



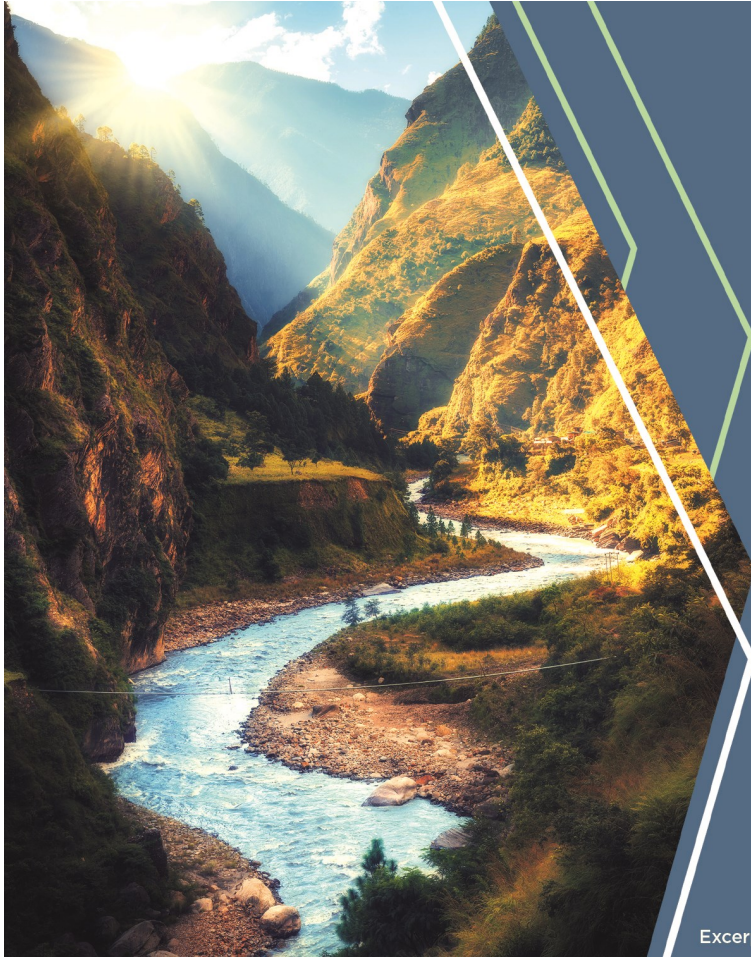
OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, July 2, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever gives only a cup
of cold water to one of
these little ones to drink
because the little one is a
disciple--amen, I say to you,
he will surely not lose his
reward.” - Mt 10:42

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.

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. - 3:30 p.m.

Office Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



This Week at OLA

Sunday, July 2

- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Tuesday, July 4

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**

Thursday, July 6

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center
- Chicago Help Initiative Meal and Resource Support - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Saturday, July 8

- Choir Rehearsal - 12 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 2 p.m. | Parish

Sunday, July 9

- Medical Ministry - after 9 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall
- Parish Formation Council Meeting
- after 9 a.m. Mass | Parish Office
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

JOIN THE OLA CHURCH FAMILY

Welcome to Our Lady of Africa! We are thankful and grateful for your presence.

Our Lady of Africa is striving to provide spiritual outreach and ministry to our church members and the community at large.

To become a member of our parish, please sign up in the Narthex or contact our Parish Office: (773)624-5375.

Stewardship

Offertory - June 24/25, 2023

\$ 3,535.00
~~\$ 650.00~~ - online offertory
\$ 4,183.00

Offertory - June 25/26, 2022

\$ 4,282.40
~~\$ 295.00~~ - online offertory
\$ 4,577.40

Expenses for June 2023 - to date

\$ 29,069.17

Thank you for your generosity!

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - July 8

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Shawnece Wilson
Ted Budzynski

Sunday 9 a.m. - July 9

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Don McKinney
Shirley McKinney
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Miriam Hunter
Gladys St. Leger

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - July 9

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Velma Hill
Silmon Reed
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Earlene Hodges
Regina Cook

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 1

- 4 p.m. Mass - Divine Word College Benefactors

Sunday, July 2

- 9 a.m. Mass +Mary Ann Clifford
(req. by Theresa Dishman)
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Fr. Bob Kelly, SVD
(req. by Theresa Dishman)

Monday, July 3

- Mary Crawford

Tuesday, July 4

- Kim Brooks & Wilbur Bourne (birthdays)

Wednesday, July 5

- Doris Whitaker

Thursday, July 6

- Bernadine McNeal

Friday, July 7

- Irene Dove

Saturday, July 8

- 4 p.m. Mass - Divine Word College Benefactors

Sunday, July 9

- 9 a.m. Mass - OLA Church Family
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - OLA Church Family

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. Mass stipends during the weekends (\$20 per intention) and during the weekdays (\$10 per intention) are the recommended donations.

Please submit a Mass Intention request by calling the Parish Office.

Happy Church Anniversary!



Dear OLA Church Family,

There is much to be grateful for. We enter into a new year with many plans and positive forward momentum. I pray that you feel that our sense of purpose and discipleship has brought us to a place that is empowering and full of new possibilities.

As we begin anew, I hope that you will feel free to express your desires and prayers for our church going forward. **To that end, on Saturday, August 19th, we will have a Town Hall Meeting.** It is a chance to express collectively where we have come from, where we are now, and what we plan to do for the growth, well-being and future of our OLA Church family. **The next day, Sunday, August 20th, we will have our annual church picnic.**

As we celebrate our history, we are grateful for what God has done and what God is doing. Active and present and always walking with us, let us be led by the Holy Spirit to new heights to become true disciples of the one who liberated us and set us free: Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

In the Divine Word,
Father Carl Gales, SVD

Want to become Catholic? Let's talk about OCIA***!

Becoming Catholic is to enter into history. You become linked to the earliest traditions that are at the roots of all Christian denominations.

What you will discover is that being Catholic unites all peoples all over the world. You will travel to one side of the world to the other and still experience the worship of the One Holy Catholic Church.

Beautiful in its unity and multifaceted in its diversity, Catholicism embraces the most humble to the richest philosophical and theological minds. In prayer and through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, the diverse gifts of each member shines through the ages in the history of the Saints.

If you would like to explore becoming Catholic, please let us know. You can contact the Parish Office (773) 624-5375 and start your process of discernment.

***** OCIA stands for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) . It was changed by the USCCB in November 2021.**

Sacrament of Matrimony

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

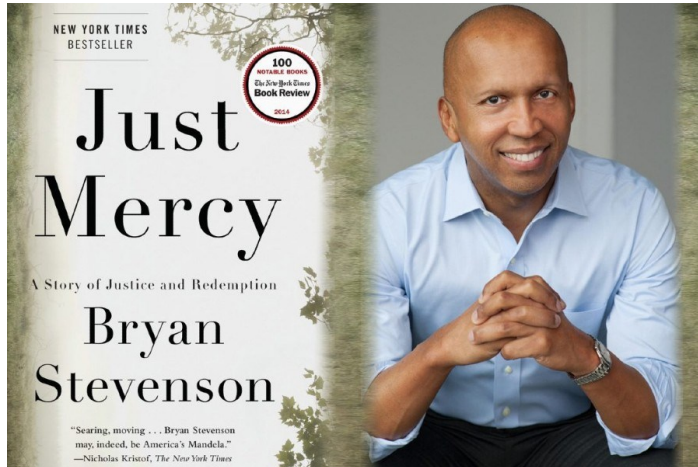


For all young couples discerning their future together, there is a lot of planning involved.

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



OLA Book Club - August 6 - SAVE THE DATE!



Our next book for the OLA Book club was selected after our second meeting on April 30th. We voted to read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 6th after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact the Parish Office and provide your email and phone number.

We look forward to seeing you and discussing this important piece of African-American literature!

June Birthdays

6/04 Louis B. Ray	6/16 James Teemer
6/05 Harolyn Cain	6/18 Trish Rawls
6/06 LaJeune Davis	6/22 Marcheta Smith
6/10 Sharon Binion	6/22 Glen Miller
6/10 Stephanie Gado	6/24 Monica Broderick
6/12 Deniece Thomas	6/24 Greg Chappell
6/12 Shirley McKinney	6/24 Clifford Doyle
6/14 Theresa Rich	6/29 Tyrone Smith

July Birthdays

7/01 Byron Diggs	7/20 Fr Bob Kelly, SVD
7/04 Kim Brooks	7/20 Gladys St. Leger
7/04 Wilbur Bourne	7/25 Deborah Powell
7/09 Linda Broadnax	7/26 Robyn Rogers
7/09 Rose Washington	7/27 Genoria Fields
7/13 Donald McKinney, Jr	7/28 Marilyn Massey
7/13 John Preston	
7/20 Debra Crosby	

Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, July 2

Readings: 2 Kgs 4: 8-11. 14-16a/ Ps 89: 2-3. 16-17. 18-19 (2a)/ Rom 6: 3-4. 8-11/ Mt 10: 37-42

OLA Book of Prayer: Louise Ray, Emma Stewart, Audrey Tuggle, Eryn Whitaker, Michael Williams

Monday, July 3

Readings: Eph 2: 19-22/ Ps 117: 1bc. 2/ Jn 20: 24-29

OLA Book of Prayer: Denise Lawson, Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

Tuesday, July 4

Readings: Gn 19: 15-29/ Ps 26: 2-3. 9-10. 11-12/ Mt 8: 23-27

OLA Book of Prayer: Elsie Freeman, Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

Wednesday, July 5

Readings: Gn 21: 5. 8-20a/ Ps 34: 7-8. 10-11. 12-13/ Mt 8: 28-34

OLA Book of Prayer: Janice Taylor, Tandra Watson, Arlene G. Williams, Diana Williams, Sunnette Varnado Smith

Thursday, July 6

Readings: Gn 22: 1b-19/ Ps 115: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9/ Mt 9: 1-8

OLA Book of Prayer: Cecelia Douglass, Eleanor Griffin, Jim Henkel, Janet James

Friday, July 7

Readings: Gn 23: 1-4. 19; 24: 1-8. 62-67/ Mt 9: 9-13

OLA Book of Prayer: Jan Johnson, Lugenia Lewis, Carolyn McQuenter, Michael Moore

Saturday, July 8

Readings: Gn 27: 1-5. 15-29/ Ps 135: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Mt 9: 14-17

OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Alfrances Sharpe, Deniece Thomas, Alice Thompson, Rachel Watson, Dorothy Williams

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

Clergy

Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
Parish Administrator
galesce0422@gmail.com
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

Knights of Peter Claver

Thomas Rich - *Grand Knight*

Knights of Peter Claver

Lady's Auxiliary
Lena Young - *Grand Lady*

Maintenance

Bobby Malone
Tyrone Smith

Medical Ministry

Dr. James Hunter

Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - *President*

Music Ministry

Maestro Tyrone Pittman

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

THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY





REGISTER NOW!!!

Our Lady of Africa Parish

THE CHICAGO
HELP
INITIATIVE



What: Community Meal & Resource Assistance

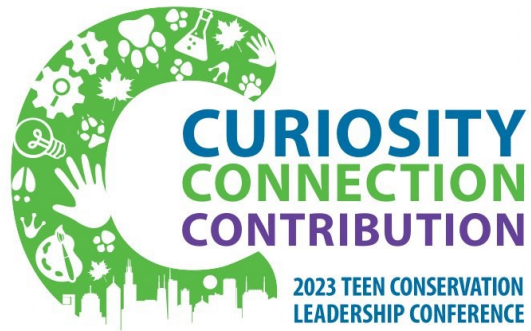
• Referrals and Assistance for Essential Resources like:

- Medicaid and SNAP signup help
- Government phone signup
- CHA housing application help

Where: Our Lady of Africa Parish
607 E Oakwood Blvd
Chicago, IL 60653

When: 1-3 PM, First Thursday of each month,
starting **July 6th & August 3rd 2023**

Interested in volunteering at a meal?
Contact Father Carl Gales at 773-624-5375



July 21, 2023: Conference Sessions at Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, Illinois

July 22, 2023: Community Action Day

The conference is being hosted by the Chicago Zoological Society's King Conservation Science Scholars with support from Lincoln Park Zoo's teen leaders. This year's theme, "Curiosity, Connection, and Contribution," is based on a natural leadership journey that inspires teens to champion, work toward, and make change. Conference attendees will connect with hundreds of emerging and seasoned teen leaders from around the Chicagoland area and beyond, and also have fun.

Kicking off this leadership conference will be a keynote speaker. Interactive sessions led by experts in community, conservation, and sustainability will encourage curiosity, amplify connections, and empower contributions that are authentic and personal.

The hybrid (live and online) Expo area will connect young people with internships, jobs, youth programs, and volunteer opportunities that promote connection and grow leadership skills. After interacting with a multitude of diverse voices, faces, and experiences, they will leave feeling invigorated and excited about their future contributions to the natural world.

There will also be the unique opportunity to join us at multiple locations around the Chicagoland area for a day of service known as our Community Action Day! Locations to be announced.

This year's conference is FREE!

Registration is essential as it covers:

- Admission to all sessions • Notification of all special events
- Conference Swag Bag • Lunch and snack • Raffle entry

Register at CZS.org/TeenConference





Dear Friends,

Today's gospel concludes Jesus' teaching on mission. It is clear that if we are going to walk with Jesus, we have a price to pay. Sacrifice and suffering are part of the journey. This is the way to life and freedom in the scheme of the gospel. The gospel law of love means that persons who seek only themselves are bound for ruin. Our salvation is found in moving out of ourselves in service and reconciliation. With the perennial challenge for racial justice, with drugs feeding the scourge of gangs and gun violence, with intensifying threat of climate change and just check your favorite media for the rest of our always growing chaos, we find ourselves on the edge of our calamity. Amazingly, the most realistic answer to our crisis is the call to a self-sacrificing witness proclaimed in today's gospel.

In this first mission, and all missions to follow, the priority is to be a witness, the personal integrity of the lives of the proclaimers. The message is always filtered through this personal commitment to Jesus. In our day, Pope Francis has made this truth a major part of his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel: "I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, time and schedule, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (#27).*

Today's seemingly severe words of Jesus about family are simply an invitation to put everything in order. When we love God first, not only do we love our family more, this love is more selfless and life-giving. This love is free of deception and illusion. I like to reflect about our encounter with God's will with this example. Each morning we wake up with a short note from God awaiting us on this imaginary table next to our bed. This divine text is our to-do list for the day. The top priorities are our relationships and our responsibilities. Each of the tasks for responsibilities and relationships identifies some people who our marvelous gifts

from God. Likewise, they present some people who are the cross that Jesus is talking about: **"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."** (Mt 10:38) *Each of us in the journey of life has created a network of folks of all different kinds who need our love and service. These specific persons are the clearest expression of God's will for us.*

The discipleship Jesus calls for enriches and expands our vision of the world. Our daily responsibilities of family, work, communal and social obligations open up to new horizons when we walk with Jesus. We are invited beyond the surface and outside the narrow limits of our selfishness. We are called to enter into the depths of life where we meet the wonder of God's love in the ordinary flow of life. Our task is to cross the "T" s and dot the "I" s to bring love to the concrete circumstances of our day.

Jesus makes it clear. We need sacrifice and deeper reflection to transform our lives with our families and our communal and professional responsibilities. This same sacrificial effort opens up how we relate to our neighbors including how we face the challenge of a world suffering that is immediately related to the indulgence of our lifestyle. Our consumer culture is always seeking to expand our desires. We are on the edge of destroying our planet. God's will is clear. Enough already!

Today's gospel tells us those who seek themselves are on the road to self-destruction. Our relationship with God, with our loved ones, with our life situation only finds life through self-giving.

"Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it."

Mt 10: 38-39 Jesus of the gospels is clear. The way to life is through sacrifice, self-denial and our daily cross. Our great and continuing temptation is to create a new Jesus in our own image that frees us from the clarity and immediacy of this potent message.