: 14-21/ Ps 149: 1-2. 3-4. 5 and 6a and 9b/  
Jn 2: 1-11

## Rest in the Peace of Christ

Our sincere condolences to **Sharon Binion** and her family at the loss of two of her relatives:

**+Leonard Wyatt (Sharon's Cousin)**  
**+Rodney Allen Hayes (Sharon's Nephew)**

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,  
Rest In Peace. Amen.

## Ministry List for Next Weekend

### Saturday Vigil Mass 4 p.m. - January 7

- Lectors: Keith Wilson  
Denise Wilson

### Sunday 9 a.m. - January 8

- Lectors: Rosemary Sykes  
Michael Morman
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Miriam Hunter  
Gladys St. Leger

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - January 8

- Lectors: Christine Davis Stewart  
Alicia Davis
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Regina Cook  
Earlene Hodges

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 7

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass  
OLA Parishioners

### Sunday, January 8

- 9 a.m. Mass  
+Tamara Hudson & Arthemise Washington  
Requested by Taliva Tillman
- 11:30 a.m. Mass  
OLA Parishioners

## 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.

## Prayer Request

Please hold in prayer Cassandra Alexander, granddaughter of Mrs. Audrey Tuggle.

## January Birthdays

1/07 Edith Lane	1/18 Florence Person
1/08 Mary Jefferson	1/19 James Brown
1/08 Shawnece Wilson	1/21 Marcella Aguda
1/12 Wendell Smith-Williams	1/23 Brenda Boston
1/15 Ed Scott	1/25 LaTanya Berry-Johnson
1/16 James Burgess	1/27 Sonia Davis
1/16 Clarisse Credit	1/31 Lillian Cherry
1/17 Norman Dunbar	1/31 Samira Rawls

## Pastor's Message



**Father Bob Kelly, SVD**  
**Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

First, I want to thank you for all the beautiful Christmas Cards and the written blessings and wishes that were inside, and the many wonderful gifts enclosed or given to me along with the cards. Your kindness and generosity is a wonderful Blessing in my life.

Second, I want to thank all who made our beautiful Christmas Celebration possible through volunteering, decorating, donating the beautiful Christmas Trees and giving of their time, talent and treasure. This includes Deacon Mervin Johnson, Deacon Michael Foggie and the following the Parish Organizations: the Blessed Sacrament Society, HIV Aids Committee, KPCLA, OLA Men's Coalition, OLA Choir, and all our OLA Volunteers.

Third, thanks to our OLA Choir and Cantors under the Direction of Tyrone Pittman and the talented musicians who work with him. They lifted us up in prayer filled song and joy as we began the celebration of Christmas.

Finally, as we start a new year, it is a natural time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future. But as Catholics/Christians, it is important that our goals are not just about achieving personal success or happiness, but rather about keeping our eye on Jesus, being led by the Holy Spirit and trying to live each day doing our part to build God's Kingdom.

"May the LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" *Numbers 6:24-26*

Wishing you all a Blessed New Year filled with renewed life, hope and peace!

Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD

## 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

**Linda Broadnax - 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**  
kwclwupresident@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

**Frazer 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**





## New Year's Greetings!



From the Blessed Sacrament Society

**"Greetings from the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament Society. We thank God and pray that the New Year, 2023, finds Our Lady of Africa Parish healthy, happy and full of love for everyone. Glory to Jesus. Honor to Mary. Many blessings**

Linda Broadnax, President



From the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary  
of Peter Claver:

**"We the Knights & Ladies of St. Peter Claver wish our church family and their families health, wealth, and may you make today, this week, and 2023 your best year yet."**

Lady Lena Young - Grand Lady



**"The gift of a New Year is only one of God's many blessings. May HE light your path and may serenity, love, joy, prosperity and good health be your treasures in 2023. Have a wonderful New Year!!"**

HIV/AIDS Ministry



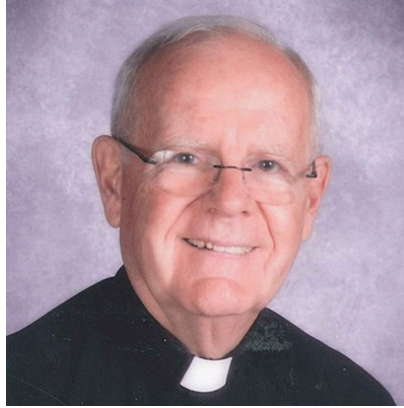
**"May God's abundant blessings be upon OLA and in all its endeavors to bring about the Reign of God here in the Bronzeville community and beyond. We pray for our pastor, Fr. Bob Kelly, that God continues to support him with all the graces needed to fulfill his ministry. Happy New Year to us all!"**

Men's Coalition





## Father Tracy's Reflection for Holy Mary, Mother of God



Today's feast is Mary, Mother of God. The Gospel passage, as all the Infancy passages, offers a message of great paradox in which Mary plays a central role. She has the call to motherhood yet she remains a virgin. She received the message that her son conceived by the Holy Spirit will be both Messiah and Savior yet He comes in poverty with the shepherds, the clearest expression of the outcast in Jewish society, at the top of the guest list. She had every right to expect privilege and prestige for such a singular event. Yet she was uprooted from family and village and gave birth among the animals. The Angels' songs did not translate into much physical comfort or convenience. No wonder, **"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."** (Lk 2:19) And she was just beginning the journey!

Whenever Mary is portrayed in the Scriptures, she is showing us how to be a disciple. More than any other role, Mary is described as the first disciple of Jesus. A disciple is one who hears the word of God and keeps it.

Later in the Gospels, Mary is the only adult who experienced the majesty of the message of the Angels at the birth of Jesus. As His life unfolded, no wonder she pondered these events in her heart. In the midst of all the confusion and contradiction, she remained faithful even to the Cross.

Like Mary's experience, God's presence in our life most often is not clear and precise. We need to take the story of Jesus and bring it into our heart like Mary. Tomas Merton, the great spiritual guide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, calls this true prayer. This is his definition of prayer: Yearning to in the presence of God, understanding of His word and knowledge of His will and the capacity to hear and obey.

Just as it was for Mary, our effort to understand God's word and know God's will is the work of a lifetime. For Mary, clarity was not the issue. Faithfulness was. **"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."** (Lk 1:38) No doubt, Mary's initial response to the angel, **"How can this be? (Lk 1:34)** was repeated often in her life as it happens so frequently in our life.

Like Mary, we need prayer to truly come to grips with the depth of our experience. We need to ponder and reflect on the Word of God and how it opens us up to the knowledge of God's word and clarity of God's will in our life.

Today the Church is enjoying a renewal of an ancient form of this process. It is called *lectio divina*. It involves four short steps:

1. A prayerful reading of a Scripture passage.
2. We reflect and ponder how it relates to our life.
3. We respond in prayer.
4. We rest in the loving presence of God.

## A Big Thank You to Principal Ku San Thomas!



A Big Thank You to Principal Ku San Thomas for her donation to the OLA Food Pantry. She is the daughter of John Thomas. It was a service of her Special Olympics All-Stars who volunteered their time and energy in a program that is entitled "Service Over Self-Initiative."



## Virtus Training Session



When: Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Where: Augustus Tolton Heritage Center

44 E 41<sup>st</sup> Street

Chicago IL 60653

Time: 10:00 am-1:00 pm

This training is for any church volunteer or employee who has **NEVER** had the Protecting God's Children training before.

**Protecting God's Children® for Adults** is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods, and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Two videos are the centerpiece of the training: **A Time to Protect God's Children™** and **A Plan to Protect God's Children™**. The facilitators incorporate policies and procedures into the training defining child sexual abuse, addressing the reporting of child sexual abuse, the screening and selection of employees and volunteers, and victim advocacy.

**To register, please contact the Parish Office (773) 624-5375**



## 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  
Irene Dove  
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  
Rita Holland  
Sandra Houston  
Doris Humphries  
Nolan Humphries  
George James  
Janet James  
Leslie Jackson  
Mildred Jackson  
Majorbelle James  
Therese Jessie  
Cindy Jirsa  
Jan Johnson  
Pamela Jones  
Susan Larry McKeever  
Denise Lawson  
Annette Lee  
Gloria Leonard  
Monica Lewers  
Lugenia Lewis  
John Littleton  
Betty Lumpkins  
Lenda Mason  
Gail McGruder  
McShan Family  
Bernadine McNeal  
Carolyn McQuarter  
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  
Cassiette West-Williams  
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

**Please pray for our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who is gravely ill.**

