



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, July 30, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

- Mt 13:44

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 30

- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Ushers and Greeters Meeting
After 9 a.m. Mass | Chapel

Thursday, August 3

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon
| Tolton Heritage Center
- CHI Community Meal and Social Services
1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Saturday, August 5

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

Sunday, August 6

- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting
After 9 a.m. Mass | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- OLA Book Club - after 11:30 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall Side 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 - July 22/23, 2023

\$ 5,601.00
\$ 1,955.00 - online offertory
\$ 7,556.00

Offertory - July 23/24, 2022

\$ 8,633.00
\$ 540.00 - online offertory
\$ 9,173.00

Expenses for July to date 2023

\$ 24,285.75

Thank you for your generosity!

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - August 5

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Keith Wilson
Denise Wilson

Sunday 9 a.m. - August 6

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Parris Washington
Stephanie Gado
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Shirley McKinney
Barbara Hill

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - August 6

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Katie Jordan
Marcheta Smith
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Earlene Hodges
Regina Cook

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 29

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

Sunday, July 30

- 9 a.m. Mass - Caroline Freeman +
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Renault Robinson +

Please note: Mass during the weekdays takes place at the Rectory for now.

Monday, July 31

- 8 a.m. Mass - Gregory Papesh

Tuesday, August 1

- 8 a.m. Mass - Cynthia Thompson

Wednesday, August 2

- 8 a.m. Mass - Eryn Whitaker

Thursday, August 3

- 8 a.m. Mass - Elsie Freeman

Friday, August 4

- 8 a.m. Mass - Doris Humphries

Saturday, August 5

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

Sunday, August 6

- 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.



Dear Friends,

Today is the third Sunday of parables in chapter thirteen in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Many scholars of the Bible say today's parable of the treasure is the most important of all the parables.

It begins with the statement, **"The kingdom of heaven is like..."** (Mt. 13:44). In the three Synoptic Gospels this phrase, "the kingdom of heaven" or "kingdom of God" in Mark and Luke, is at the center of Jesus' teaching and ministry. It is God's plan in Jesus to overcome evil with love. It is a process of liberation from all the consequences of sin. It is the restoration of the total harmony and goodness of Paradise. Jesus' miracles all manifest God's saving presence bringing wholeness and freedom. The ultimate expression of the inflowing of divine power is in the conquest of death in the Resurrection.

The kingdom is God's gift. We do not earn it but we need to be open to its call. The kingdom allows us to enter and participate in the very life of God. The kingdom is walking with Jesus letting the values of the gospel message fill our heart and life.

The kingdom is not something we do. It is God calling us to participate in God's saving action in human history. The threefold action of today's parable is finding-selling-buying. It is a basic method of how we share in the life of God. It is the process of our personal transformation. This means moving from the deceiving world of our self-absorption to the truthful world where God is the center of reality. This affects everything that we experience in a new way. The threefold action of finding-selling-buying unveils our experience of God in our daily life. The treasure before us is the Good News of Jesus. It is the wonder of being able to love and be loved. This invites us into an entirely new world of service and compassion, reconciliation and healing, mercy and justice.

In chapter thirteen of Matthew the phrase "kingdom of heaven" appears nine times. So, the question for us is, how does the simple little story of the found treasure connect us to this great saving and liberating action of God revealed in Jesus? The parable of the treasure, more clearly than most other parables, tells us

how we experience God and what we need to do to respond to this glorious call.

The finding is the very common human encounter with someone or something. The encounter touches the deepest hunger in the human heart. It might be an event as profound as falling in love, having a child or losing a loved one. Or it may be a bit more mundane like deciding to go to college or becoming more active in the parish or community. Endless expressions of this finding fill our human journey. They all, simple or profound, are the action of God's grace. God is never finished in his calling and coming into our life.

To get hold of the gift, we need to sell. We need to make space in our heart. We need to die to our comfort and control. Our responsibility is to accept the fact that our little world needs a real change. We need to expand our horizons. In the end, selling costs no less than everything because I make space for God and space for us to operate according to God's will.

When we accept the challenge, we become free and empowered to enter into a new world, a new reality where God takes a more prominent place of honor that leads us to action for the kingdom. This is the buying.

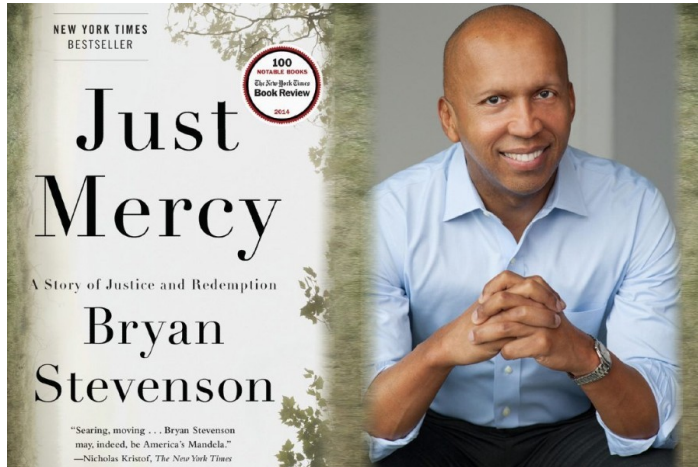
The finding-buying-selling process is an essential part of any authentic spiritual life, our search for God. The most critical part is this. All creatures either help us to seek God or they are an obstacle. Our joy is to bring all these relationships to people, things, ideas and whatever else occurs in our life into proper order. All either help us or hinder us in our quest for God. When we have our finding-selling-buying in order, we are on the road to the kingdom.

The threefold process never ends. It is all leading to a personal and social transformation called the kingdom of heaven in the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The parable of the treasure with its simplicity exposes how we experience God in the normal course of our daily life. It is an unending call that comes from a gracious God to tap the deepest hunger in our restless hearts. The ultimate and most complete expression of the treasure is Jesus.



OLA Book Club - THIS SUNDAY!!!!



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 this 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!

August Birthdays

8/05 Connie Holt
8/05 Linda Steward
8/08 Barbara Hicks
8/08 LaTonya Virgil
8/14 Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP

8/14 Rita Holland
8/18 Rebecca Danforth
8/21 Florine Brown
8/26 Courtney McEwen
8/30 Donna Howard



Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, July 30

Readings: 1 Kgs 3: 5. 7-12/ Ps 119: 57. 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130 (97a)/ Rom 8: 28-30/ Mt 13: 44-52
OLA Book of Prayer: Cecelia Douglass, Jennifer Lacey, Eleanor Griffin, Jim Henkel, Janet James

Monday, July 31

Readings: Ex 32: 15-24. 30-34/ Ps 106: 19-20. 21-22. 23/ Mt 13: 31-35
OLA Book of Prayer: Denise Lawson, Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

Tuesday, August 1

Readings: Ex 33: 7-11; 34: 5b-9. 28/ Mt 13: 36-43
OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P., Alfrances Sharpe, Deniece Thomas, Alice Thompson, Rachel Watson, Dorothy Williams

Wednesday, August 2

Readings: Ex 34: 29-35/ Ps 99: 5. 6. 7. 9/ Mt 13: 44-46
OLA Book of Prayer: Louise Ray, Emma Stewart, Audrey Tuggle, Eryn Whitaker, Michael Williams

Thursday, August 3

Readings: Ex 40: 16-21. 34-38/ Ps 84: 3. 4. 5-6a and 8a. 11/ Mt 13: 47-53
OLA Book of Prayer: Elsie Freeman, Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

Friday, August 4

Readings: Lv 23: 1. 4-11. 15-16. 27. 34b-37/ Ps 81: 3-4. 5-6. 10-11ab/ Mt 13: 54-58
OLA Book of Prayer: Janice Taylor, Tandra Watson, Arlene G. Williams, Diana Williams, Sunnette Varnado Smith

Saturday, August 5

Readings: Lv 25: 1. 8-17/ Ps 67: 2-3. 5. 7-8/ Mt 14: 1-12
OLA Book of Prayer: Jan Johnson, Lugenia Lewis, Carolyn McQuerter, Michael Moore

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

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





THE CHICAGO POLICE 002ND DISTRICT PRESENTS

NATIONAL NIGHT

OUT 2023



FREE



FRIENDS | FOOD | FAMILY FUN

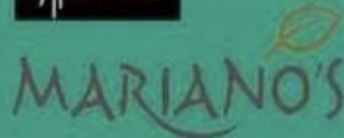
Joined by hundreds of Families every year!
Will you join them this year?!

All ages Welcome

Save the date

AUGUST 1ST | 3:00 - 7:00 PM -- TAYLOR PARK 39 W. 47TH ST.

For More Info contact CAPS:
caps.002district@chicagopolice.org
312-747-5109





OLA TOWN HALL MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023
9 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE SIGN UP
IN THE NARTHEX,
OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE:
773-624-5375

-PARISH-
PICNIC

©LPi

SUNDAY
AUGUST 20th

12 Noon to 4pm
Tolton
Heritage
Center

FOOD, FUN, DANCING
50/50 RAFFLE
BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES



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,
AUGUST 3, 2023

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