



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, January 7, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE STAR

— MATTHEW 2:10 —

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

©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

Church Address

615 East Oakwood Boulevard

Chicago, IL 60653

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



This Week at OLA

Sunday, January 7

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

Tuesday, January 9

- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

Wednesday, January 10

- Bible Study | 11 a.m. | Parish Hall
- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- Social Justice Committee | 6 p.m.
| Tolton Center
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, January 11

- 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, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14

- KPCLA Meeting | 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - January 13

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Silmon Reed
Ted Budzynski

Sunday 9 a.m. - January 14

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Rosemary Sykes
Pat Brown
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Miriam Hunter
Gladys St. Leger

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - January 14

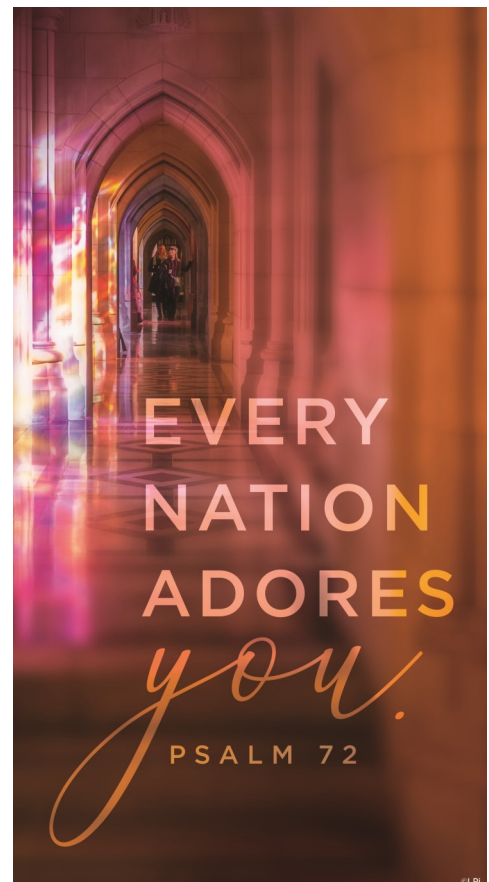
- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Mary Johnson
Velma Hill
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Regina Cook
Earlene Hodges

Stewardship

Unavailable at the time of printing.
Next weekend's bulletin will have
December 30-Jan 1
and January 6/7 totals available.
Thank you for your understanding.

Attendance December 30-Jan 1

4 p.m. Mass	21
9 a.m. Mass	80
11:30 a.m. Mass	174
New Year's Day	45
TOTAL	320





Thanksgiving is a time of reflection and gratitude, a moment to pause and appreciate the blessings bestowed upon us. As a Christian, Thanksgiving holds a deeper significance for me. It is not merely a holiday centered around feasting and family gatherings; it is an opportunity to express my faith and acknowledge God's goodness in my life.

Firstly, Thanksgiving reminds me of the importance of gratitude. The Bible teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It encourages me to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness, recognizing that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17). Thanksgiving prompts me to count my blessings, both big and small, and acknowledge God as the ultimate provider.

Furthermore, Thanksgiving serves as a reminder of the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ on the cross. Just as we gather around the table to share a meal with loved ones, Jesus invited his disciples to partake in the Last Supper before his crucifixion. This act symbolizes his selfless love for humanity and our need for salvation through him. Therefore, Thanksgiving becomes an occasion not only to remember Christ's sacrifice but also to celebrate our redemption through faith.

Lastly, Thanksgiving offers an opportunity for Christian fellowship. Gathering with fellow believers during this season allows us to share our testimonies of God's faithfulness and encourage one another in our spiritual journey. It reminds us that we are part of a larger community united by our love for Christ.

In conclusion, as a Christian, Thanksgiving holds great significance beyond its cultural aspects. It serves as a reminder to be grateful in all circumstances while acknowledging God's provision and sacrifice through Jesus Christ. Additionally, it provides an occasion for fellowship with other believers where we can share our stories of faith and encourage one another on this journey with Christ.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



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You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



ESSAY CONTEST : SECOND PLACE - JORDAN-AMMAN WEST-WILLIAMS

What does Thanksgiving mean to me? Thanksgiving means I must be grateful for what God has given me. It also means that I have to share what God has given me because Jesus did not have to provide me with anything. And for me, Thanksgiving is year-round because I have to think about who has less than I have and what I need to do to give back to my community.

Many people need help to make ends meet. There is a migrant family that has a dad, a mom, and two girls who stand outside of K and G on 76th and Stony Island. From my interactions with them, they are trying to survive. The children are a toddler, and the other is a pre-teen. I donated food for them to eat so they could have a meal once or twice a week for the past five months. I know what it means to be hungry, but I am grateful for my aunt, who will feed me McDonald's, Subway, and Popeyes when I want it. My Aunt June will slide me a gift card, but I do not see the migrants getting any food gift cards from relatives.

One day, my Nana and I drove by the migrant family in the parking lot, and the wind blew hard outside. I am grateful that I am in a warm car, but they were cold on the street. Their faces were red, and so were their hands. Nana drove to Dollar Tree and let me select the items I wanted them to have. I know what the girls in my class wear to school, so I chose things like that. I am grateful that God gave me eyes to see so I would know what girls like to wear.

We drove back to K and G, and I gave them gloves, hats, socks, and scarves to all of them. I gave the mother a shawl and felt bad we did not have enough money to buy the dad something warm to wear. I am grateful to God for prayer so I can keep praying for the dad to get some pants. I was so happy to give them these

items. They were not from Macy's or designer brands, but the smiles on the girl's faces made me happy! Thank God for giving me happiness from serving strangers. Some other Black shoppers were rolling their eyes at me and being evil with their mean looks at me, and ignored their ignorance. I am thankful that God stopped me from snapping at the evil women and staying focused on the migrant family. I was happy to see them with some of the items they needed. Thank God for empathy and compassion for others. I had been giving them things since June, and it was like we were having our own Thanksgiving when I shared my sandwiches, juices, fruit, water, and new clothing items.

Thanksgiving is a year-round holiday for me, even though we celebrate it every November. This year, we had a Thanksgiving holiday in June, July, August, September, and October, and we did not have to sit around a table. We celebrated right in the parking lot and God made sure everyone had something good to be grateful for.

We have not seen the migrant family in the last four weeks. WGN news says some of the migrants are going back to Venezuela. We do not know if they went or not. I thank God for giving me concern. I am deeply concerned about them. I pray that if they leave Chicago and America, they will make it back safely and will live a better life. I thank God for giving this family to me. They helped me learn not to assume anything about strangers and not to judge them just because they were not a Black Family from the 'hood.



The type of people that am thankful for are my mom, sister, auntie, cousins, friends and teachers. The reason I am thankful for them is because I can learn so much from each of them and they also take care of me. Especially my mom, I don't know what I would do without her, she is my biggest supporter. When I am sick, she makes me tea, soup and makes sure I am well rested. When I am having a bad day or feeling low, she always goes out of her way to make me feel better. She is not the type of person to not make sure I am ok, and I appreciate her for that.

I am also thankful for the life I have. There are a lot of people in the world both adults and children, who are suffering and are less fortunate than I am. I have a place to call home, food on the table every night, clothes on my back and I go to a good school to get an education. Many children in Gaza don't have that luxury. So, I am grateful I don't have to worry about the basic necessities of life and that feels good.

In conclusion, I know I have a lot to be thankful for and I pray that I never take any of it for granted as I know things can also be taken away. At night, before I go to sleep, I pray to God to thank him for the little things that he has blessed me with to show my gratitude. God has placed me right where I need to be in life to succeed. I have the best life and the best support system, and I can't thank him enough for that, I am truly blessed.



"The Three Kings" by Herschell Cage, Jr.
OLA Church Family Member and
1st place Honorable Mention for the Essay Contest



HOPE AND HEALING CIRCLE - JANUARY 13

Mark your calendars for January 13.

We will have a Hope and Healing Circle at Our Lady of Africa.

The ministry, going forward, will now be lead by Velma Hill.

To register, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 773-624-5375.

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2024
TIME: 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.



Coffee and Donuts Provided

PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH CHURCH

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



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

THEOLOGY ON TAP

*january 19
at 8pm*

*haymarket pub
737 w randolph st,
chicago 60661*





Birthdays

01/07 Edith Lane
01/08 Shawnece Wilson
01/09 Alicia Davis
01/12 Wendell Smith-Williams
01/15 Ed Scott
01/16 James Burgess

01/16 Clarisse D. Credit
01/16 Reggie Seay
01/18 Florence Person
01/19 James Brown
01/20 Shaka Rawls
01/21 Marcella Aguda

01/21 Jonathan McClure
01/23 Brenda Boston
01/25 LaTanya Berry-Johnson
01/27 Sonia Davis
01/31 Lillian Cherry
01/31 Samira Rawls

Mass Schedule

Sunday, January 7

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY

Readings: Is 60: 1-6/ Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2: 1-12

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, January 8

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - FEAST

Readings: Is 55: 1-11 or 1 Jn 5: 1-9/ Is 12: 2-3,
4bcd, 5-6 (3)/ Mk 1: 7-11

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

Tuesday, January 9

TUESDAY OF WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 1 Sm 1: 9-20/ 1 Sm 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1: 21-28

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

Wednesday, January 10

WEDNESDAY OF WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 1 Sm 3: 1-10, 19-20/ Ps 40: 2 and 5, 7-
8a, 8b-9, 10/ Mk 1: 29-39

Mass Intentions:

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

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

Thursday, January 11

THURSDAY OF WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 1 Sm 4: 1-11/ Ps 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1: 40-45

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, January 12

FRIDAY OF WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22a/ Ps 89: 16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2: 1-12

Mass Intentions:

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

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

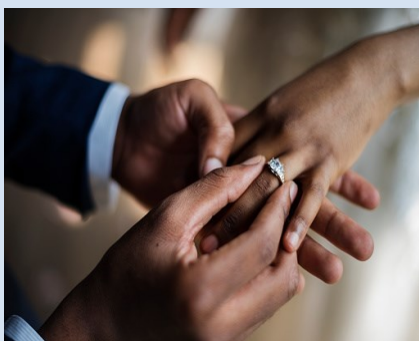
Saturday, January 13

SATURDAY OF WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 1 Sm 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1/ Ps 21: 2-3, 4-5,
6-7/ Mk 2: 13-17

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

Our Lady of Africa is THE place to have your Wedding!!



For all young couples discerning their future together, there is a lot of planning involved.

Along with the preparations for your wedding day, you should plan to meet with the priest and have wedding prep which should be about 3 months. The couple and priest would meet once a week, either in person or on Zoom to talk about their plans, their commitment to one another, and what the Sacrament of Marriage truly means. To discuss your future wedding plans, please contact Father Carl at the Parish Office: (773)624-5375