



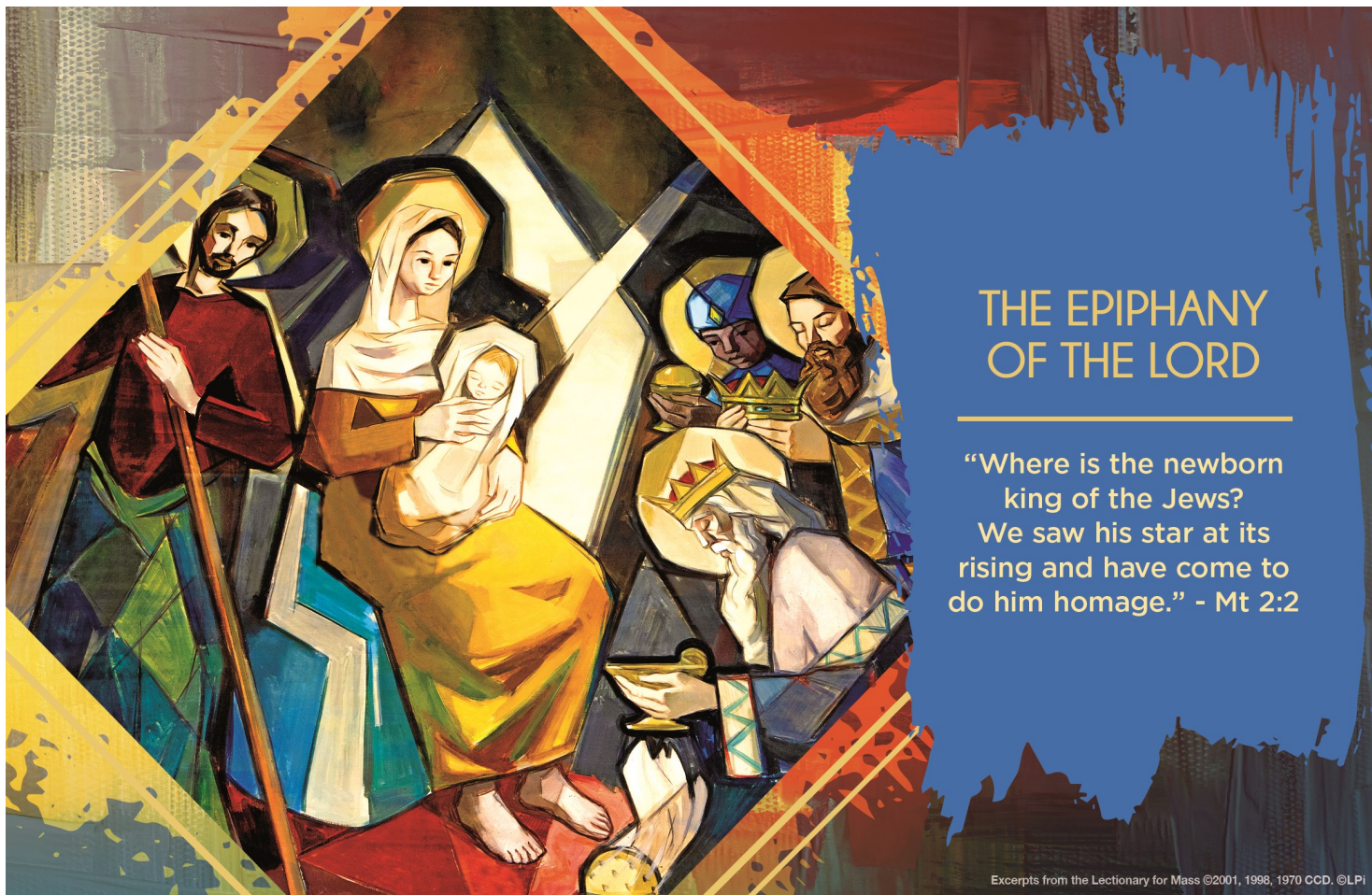
OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, January 8, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Where is the newborn
king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its
rising and have come to
do him homage.” - Mt 2:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©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 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 8

- KPCLA Meeting - after 9 a.m. Mass
| Parish Meeting Room
- First Communion - 10 a.m.
| Tolton Center
- RCIA - 10 a.m. | Parish Office
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall

Tuesday, January 10

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

Wednesday, January 11

- Bible Study - 11a.m | Parish Hall

Thursday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 14

- Virtus Training 10 a.m.– 1 p.m.
| Tolton Center
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish

Scriptures for the Week

Sunday, January 8

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60: 1-6/ Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13(see 11)
/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2: 1-12

Monday, January 9

The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10
(11b)/ Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday, January 10

Ordinary Time
Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5,6,7, 8-9 / Mk 1:21-28
or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/ Mk. 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 11

Heb 2:14-18/ Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/ Mk. 1:29-39

Thursday, January 12

Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 / Mk. 1:40-45

Friday, January 13

Heb 3:7-14 /Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7 / Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 14p

Heb 4:12-16/ Ps 19:8,9,10, 15 / Mk 2:13-17

Rest in the Peace of Christ

Sincere condolences to **Debra Crosby** and her family on the loss of her Grandson:

+Rakwan Courtney Crosby

Sincere condolences to the Holbert and Gueringer Families on the loss of:

+Thomas Holbert

Ministry List for Next Weekend

Saturday 4:p.m.—January 14

- Lectors: Art Reliford
Eileen Foggie

Sunday 9 a.m. - January 15

- Lectors: Parris Washington
Shirley McKinney

- Eucharistic Ministers:
Ladell Johnson
Eileen Foggie

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - January 15

- Lectors: Vita Faulkner
Silmon Reed

- Eucharistic Ministers:
Katie Jordan
Shawnece Wilson

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.

Special Prayer Request

Please pray for Deacon Manie's Older Sister, Aida Correa, who had a Heart Attack and mini stroke.

January Birthdays

1/07 Edith Lane
1/08 Mary Jefferson
1/08 Shawnece Wilson
1/12 Wendell Smith-
Williams
1/15 Ed Scott
1/16 James Burgess
1/16 Clarisse Credit
1/17 Norman Dunbar

1/18 Florence Person
1/19 James Brown
1/21 Marcella Aguda
1/23 Brenda Boston
1/25 LaTanya Berry-
Johnson
1/27 Sonia Davis
1/31 Lillian Cherry
1/31 Samira Rawls

Associate Pastor's Message



Father Carl Gales, SVD
Associate Pastor

Dear OLA Members,

Season's greetings and Happy New Year! I pray that God's abundant blessings will flow and flood your lives with the best health, peace of mind, and courage to begin again - in love, in that new chapter of your journey. God has given us so much to be thankful for. Let us begin this New Year with gratitude and uplifted hearts!

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your prayers for my sister, Dee Dee. I rushed home to Phoenix this past week to be with her while she was in the hospital suffering from pneumonia and heart failure. She is home now but her journey with her heart condition and lifestyle changes are just beginning. I thank you in advance for your continued prayers for her healing.

This New Year is teaching me the value of balance. Let's continue praying for one another and encouraging one another. This walk is always easier when we support each other.

In the Divine Word,
Fr. Carl Gales, 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
kwcluwpresident@gmail.com

Knights of Peter Claver

Thomas Rich - Grand Knight

Knights of Peter Claver Lady's Auxilliary

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

Seminarian

Frater 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



Reflection from Sr. Joanne Delehanty

Epiphany. Funny word that comes from Greek. It means show, or reveal or manifest. The feast celebrates that Jesus Christ was born for all people, not just those from the Jewish nation.

The characters in this Gospel story are called three kings, or teachers, or magi, or wise men. They traveled from the East because of a brilliant star. We picture camels and desert and royal clothing and gold, frankincense, myrrh. Everyone likes this story, a long journey with adventures. That's epic. There are even some riffs on it, like the story of the fourth wise man, or the opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors." That's because it's a great story, and great stories get repeated often and embraced across the world. It's a great story because all good stories are about something bigger than ourselves, that carry us into a future that is wide and deep and full of communion. And that is what Jesus Christ is all about: creating a Kingdom that is powerful in its inclusion and wonderful in the goodness of God reflected in people.

It is a feast of verbs: Go. Follow. Travel. Visit. Ask. Look. Adore. Give. Glorify. Action is required. It's also a feast of light, with a bright star, shiny gold, and glimmers of understanding and insight.

People have been journeying since way before the Wise Men, and we are still on the road, no strangers to journeying. We very likely recently journeyed to join family or friends over Christmas and New Year's. (Hopefully, no one was in the mess of journeyers at Midway!) We make shorter journeys to work and back, to church and back,

to the grocery store and back... And we take longer journeys for vacations, or to visit far-flung family members. We are used to journeys of all kinds: by plane, train, car, bus, bike, walking. Then there are the soul journeys, that deepen our faith and courage and forgiveness and love and resilience and wisdom, journeys that are both difficult and important. We even speak of dying as a journey, passing over. A great part of the message of today's Gospel story is that light is available to us for the seeking. We do not go unaccompanied. We need not be adrift. There is an end we aim for. That end is God, and that end gives meaning to our life journeys.

Something big is happening in the divine plan. God is calling us to act. Remember, the name of this feast comes from a Greek work that means show. So: Show up. Show out. Show the world what Kingdom-bringing behavior is. Add love and justice and kindness and honor and integrity and goodness to life as we all journey to God. Frederick Nietzsche (1844-1900), a critic of Christianity, once observed: "I might believe in the Redeemer if his followers looked more redeemed". Clearly we have work to do!

This feast does not just give us a reason to sing "We Three Kings of Orient Are" once a year. No. This story invites us to do something, and shine while we do it! So... Go. Follow. Ask. Look. Adore. Give. Glorify. Keep looking up. Look redeemed. More important: Act redeemed! Shine!





Shrine of the Three Wise Men at the Dom Cathedral in Cologne Germany



In 2017, I had the opportunity to visit the Dom Cathedral in Koln (Cologne) Germany. This Gothic structure took over 600 years to build and survived the bombings of World War II. Inside this great cathedral are the relics of the three wise men who visited Jesus on that fateful night in Bethlehem.

Their journey began in the East. Three wise men of science and nature were compelled to follow a star to the birth of a newborn king. Their journey took them through the desert, into the great city of Jerusalem where they met a puppet King who was fearful of losing power that he never had. From there, they arrived at a manager in a small town of no consequence to pay homage to a child born among animals in the comfort of hay. These scholarly men presented this child, only a few days old, with gold, to represent the kings of kings, frankincense, to represent the priests of priests, and myrrh as preparation for his sacrifice. Being told in a dream, the Maji returned to their homes in the east leaving King Herod only to guess what great simplicity they saw.

Over 200 years later, the bones of the wise men were collected from Constantinople and sent to Milan by oxcart and given to Constantine. In 1164

they made the final journey to Cologne and now pilgrims from all over the world come to visit the relics of the 3 wise men.

If one is lucky enough to visit on the feast day, January 6th, the Shrine where the relics are housed is opened and one can see three bronze skulls wrapped in silk. The shrine itself "is a large gilded and decorated triple sarcophagus placed above and behind the high altar of Cologne Cathedral."

To sit in the cathedral in the presence of this relic was both a highlight and a disappointment of my trip there. The highlight was this great find and knowing that I was near those who laid eyes on the baby Jesus. My disappointment was that I went to Cologne in March of 2017 and missed the opening of the Shrine by 2 months.

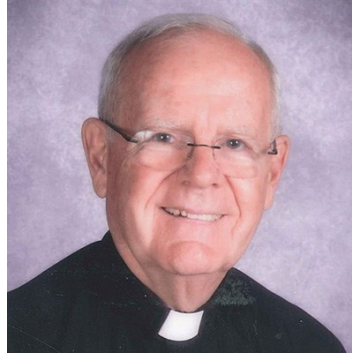
However, this experience not only deepened my faith but also reminded me that I am a part of the lineage of that great salvation history that began with Adam and continued with Abraham, David, and Joseph bringing us to Jesus and his sacrifice connecting us with wise men from the east traveling to the west to pay homage to the God-Child, Emmanuel.

Announcement

**The Men's Restroom will be CLOSED for remodeling.
The Women's restroom will be used by both Men & Women.
We ask for your patience during this time.
Please read the signs posted.**



Father Tracy's Reflection for The Feast of the Epiphany



The Epiphany is commonly known as the feast of the Three Kings. The scriptural text says nothing about the number three. It also makes no mention that they are kings nor anything about their racial makeup. These are various cultural expressions developed over the centuries. The Gospel message of the feast is about the universality of God's saving grace and love. All peoples are invited to the heavenly banquet.

Cultural and folkloric expressions have always enriched the proclamation of the Gospel. Often, these additions have been enlightening to the basic message of salvation. On the other hand, the message also has been deeply distorted with the overlay of pietistic exaggerations and even contradictions rooted in national and cultural prejudices.

One of the major hopes of Vatican II was to get us back to the central Gospel message, to put Jesus at the center. One of the most important developments of that holy gathering occurred a decade later when Pope Paul VI gave us one of the all-time great papal documents on the topic of Evangelization. Paul VI pointed out that the message of the Gospel is never free of cultural expressions but that we must work to always go beyond any cultural, national, or racial expression that limits the Gospel.

Whether it is the St. Patrick's Day Parade or the celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Cristo Negro of Esquipulas, or the celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes they all have a pull to limit the Gospel to some partial view of one group or nation. Today's feast of the Epiphany opens us up to universality. We are invited to include everyone. This is no small challenge.

At the center of today's feast is not the three kings, but the elusive truth that all human beings share a common dignity and destiny. Every human being is called to union with God. There is a gospel inclusiveness that is a never-ending

challenge to the followers of Christ. Our great obstacle is the endless ways that we divide and degrade, often in the name of Jesus.

Jesus relentlessly proclaimed the dignity of women and children. Jesus constantly attacked sin, disease and ethnicity as barriers to the common unity of all. The Church and all other religions and ideologies have struggled mightily down through history even to this morning's news with this call to universal acceptance.

Today's Gospel account of the Magi is much more than a lovely tale about strange visitors coming in an unexpected way to a poor family. This is a message of Good News that informs us that this child is the long-awaited Son of David, the promised ruler and savior of Israel. He will open the gift of salvation to all peoples. All are welcome at the table. There are no people without residential papers at the crib! All are welcome!

Today's Gospel tells us we need not travel far to seek Jesus. Exotic places do not have to be part of our search. The Epiphany, the revelation of Jesus, is always taking place during our life. Jesus is all around us. We need only look with faith to embrace Him in our brothers and sisters especially the poor and needy among us.

Some five decades ago, Vatican II stated the truth of this feast in this insightful and beautiful declaration:

"The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor and afflicted in any way, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts."

Gaudium et Spes, December 7, 1965

Requiescat In Pace



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Born: April 16, 1927

Died: December 31, 2022

Virtus Training Session



When: Saturday, January 14th, 2023

Where: Augustus Tolton Heritage Center

44 E 41st 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
Dywanda D. Gales
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 Reiser
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

