



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, March 19, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that  
they had thrown him  
out, he found him and  
said, “Do you believe in  
the Son of Man?”  
- Jn 9:35

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, March 19

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

### Tuesday, March 21

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

### Wednesday, March 22

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

### Thursday, March 23

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

### Friday, March 24

- 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 25

- Mobile Food Pantry - 10 a.m. to noon  
| Tolton Center
- Hope and Healing Circle - 9:30 to noon  
| Parish Hall
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 2 p.m. | Parish

### Sunday, March 26

- OCIA - after 9 a.m. Mass  
| Parish Hall Room
- COVID/Flu/Booster Shots Available  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation - 1:30 p.m. | Tolton Center
- Public Meeting of Mayoral Candidates  
3:00 p.m. | Holy Angels Catholic School



## Inspirational Quote for the Week

**"When the Lord calls, he always does so for the good of others, whether it is through the religious life, the consecrated life, or as a lay person, as the father or mother of a family. The goal is the same: to worship God and to do good to others." Pope Francis**

## Ministry List for Next Weekend

### Saturday 4 p.m. - March 25

- Lectors: Theresa Rhea  
Ted Budzinsky

### Sunday 9 a.m. - March 26

- Lectors: Debra Causay  
Patricia Brown
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Rosemary Sykes  
Sonia Davis

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - March 26

- Lectors: Marcheta Smith  
Liz Mardis
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Sharon Binion  
Lena Young

## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, March 20

- Lugenia Lewis

### Tuesday, March 21

- Sr. Mary Pokorny

### Wednesday, March 22

- Gloria Leonard

### Thursday, March 23

- Sheila Williams

### Friday, March 24

- Rita Holland

### Saturday, March 25

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

### Sunday, March 26

- 9 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College Benefactors
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - CLA Church Family

## Please Pray For the Following

Sr Mary Pokorny, Lolita Brown Thompson,  
Lugenia Lewis, Tarik Causay, Diana Williams,  
LaKeith Brooks

## A Word from Father Carl



**Father Carl Gales, SVD**  
**Associate Pastor**

I know it's been a while since you've heard from me. I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the cards, gifts, prayers and support that you have shown and expressed during this time of grief for myself and my family.

As you are well aware, I have presided over many funerals and I have tended to many people in various stages of illness and bereavement. And even this could not prepare me for the depth of sorrow and sadness I felt when I learned my dad had died.

Over the next few weeks, I will still need to "lean" on God and "lean" on my church family. Although my dad is no longer physically here, I believe that my dad is resting and at peace. I thank you for your continued prayers for his soul.

The beauty of our Catholic faith teaches us that death is change...not ended. When we say goodbye to our mortal frames, it is only to say "yes" to our soul's journey to our Heavenly Father.

I pray that each and every one of you be blessed beyond measure and filled with abundant grace for your care and sympathy extended to me and my family.

In Christ's love and peace,

Father Carl

## 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**



©LPi





## Stations of the Cross



# Stations OF THE CROSS

Mark your calendars for the Fridays of Lent

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

**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.

## 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

### HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6

SEDER MEAL - 5 p.m.

MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

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

# PASCHAL TRIDUUM





**Gardis Watts**

We live in a society that believes that certain people are cursed because of choices they made in their lives. I remember back in the 1980s at the height of the AIDS epidemic when many evangelical Christian ministers were making this crisis as a curse from God on homosexuals. It was immediately debunked when it started spreading rapidly to heterosexual people. I've heard many times that people who are homeless are lazy because they refuse to get a job. Not realizing that homelessness is a result of extreme poverty that is not caused by sloth. There are times where black people are denied opportunities because they are told that they lack intestinal fortitude. However, the system of racism exists and its purpose is to deny black people opportunities and resources. These are just a few examples of a narrow view we have of those people we can easily disparage. And because of our simplistic belief of people's suffering, we ignore social sins and lay the blame on the victims.

In this week's Gospel reading, we find Jesus and his disciples encountering a destitute beggar who has been blind his entire life. The disciples ask Jesus who was at fault for his blindness. They felt either his parents or the beggar did something wrong that made God so angry that he cursed this man to blindness. Jesus' answer to them was that neither the blind man nor his parents are at fault. Jesus then cures the man of his blindness. Once the blind man's sight is restored, some of the Jews who recognized him were initially in denial when they saw his sight was restored by passing it off as someone who looked like the blind beggar. The Pharisees questioned him about how his sight was restored, and he proclaimed Jesus as the one who cured him. They were so pessimistic of the miracle that the Pharisees questioned his parents and they verified

that he was blind at birth. Despite this testimony from the parents, they still did not believe Jesus performed this miracle because they still insisted he is a sinner and sinners are not granted this type of mercy from God. While the Pharisees rejected the man's claim, the man believed that Jesus was from God.

Most of us in this society is blind to social sins because we refuse to see them and those who suffer from them. We want to believe that sin is just a personal issue, which it is. Unfortunately, sin also is a collective problem as well. Part of this is caused by a lack of love and mercy to one another. It is this spiritual darkness that does not allow us to see ourselves as a society. Once we are in the light of Christ, we are able to see the moral decay of this world and bring a light to others to usher in a just society. That same light that is talked about in our second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians where everything exposed by light will be visible. Jesus' healing of the blind man not only exposed the man's eyes to the world, but it exposes the readers to the Pharisees' hatred of Jesus and their animosity toward the man's gift of sight.

The Pharisees went to extreme lengths to try and discredit this miracle. Much of this antipathy is from an envious position that the man did not deserve such a blessing. Yet, Jesus chose him and showed enough love and compassion to heal this man from his blindness. Jesus did not choose him because of his moral status but to be an example of God's saving work. God can choose any of us for his divine work no matter who we are or what we did in the past. God can choose the ones who society deems as not worthy of the calling. In the first reading from the First Book of Samuel, David is chosen as the anointed one out of all his brothers despite him being the youngest and having the lowly job as a shepherd.

Today, many of us are blind to the grace and mercy of God. When we refuse to see one another as children of God we apply partisan judgment on those who really need the love of God the most. As the world continues to languish in darkness, let us be instruments of light to one another. Let us see the light of Jesus so we would not turn a blind eye to injustice. And let us be part of the miracle by turning the 'blind in spirit' to Jesus so he can open their eyes as he did the blind man.

## 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: 9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M.**

**PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH HALL**

## Please Remember in Daily Prayer

### **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

### **Monday, March 20**

Readings: 2 Sm 7: 4-5a. 12-14a. 16/ Ps 89: 2-3. 4-5. 27 and 29/ Rom 4: 13. 16-18. 22/Lk 2: 41-51a  
OLA Book of Prayer: Jan Johnson, Lugenia Lewis, Carolyn McQuerter, Michael Moore

### **Tuesday, March 21**

Readings: Ez 47: 1-9. 12/ Ps 46: 2-3. 5-6. 8-9/ Jn 5: 1-16  
OLA Book of Prayer: Pamela Jones, John Littleton, Anastacia Mebane, Euphrasia Mutinda

### **Wednesday, March 22**

Readings: Is 49: 8-15/ Ps 145: 8-9. 13cd-14. 17-18/ Jn 5: 17-30  
OLA Book of Prayer: Susan Larry McKeever, Betty Lumpkins, Judy Michaelis, Maria Jossey Owen

### **Thursday, March 23**

Readings: Ex 32: 7-14/ Ps 106: 19-20. 21-22. 23/ Jn 5: 31-47  
OLA Book of Prayer: Denise Lawson, Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Gregory Papesch, Clara Reisner

### **Friday, March 24**

Readings: Wis 2: 1a. 12-22/ Ps 34: 17-18. 19-20. 21 and 23/ Jn 7: 1-2. 10. 25-30  
OLA Book of Prayer: Majorbelle James, Annette Lee, Gail McGruder, Argentry Mitchell, Minnette Penman

### **Saturday, March 25**

Readings: Is 7: 10-14; 8: 10/ Ps 40: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. 11/ Heb 10: 4-10/ Lk 1: 26-38  
OLA Book of Prayer: McShan Family, Geraldine Moore, Allen Peoples, Phyllis Shackelford

### **Sunday, March 26**

Readings: Ez 37: 12-14/ Ps 130: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8/ Rom 8: 8-11/ Jn 11: 1-45  
OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Jamie Phelps, OP, Alfrances Sharpe, Alice Thompson, Rachel Watson



Get Your Shots Today!



# *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





## Perspectives on the Gospel Readings - Marcheta Smith



**Marcheta Smith**

Rejoice, Rejoice, and again, I say Rejoice!

As a kid I could never figure out why we called this Rejoice Sunday. I mean I understood that the Latin name meant rejoice but it still didn't make sense to me. Who rejoices in only "halfway there" instead of "done and over with?" Lent was only half over, Easter is still not here. We had "no meat Fridays" and fasting. Halving your allowance for the alms giving. Sr. Dawn expected us to rejoice and be happy. That Lent my class felt especially put upon since she had added to our joy, with our parents' permission and help. Our class was not allowed to buy snacks during recess/lunch during Lent because of prior transgressions against ourselves and Sr. Dawn. And half of the money that you saved from not buying snacks was supposed to go into the class alms jar. We were not a joy-filled class that Lent. We had the lunch/recess time to eat in silence and contemplate how you would we make amends to Sr. Dawn by the end of Lent.

Right now, as you think about this Fourth Sunday of Lent, what gives you Joy? What are you Rejoicing in? *(write the answer down and put it to the side)* It took me about ten years after that Lent to come up with an answer for why to Rejoice this Sunday. I (We) rejoice in God's love for me (us). Today's scripture readings, living the Christian life and Sr. Dawn have all something in common. They all share movement. We have to be willing and able to move so that we can transform our lives and the lives of those around us. My class acknowledged our faults and confessed and changed our ways so that we were renewed by Easter Monday. We Christians rejoice in God's love for us! We know that God loves us because it has been revealed in Jesus, who through his Passion, Death and Resurrection has reconciled us with God and to one another.

In the First Reading we are reminded that what we see is not necessarily what we will receive. "Man see's the appearance, but God sees into the heart". Samuel saw Eliab and by his appearance assumed he was the chosen one. God rejected him and had Samuel anoint David. The Second Reading reminds us that; "We were once darkness, but we are now light in the Lord". Saying "yes" to Christ helps us move from blindness to light. It says that we choose to see with our hearts rather than by appearance. That we choose to see and not be blind. The Gospel reminds us that "we can still see and be blind..." Jesus says that he "came into the world for Judgement, so that those who do not see, might see, and those who do see might become blind". Now take out your notes again and answer these questions. Who have you judged lately? Who have you talked about because of their sexual identity? hair color(s)? race? immigration status? appearance? status etc. What causes that blindness in us? What causes us to have that attitude or sour disposition? What causes us to think we are better than or even more holy or closer to God then the stranger, alien, or fellow church members?

Indeed, my brothers and sisters, The Scriptures let us know that if we say yes to God, we can move from blindness into the light, where we find not only God's love but his Mercy, compassion and forgiveness that we have to extend to one another.

REJOICE. REJOICE, and again I say REJOICE!





## 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 Cassette West-Williams	3/28 Rosemary Gardner
3/13 Barbara Hill	3/29 Juanita Hern
	3/31 Judith Easter

Please notify the Parish Office if you have a birthday and you would like to be in our Birthday Calendar.

## 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!

## 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



## Public Meeting at Holy Angels Catholic School



*Our Lady of Africa*  
**WE ARE ONE**  
Holy, Catholic & Apostolic  
IN Unity, Faith & Charity



**coalition for spiritual  
& public leadership**

PRESENTS A

# PUBLIC MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2023

3:30 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 3:00 PM

HOLY ANGELS SCHOOL | 750 E. 40TH ST.

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](http://www.csplaction.org)

## REGISTER HERE:

[bit.ly/csplolapublic](http://bit.ly/csplolapublic)







# Mission Experience to Jamaica

Sponsored by Divine Word Missionaries  
Vocation Office

**June 19 - 27, 2023**

Get ready for an adventure! There are many needs in Jamaica. People need adequate housing, kids need help in school and others just need someone to care. This is your chance to make a difference. **Apply today!**



Join a group of volunteers and assist the **Divine Word Missionaries** in southeast Jamaica in their day-to-day ministries. Activities include:

- Building a house
- Parish maintenance
- Bible Study with youth
- Visit a school
- Assist with food program
- Other day-to-day activities

## Program Goals

The goals are to expose those interested in the missionary work of the Church to the day-to-day activities of some missionaries, to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries, and learn more about Jamaican language and culture.

## Mission Jamaica

Divine Word Missionaries staff seven churches in Jamaica. Three are in the civil parish of St. Thomas and four are in the greater Portmore area in and around the city of Kingston. This mission experience will be centered at St. Patrick Parish in Portmore/Kingston.

Divine Word Missionaries participate in a great diversity of ministries with the poor and marginalized, including the youth and elderly. Our missionary priests and brothers invite you to work alongside them in their ministries to serve those in need in Jamaica—to get off the sidelines and no longer be a spectator, but be an active minister of God's love.

## Housing

During your stay in Jamaica, volunteers will stay at St. Patrick Parish Rectory. Accommodations are modest, but adequate. Each volunteer will have his/her own bed, though some may be a mattress on the floor. The team will prepare meals from funds provided by participants. Most evenings will be spent with fellow volunteers and missionaries discussing the day's experiences and learning more about the missionary work of the Church.



## Apply Today!

Please contact:

Mr. Len Uhal  
Divine Word College Seminary  
PO Box 380  
Epworth, IA 52045  
800-553-3321  
luhal@dwci.edu

## Dates/Schedule

### June 19 - 27, 2023

June 19: Arrival and Orientation  
June 20 - June 26: Mission Jamaica  
June 27: Return to the States

## Cost

The cost of the Mission Experience trip is approximately \$1,000.

This includes air travel plus \$400. The \$400 covers the cost of housing, meals and travel while the group is in Jamaica. It also includes the cost of some supplies and materials for the housing project. Other travel is at the participant's expense.

Partial scholarships are available.

## Participation Criteria

The Mission Experience trip is planned principally with Catholics in mind, but can accommodate people of other faiths under special circumstances. In addition, those wishing to participate must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a passport to travel outside the country
- Be physically able to participate in manual labor (painting, carrying up to 40 pounds, etc)
- Have health insurance or purchase insurance
- Sign a liability waiver





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](mailto: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.

