



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, March 24, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



HOSANNA!

— MARK 11:9 —

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

©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 Sunday)
2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*last two Sundays*)
6:00 p.m.—French (*1st Sunday*)
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10 a.m.
Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
Or by appointment (773)624-5375

Parish Administrator

Father Carl Gales, SVD

Contact Us

Phone: 773-624-5375
Email: ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com
Mail: 615 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60653

Church Address

607 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60653

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Website

www.ourladyofafricachicago.com



This Week at OLA

Sunday, March 24—PALM SUNDAY

- First Communion Class | 10 a.m.
| Tolton Center
- Ushers & Greeters Meeting | 10 a.m.
| Marian Chapel
- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Tuesday, March 26

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

Wednesday, March 27

- OCIA Meeting | 6 p.m. | Parish Hall
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, March 28

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line | 9 a.m.
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967
- Food Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon
| Tolton Center
- **HOLY THURSDAY**
Light Meal: 6 p.m.
Mass of the Last Supper: 7 p.m.

Friday, March 29

- **Stations of the Cross | 3 p.m. | Church**
- **GOOD FRIDAY**
Passion Service: 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 30

- **EASTER VIGIL: 7 p.m.**

Sunday, March 31 RESURRECTION SUNDAY

- **EASTER MASSES:**
9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. (Igbo)

Attendance March 16/17

4 p.m. Mass	26
9 a.m. Mass	92
11:30 a.m. Mass	182
TOTAL	300

Homeless and Migrants

Thank you for your continued support of the homeless and migrants.

Your donations are really helping and they are really grateful.

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Thursday 7 p.m. - March 28 —HOLY THURSDAY

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Christine Davis-Stewart
Donna McFarlane Perissee
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Shirley McKinney
Eileen Foggie

Friday 7 p.m. - March 29—GOOD FRIDAY

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Deacon: Rev. Michael Foggie
- Lectors: Miriam Hunter
Eileen Foggie
Speaker: Katie Jordan

Saturday 7 p.m. - March 30 —EASTER VIGIL

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: 1st-Dr. Dorothy Williams
2nd-Theresa Rhea
3rd-Dr. Denise Wilson
4th-Dr. Keith Wilson
Epistle: James Asenso

Sunday 9 a.m. - March 31—EASTER SUNDAY

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Larry Carter
Jennifer Lacy
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Miriam Hunter
Gladys St. Leger

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - March 31—EASTER SUNDAY

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Jamil Wilson
Shawnece Wilson
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Regina Cook
Earlene Hodges

Stewardship

Offertory - March 16/17, 2024

\$ 7,705.00
\$ 1,055.00 - online offertory
\$ 8,760.00

Offertory - March 18/19, 2023

\$ 5,030.00
\$ 1,670.00 - online offertory
\$ 6,700.00

Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)
\$ 8,760.00- Total Offertory
\$ **5,663.08**

Thank you for your generosity!

Palm Sunday Reflection (Phillipians 2:6-10) - Gardis Watts



On Palm Sunday, we find the faithful commemorating Jesus' celebratory entry into the city of Jerusalem. This is signified by the waving of palm leaves given to the congregation upon the opening procession of the Mass. But as the Mass proceeds into the gospel reading, the mood gets somber. At the gospel reading, there is an active participation by the congregation of the reading of the Passion of Christ. These are the events of Jesus' time in Jerusalem all the way up until his death.

While I typically reflect on the gospel reading, I want to direct my focus on the second reading, which is a passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians. In the second reading, most biblical scholars call this passage the "Christ Hymn" of the Philippians. It is called this because the writing is poetically written by Paul describing the greatness of Jesus. This can be broken into two major parts. The first three verses is where Paul describes Jesus' humility. The last three verses explain his exaltation by God. This message lays into the heart of what Palm Sunday is about. Jesus accepting his role as a human is why he is the Christ. In accepting this role as a human, Jesus lowers himself to save humanity. If he is going to save humanity, Jesus must serve humanity. And in order to serve humanity, Jesus had to be with the people. Being with the people not only meant his presence among them but also being with them in their struggles. He took on their struggles to an extreme degree where he accepted one of the most barbaric forms of torture in human history and that is death on a cross.

What Paul conveys in this reading is what Jesus taught to his disciples in his earthly ministry. He expressed to them that the greatest among you is the servant to all and those who humble themselves will be exalted (Matt 23:11-12). This timeless message that Paul passes to the followers of Christ in his day is the main principle of discipleship. And this type of concept can only be led by love. A love that is selfless and unconditional. It is the Greek word *Agape*, which is an *unselfish love*. *Jesus models this love to us by his teachings, actions and his very presence.*

As we approach the conclusion of the Lenten season, let us reflect on our transformation we attempted to undertake in order to improve our spiritual lives. And as we contemplate our trials this Lenten season, let us improve on our successes and reduce our failures beyond the 40 days. More importantly, we must ask ourselves this question: Are we doing this in love? And not just any love, but *Agape love*. *Jesus, being the epitome of this type of love, gives us this love not to keep for ourselves but to give to others to radically transform a world that is lacking this love. Historian Dr John Henrik Clarke once said, "If you want to change the world, you need to change yourself. And if you want to change yourself, you must first love yourself."*

God Loves a Cheerful Giver - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

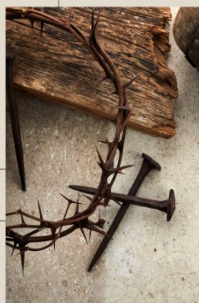
March 24

9 & 11:30 a.m.



Holy Thursday, March 28

7 p.m.



Good Friday

March 29

3 p.m. Stations

7 p.m. Service

Easter Sunday

March 31

9 & 11:30 a.m.



Easter Vigil

March 30

7 p.m.



**O DEATH, WHERE
IS YOUR STING?**

OLA MUSICAL GALA RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE!!!

**GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!!
SUPPORT THE OLA MUSIC FUND!**

OLA MUSICAL GALA RAFFLE PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE: \$2,000

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000

THIRD PRIZE: \$500

**ONE TICKET: \$25
FIVE TICKETS: \$100**

DATE OF RAFFLE: APRIL 19, 2024
**ORDER ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE, BY ZELLE,
AFTER MASS, OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE!**

March Birthdays

3/05 Raymond Hillard
 3/06 William Higginbotham
 3/08 Michelle Farrar
 3/09 Virginia Coleman
 3/12 Cassiette West-Williams
 3/13 Barbara Edwards-Hill
 3/18 Vivian Clark

3/19 Willa Biglow
 3/22 Patricia Anderson
 3/23 Jayden Banks
 3/28 Rosemary Gardner
 3/29 Juanita Hern
 3/31 Judith Easter

Mass Schedule

Sunday, March 24

PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Procession: Mk 11: 1-10 or Jn 12: 12-16.
 Mass: Is 50: 4-7/ Ps 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/ Phil
 2: 6-11/ Mk 14: 1 -- 15: 47

Mass Intentions:

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors
 9 a.m. | OLA Church Family
 11:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

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

Monday, March 25

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Readings: Is 42: 1-7/ Ps 27: 1, 2, 3, 13-14/
 Jn 12: 1-11.

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

Tuesday, March 26

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Readings: 2 Sm 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16/ Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5,
 27 and 29/ Rom 4: 13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1: 16, 18-21,
 24a or Lk 2: 41-51a

Mass Intentions:

10:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family
OLA Book of Prayer: Denise Lawson,
 Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

Wednesday, March 27

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Readings: Is 50: 4-9a/ Ps 69: 8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33
 -34/ Mt 26: 14-25

Mass Intentions:

6:30 p.m. | OLA Church Family
OLA Book of Prayer: Elsie Freeman,
 Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

Thursday, March 28

HOLY THURSDAY

Readings: Ex 12: 1-8, 11-14/ Ps 116: 12-13, 15-
 16bc, 17-18/ Jn 13: 1-15

Mass Intentions:

7:00 p.m. | OLA Church Family
OLA Book of Prayer: Jan Johnson,
 Lugenia Lewis, Carolyn McQuerter,
 Michael Moore

Friday, March 29

GOOD FRIDAY

Readings: Is 52: 13 -- 53: 12/ Ps 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-
 16, 17, 25/ Heb 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9/ Jn 18: 1 -- 19: 42

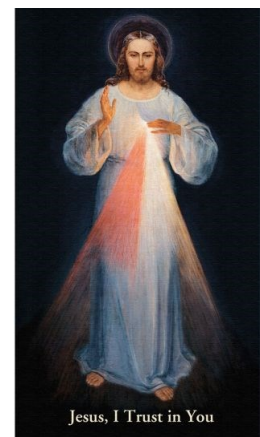
OLA Book of Prayer: Janice Taylor,
 Tandra Watson, Arlene G. Williams,
 Wanda Finney

Saturday, March 30

EASTER VIGIL

Readings: Gn 1: 1 -- 2: 2 or 1: 1, 26-31a/ Ps 104: 1-2,
 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33: 4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20
 -22/ Gn 22: 1-18 or 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 16:
 5, 8, 9-10, 11/ Ex 14: 15 -- 15: 1/ Ex 15: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
 17-18/ Is 54: 5-14/ Ps 30: 2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13/ Is 55: 1
 -11/ Is 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6/ Bar 3: 9-15, 32 -- 4: 4/ Ps 19: 8,
 9, 10, 11/ Ez 36: 16-17a, 18-28/ Ps 42: 3, 5; 43: 3, 4
 or Is 12: 2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51: 12-13, 14-15, 18-19/
 Rom 6: 3-11/ Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ Mk 16: 1-7

OLA Book of Prayer: Willa Biglow, Edith Lane
 Alfrances Sharpe, Rachel Watson,
 Dorothy Williams





EASTER IS THE SEASON OF BAPTISMS

THE NEXT BAPTISM DATES ARE FAST APPROACHING!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED,
NOW IS THE TIME TO SCHEDULE AND MEET WITH TINA CARTER,
OUR BAPTISM COORDINATOR AND CATECHIST.

EMAIL: TINALCARTER71@GMAIL.COM

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jesus answered (Nicodemus), "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." -John 3:5

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd edition paragraph 1215 states "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

It is through this sacrament of initiation that we enter a new life with Christ and fellow believers.

Faith communities are built and nourished with committed believers. At Our Lady of Africa, it is important that we share what the sacred gift of Baptism has brought us and develop a deeper faith-filled relationship with all those who wish to have their children baptized. We are a faith family of believers and for any relationship to grow, it requires commitment, attention, and mutual intentional care. In that light, parents who desire Baptism for their child must be parishioners at Our Lady of Africa, attend Mass regularly, and attend a mandatory baptismal preparation class.

Baptism requests will be confirmed upon submission of the following requirements:

1. Completion of the application.
2. Parents and Godparents attend Baptismal Prep Class.

Families can decide to have the class via Zoom or meet in person with Ms. Carter. Only 1 Godparent is needed, but 2 are acceptable. Godparents should attend the class even if they will not be physically present on the day of the Baptism.

Requirements for Godparents

The Catholic Church requires the following of Godparents: (canon 874.1)

The godparents are to be chosen by the parents or guardians. They are to be at least sixteen years of age. They must be Catholics who have already been confirmed and have received the holy Eucharist. They should be leading a life in harmony with the faith, i.e., practicing Catholics (attending Mass), if married, in a valid Catholic Marriage, etc. They may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. You may choose one or two godparents. If you choose two, one must be male and the other female. The godparents must have the qualifications and intention to carry out this duty.

PLEASE NOTE:

****Non-Catholic Witness (Can.874.2)** A baptized person from a non-Catholic ecclesial (church) community may be admitted as a witness to baptism but only with a Catholic Godparent. This person is not formally called a Godparent but will be referred to as a Christian Witness.

Children aged 5 and up are encouraged to attend Sunday school regularly to help them also learn about their faith.

Adults interested in Baptism are encouraged to enroll in the Order for Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) and will be baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Public Baptisms (baptisms during Mass) are available at the following times within the next two months:

April 14th, May 26th,

Private baptisms are also available by appointment.

The suggested donation offertory for baptisms is \$50.00.

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 several times, either in person or on Zoom to talk about their plans, their commitment to one another, what the Sacrament of Marriage truly means, and complete the necessary steps to get married. To discuss your future wedding plans, please contact Father Carl at the Parish Office: (773)624-5375

Mass Intention Envelopes Available

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 is the suggested donation per intention) and during the weekdays (\$10 recommended per intention) are available.

Please submit a Mass Intention request by filling out an Mass Intention Envelope and calling the Parish Office to confirm the scheduled time: 773-624-5375.

DIVINE MERCY - FRIDAY ADORATION & DEVOTION - WILL RESUME



“COME AND SEE”
JOHN 1:29-34

“STAY WITH ME FOR
ONE HOUR”
MATTHEW 26:40-45

**FRIDAY ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR APRIL:
APRIL 5TH, APRIL 12TH, APRIL 26TH
6:30 PM**



Social Justice Story Time



Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Join our social justice story time for our youngest friends on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the King Branch of Chicago Public Library. We share stories, songs, and rhymes around a specific theme. Come and make new friends and learn more about a social justice topic. Our theme for April will be "Celebrate the Earth." This event is aimed at children aged 2-6. This will be co-hosted by Our Lady of Africa Social Justice Ministry and Chicago Public Library King Branch, which is located at 3435 S. King Dr.

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,

Tiffany Swann-Covington

Shawnece Wilson

Clergy

Fr. Carl Gales, SVD

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

IT Crew

Gloria Dean - *Lead*

Knights of Peter Claver

Thomas Rich - *Grand Knight*

Knights of Peter Claver

Lady's Auxiliary

Lena Young - *Grand Lady*

Maintenance

Tyrone Smith

Medical Ministry

Dr. James Hunter

Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - *President*

Music Ministry

Maestro Tyrone Pittman

OCIA

Kimberly Brooks

Social Justice and Peace

Byron Diggs - *Co-Chair*

Parris Washington - *Co-Chair*

School and Church Liaison

LaTanya Berry-Johnson

Sunday School

Eileen Foggie

Tolton Ambassador

Jennifer Iwuchukwu

Tolton Heritage Center

Regina Cook

773-268-1518

Ushers and Greeters

Jackson Lucas

Youth Ministry

Taleah Cage

Silmon Reed