



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, March 12, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

GIFT



“If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

JOHN 4:10

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, March 12

- OCIA - after 9 a.m. Mass
| Parish Hall Room
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation - Lenten Retreat &
Reconciliation - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

- Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall

Thursday, March 16

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line - 9 a.m.
- Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Friday, March 17

- Stations of the Cross - 12 noon | Parish
Lenten Soup and Bread to follow
- Stations of the Cross - 6:30 p.m. | Parish
Light Supper and Fellowship to follow
Provided by the Men's Coalition

Saturday, March 18

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

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 contact our Parish Office Administrator, Ms. Shirley McKinney at 773- 624-5375.

Inspirational Quote for the Week

"Let us also recognize our truest destiny, our deepest vocation: to be loved, to be transformed by love, to be transformed by the beauty of God. " *Pope Francis*

Ministry List for Next Weekend

Saturday 4 p.m. - March 18

- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams
Silmon Reed

Sunday 9 a.m. - March 19

- Lectors: John Preston
Anthony Williams
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Frater Zachary Smith, SVD
Barbara Edwards-Hill

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - March 19

- Lectors: Mary Johnson
Lisa Pruitt
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Trish Rawls
Stephanie Inis

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 11

- 4 p.m. Mass +Deacon Willie Foggie, Jr.
(req. by Marcheta Smith)

Sunday, March 12

- 9 a.m. Mass +Floyd Cavin
- 11:30 a.m. Mass +Michael Hill, Jr.

Monday, March 13

- Alice Thompson

Tuesday, March 14

- Jean Porter

Wednesday, March 15

- Michael Burt

Thursday, March 16

- McShan Family

Friday, March 17

- John Littleton

Saturday, March 18

- 4 p.m. Mass - OLA Church Family

Sunday, March 19

- 9 a.m. Mass +Dennis Wallace
(req. by Joyce Wallace)
- 11:30 a.m. Mass +Carl Edward Gale, Sr.
(req. by Marcheta Smith)

Please Pray For the Following

- Diana Williams is in the hospital and is requesting prayers for her recovery.
- Lolita Brown Thompson is in the hospital suffering from chest pains and back problems. Please pray for her continued recovery and rehabilitation.

The Wisdom of Bees by Fr Rick Andrus SVD



My dad has bees. Today, I went to his house and he showed me all of the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off of a 5 gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were 3 little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.

I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside.

Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside.

We put the 3 little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate. My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was

happening. These three little bees were surrounded by all of their sisters (all of the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off of their bodies. We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

Bee Sisters. Bee Brothers. Bee Teammates.

We could all learn a thing or two from these bees.

Bee kind always.~



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 mail to: **Our Lady of Africa Parish**
615 E Oakwood Blvd
Chicago, IL 60653

Or Scan this QR Code





Stations of the Cross



Stations OF THE CROSS

Mark your calendars for the Fridays of Lent

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 17
MARCH 24
MARCH 31

There will be Food and Fellowship
immediately following.

Stations of the Cross is a great devotion that we pray especially during the Season of Lent.

Fourteen Stations that follow in Christ's footsteps
in His Passion and Death.

SAVE THE DATE

NEXT SUNDAY - MARCH 19th - IS OUR YOUTH MINISTRY BOWLING OUTING

AT SEVEN TEN SOCIAL

1055 E. 55th Street Chicago, IL 60615

WE HAVE EIGHT LANES RESERVED FROM 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
SHOE RENTALS ARE FREE

\$15 PER CHILD/PERSON

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!

Lenten Virtual Bible Study

Join the Lenten Bible Study online every Thursday of the Lenten Season at 6 p.m. until the 30th of March. The series will be presented by Father Charles Smith, SVD who heads the Bowman-Francis Ministry.

To register and download the study guide, please go to: www.bowmanfrancis.org

March Birthdays

3/05 Raymond Hillard	3/18 Vivian Clark
3/06 William Higginbotham	3/19 Willa Biglow
3/08 Michelle Farrar	3/22 Patricia Anderson
3/09 Virginia Coleman	3/23 Jayden Banks
3/12 Cassiette West-Williams	3/28 Rosemary Gardner
3/13 Barbara Hill	3/29 Juanita Hern
	3/31 Judith Easter





Dear Friends,

Today's story of the Samaritan woman is the first of three episodes addressing our sinful humanity and the call to salvation this Lenten Season. The blind man and the raising of Lazarus are John's two other powerful invitations into the saving experiences of Jesus that we encounter in our life.

There is level after level of messaging in today's Gospel. I hope to ponder the beauty of being drawn into a saving dialogue with a very persistent God. Jesus is talking about thirst which is a very appt symbol for the deepest yearnings of the human heart.

Right off, the woman basically rejects any kind of dialogue. For a man and woman to be talking in public was a gross violation of a deep sexual taboo. Then add the Jewish and Samaritan elements of hostility and you have an explosive situation. It is as if she says to Jesus, "You truly are one ignorant hombre to ask me for a drink. Do you have any idea how much trouble this can bring to both of us?"

Jesus cuts through her defenses for the first of many times. He asks about her husband. She goes theological on him to avoid this delicate topic. Her relationships are the last thing she wants to talk about. Nor does it seem to be Jesus' concern. With the woman and with us Jesus' agenda is about the possibilities of the future not the often painful issues of the past. Mercy is quite accessible with Jesus.

Jesus persists. As before, He takes her response and goes deeper and His truth bubbles to the surface. Eventually, she takes a sip. It frees up her fears and resistance. She soon discovers she is on to something good here. She is a great example in contrast to the leaders of

the Jews. In spite of the personal cost, she is open to the dialogue and exposure to some painful self-awareness. She is a model for us. We, too, thirst for truth, understanding, mercy, a change of heart and a new beginning.

As she finally opens herself up to Jesus, she experiences a new freedom and a power beyond her dreams. She casts off the burden of her disgrace and all the other destructive baggage that was her life along with the hurt in her heart.

She embraces the living water of Jesus and begins to grasp that this is what she had always been seeking in the confusion and self-deception that had been the driving force of her life. Now, our Samaritan friend becomes a disciple to her townsfolk. She understood that the living water of Jesus was a gift of salvation to be shared with all.

As Jesus had said earlier to the first disciples, she now proclaims to her townsfolk, "Come and see!" (John1:39) They do, and are joyful in what they find.

This is a story of salvation and how it works. It is our story. Our God is a patient and insistent God who is open to our search, accepts us in our brokenness and has a permanent invitation to the living water. As with the Samaritan woman, who is a symbol of sinful humankind, God is waiting for us. The dialogue and interplay with the reality of our life experience are pregnant with the possibility of the new life that the living water brings. As we gradually surrender our fears and defenses, we are able to admit and name our thirst. It is of such depth and magnitude that only Jesus can quench it with the power of His word that is the living water.

Health Prevention Series



Dr. James Hunter, M.D.

On March 18th, **Dr. James Hunter, M.D.** (OLA Church Member) will deliver a presentation on "Allergy and Asthma: How to Live With It".

Please register for this session by signing up in the Narthex or calling the parish office: (773) 624-5375

SAVE THE DATE!!!
"ALLERGY AND ASTHMA: HOW TO LIVE WITH IT"
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023
10 a.m. to Noon
OLA Parish Hall

Upcoming Event



On March 25, 2023, we will begin a monthly Hope and Healing Circle at Our Lady of Africa.

The circle is usually made up of 12 to 15 individuals and is meant to offer a space for hope and healing for those who are dealing with grief and in need emotional support.

The ministry will be lead by Sr. Janet Ryan and Velma Hill. To register, please contact the parish office.

DATE: MARCH 25, 2023

TIME: 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH HALL

Please Remember in Daily Prayer

Sunday, March 12

Readings: Ex 17: 3-7/ Ps 95: 1-2. 6-7. 8-9/
Rom 5: 1-2. 5-8/ Jn 4: 5-42
OLA Book of Prayer: Mary Crawford,
Nazaree Fuller, Mable Gray, Marjorie Heard

Monday, March 13

Readings: 2 Kgs 5: 1-15b/ Ps 42: 2. 3; 43: 3. 4/
Lk 4: 24-30
OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Eleanor Doidge,
Tyrone Fuller, Bettie Green, Lorraine Henderson,
George James

Tuesday, March 14

Readings: Dn 3: 25. 34-43/ Ps 25: 4-5ab. 6 and
7bc. 8 and 9/ Mt 18: 21-35
OLA Book of Prayer: Cecelia Douglas,
Dywanda D. Gales, Eleanor Griffin, Jim Henkel,
Janet James

Wednesday, March 15

Readings: Dt 4:1. 5-9/ Ps 147: 12-13. 15-16. 19-20/
Mt 5: 17-19
OLA Book of Prayer: Irene Dove,
Rosemary Gardner, Barbara Golden,
Kelly Robin Hill, Leslie Jackson

Thursday, March 16

Readings: Jer 7: 23-28/ Ps 95: 1-2. 6-7. 8-9/
Lk 11: 14-23
OLA Book of Prayer: Judith Easter,
Frederick Gibson, Anna Marie Hampton,
Rita Holland, Mildred Jackson

Friday, March 17

Readings: Hos 14: 2-10/ Ps 81: 6c-8a. 8bc-9.
10-11ab. 14 and 17/ Mk 12: 28-34
OLA Book of Prayer: Elsie Freeman,
Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

Saturday, March 18

Readings: Hos 6: 1-6/ Ps 51: 3-4. 18-19. 20-21ab/
Lk 18: 9-14
OLA Book of Prayer: Andre D. Golden,
Catherine Harper, Doris Humphries,
Therese Jessie, Gloria Leonard

Sunday, March 19

Readings: 1 Sm 16: 1b. 6-7. 10-13a/ Ps 23: 1-3a. 3b
-4. 5. 6 (1)/ Eph 5: 8-14/ Jn 9: 1-41
OLA Book of Prayer: Nolan Humphries,
Cindy Jirsa, Monica Lewers, Bernadine McNeal,
Jeff Moore



I'll Hold Your Hand

Let Our Lady of Africa Parish Medical Ministry support you as you receive your COVID-19/Flu vaccine and/or booster shot.



Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023

Time: 10:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: 615 E. Oakwood Blvd, Chicago, IL 60653

- Anyone age 6 months and older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- All Chicagoans age 5+ should get a COVID-19 booster dose at least 5 months after completing their initial vaccination series
- Anyone age 50 and older or people over the age of 12 who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get a second mRNA booster (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 4 months after their first booster dose

Members of Our Lady of Africa Parish are available to hold your hand and offer support as you get your shot.

Call (773) 642-6532 to secure your appointment.

Protect Yourself, Your Loved Ones, Your Community





HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 1/2

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS - 4 p.m.

SUNDAY - 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. Ghanaian Mass

6 p.m. French Speaking Community



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6

SEDER MEAL - 5 p.m.

MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER
and FOOT WASHING
7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7

SOLEMN STATIONS
OF THE CROSS
3 p.m.

THE LORD'S PASSION
7 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL APRIL 8

7 p.m.

EASTER RESURRECTION SUNDAY APRIL 9

9 a.m and 11:30 a.m.

Ghanaian Mass - 1:30 p.m.

Igbo Mass - 2:30 p.m. at Tolton Center Chapel

French Mass - 5:00 p.m. OLA



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



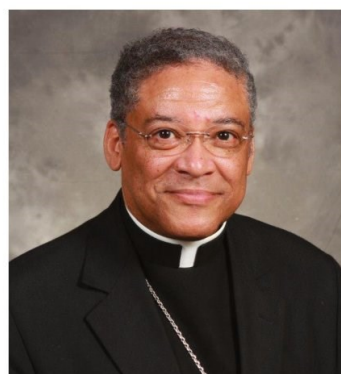
Evenings with Venerable Augustus Tolton



A five-part series featuring Bishop Perry

Join Bishop Joseph Perry at the Tolton Heritage Center in Chicago to learn about Venerable Augustus Tolton, the first recognized African American Roman Catholic priest. He is on the road to canonization. These events will include a short video, a presentation by Bishop Perry and plenty of time for conversation.

All events are free



Starting on March 8 | 4 – 6 p.m.

Tolton Heritage Center

44 East 41st Street, Chicago, IL 60653

March 8 The Man, Not Myth

Fr. Augustus Tolton's story begins more than a century ago, yet it remains relevant today. Who was Augustus Tolton? What does his life story teach us?

March 29 Tolton Spirituality

Fr. Augustus Tolton led an extraordinary and exemplary life. What tenets guided this former slave turned engaging Catholic priest? Is it possible to lead a holy life as Tolton did?

April 12 Spreading the Word

Venerable Augustus Tolton: The pioneer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate. Discover how Tolton's legacy extends beyond Catholics, and why everyone should know about his impact.

May 3 Embodying Forgiveness

Today, there are deep divisions in this country. What does Fr. Tolton's life teach us about forgiveness and understanding that would move us toward healing?

May 10 All Things Tolton

You've probably heard a lot about Tolton or perhaps nuggets about several organizations bearing his name. Learn about the various groups and how they work together to advance Tolton's legacy.

Sponsored by the **Tolton Spirituality Center**. Register at www.toltonspirituality.org under Events.



Our Lady of Africa
WE ARE ONE
Holy, Catholic & Apostolic
Ecclesial Community



coalition for spiritual
& public leadership

PRESENTS A

PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2023

6:30 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 6:00 PM

OUR LADY OF AFRICA | 607 E OAKWOOD BLVD

CSPL and Our Lady of Africa invites members of the community to a public meeting with the two remaining mayoral candidates to share our vision for the City of Chicago

www.csplaction.org

REGISTER HERE:

bit.ly/csplolapublic



Parish Directory



Baptisms

Tina Carter
tinalcarter71@gmail.com

Blessed Sacrament Society

Tasha McShan - *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 Auxiliary

Lena Young - *Grand Lady*

Maintenance

Bobby Malone
Tyrone Smith

Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - *President*

Music Ministry

Maestro 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

OLA Book Club



Our next book for the OLA Book club was selected after our first meeting on the 22nd of January. We voted to read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.

Our next meeting will be on April 23 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!



Creation Care Corner



*"...the environment
is God's gift to everyone."*

— Pope Benedict XVI

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Lent is coming. Consider a "fast" for Creation Care... sacrificing some comfort, giving up a wasteful practice, or modifying your actions to reduce harm to the environment. Some ideas include:

- **A Meat Fast:** How about adding a meatless Monday to meatless Fridays? What about eating only chicken when you do eat meat, or sustainably caught fish?
- **An Energy Fast:** How about turning the thermostat down 2°-5°F lower than usual and putting that sweater on? And maybe turn the water heater down to 120°F and only take 3-minute showers?
- **A "Stuff" Fast:** Buying only the bare minimum of essentials you need and simplifying your life? And how about staying away from as much plastic as you can and minimizing your waste stream?



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Kolbe House Jail Ministry

Palm Sunday Prayer Walk at Cook County Jail

Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m.
2810 South Sacramento Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608

Let us commemorate the beginning of Holy Week with a prayer walk around Cook County Jail with Kolbe House Jail Ministry. We will reflect on Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, as well as his own arrest and detention, as a call to unite in our commitment to defend the human dignity of those incarcerated and promote reconciliation and healing for all those impacted by the criminal justice system.

Parking is available on Sacramento Avenue, as well as in the parking lot of La Villita Park at 3018 South Albany Avenue. For more information, contact Emily Cortina at ecortina@kolbehouseministry.org.

All ages are welcome.
Please bring your own palms.

Scan the QR code to
the right for more
information or to register.

