



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, May 28, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



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.

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.

Business Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



This Week at OLA

Sunday, May 28

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

Monday, May 29

OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 30

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

Thursday, June 1

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

Saturday, June 3

- Holy Angel's 8th Grade Graduation
11 a.m. | Parish
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server Training - 2 p.m. | Parish
- First Communion - 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Sunday, June 4

- First Communion - 10 a.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center
- Parish Finance Council Meeting - 10 a.m.
| Parish Office
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Retreat - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center

Stewardship

Offertory - May 21/22, 2023

\$6,332.00
\$1,855.00- online offertory
\$8,187.00

Offertory - May 22/23, 2022

\$6,680.80
\$ 680.00 - online offertory
\$7,360.80

Payroll for May 2023

\$20,557.26

Expenses for May to date

\$23,626.50

Weekly average of expenses

\$10,700.20

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - June 3

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors:

Sunday 9 a.m. - June 4

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors:
- Eucharistic Ministers:

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - June 4

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors:
- Eucharistic Ministers:

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 27

- 5 p.m. Mass +Ranie Pearl Crumpton
(Grandmother of Fr. Manie Manuel)

Sunday, May 28

- 9 a.m. Mass +Ella Mae Crossley
Requested by Sharon Crossley-Neal
- 11:30 a.m. Mass +Lula Pearl Graves
Requested by Katie Jordan

Monday, May 29

- Allen Peoples

Tuesday, May 30

- Alfrances Sharpe

Wednesday, May 31

- Susan & Larry McKeever

Thursday, June 1

- Lydia Clark

Friday, June 2

- Patricia Williams

Saturday, June 3

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

Sunday, June 4

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





God's continued blessings upon you and your ministry to the People of God.

You have been a blessing to the OLA Church Family and we pray that your next chapter of ministry will be full of grace and God's continued favor!

You are a priest forever
according to the line of Melchizedek!
Ad multos annos!

HOPE AND HEALING CIRCLE - JUNE 10

Mark your calendars for June 10th!!

We will have our second 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 of emotional support.

The ministry will be lead by Sr. Janet Ryan.

To register, please email Sr. Janet:
janet@pbmr.org



DATE: JUNE 10, 2023

TIME: 9:30 A.M. to 11 A.M.

PLACE: OUR LADY OF AFRICA PARISH CHURCH



Parish Finance and Parish Formation Council Update

In the next few months, OLA will have two provisional councils for the Parish and for Finance. They will be provisional until OLA has been assigned a pastor.

The purpose of the provisional councils is to establish norms, protocols, and vision for a shorter amount of time: one year. It will be for the elected parish council members to establish a longer range plan for their respective terms (2-3 years).

The finance council and parish council will be chosen by the eventual pastor.

For the provisional finance council, we will have a first meeting on June 4, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Parish Office.

For those with a background in finance, law, business, and /or accounting, please contact Fr. Carl by phone or by email: galesce0422@gmail.com.

June Birthdays

6/04 Louis B. Ray

6/05 Harolyn Cain

6/06 LaJeunee Davis

6/10 Sharon Binion

6/10 Stephanie Gado

6/12 Deniece Thomas

6/14 Theresa Rich

6/16 James Teemer

6/18 Lutricia Thomas-Rawls

6/22 Marcheta Smith

6/24 Monica Broderick

Please contact the Parish Office
so that we can know and celebrate your Birthday.
Thank you!

Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, May 28

Readings: Acts 2: 1-11/ Ps 104: 1. 24. 29-30. 31. 34/
1 Cor 12: 3b-7. 12-13/ Sequence Veni Sancte
Spiritus/ Jn 20: 19-23

OLA Book of Prayer: Ophelia Adams,
Louise Bates, Arthur Brooks, Esperanza Carr

Monday, May 29

Readings: Gn 3: 9-15. 20 or Acts 1: 12-14/ Ps 87: 1-
2. 3 and 5. 6-7/ Jn 19: 25-34

OLA Book of Prayer: Curtis Albright,
Myra Baugh, Patricia Brown, James Burgess,
Russell Carter

Tuesday, May 30

Readings: Sir 35: 1-12/ Ps 50: 5-6. 7-8. 14 and 23/
Mk 10: 28-31

OLA Book of Prayer: Dorla Allen, David Berry,
Roscoe Burns, Lillian Cherry

Wednesday, May 31

Readings: Zep 3: 14-18a or Rom 12: 9-16/ Is 12: 2-
3. 4bcd. 5-6/ Lk 1: 39-56

OLA Book of Prayer: Patrice Anderson,
Mary Berry, Michael Burt, Michael A. Clark

Thursday, June 1

Readings: Sir 42: 15-25/ Ps 33: 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/
Mk 10: 46-52

OLA Book of Prayer: Jessie Andrews,
Helen Brooms, Dean Brazier, Lydia Clark

Friday, June 2

Readings: Sir 44: 1. 9-13/ Ps 149: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6a
and 9b/ Mk 11: 11-26

OLA Book of Prayer: James Barker,
Christine Brown, James Brazier, Willie B. Clay

Saturday, June 3

Readings: Sir 51: 12cd-20/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10. 11/
Mk 11: 27-33

OLA Book of Prayer: Donald Barner,
Barbara McGee-Berry, Marilyn Campbell,
Catherine Crosby, Wanda Finney

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
Administrator
galesce0422@gmail.com
Fr. Manie Manuel, SVD
Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.
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

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

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.

THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Your continued ministry of giving to support Our Lady of Africa Parish can be done by going to the following links:

<https://donate.holyangelschicago.com/give>

QR Code



By Mail:

Our Lady of Africa Parish
615 E Oakwood Blvd
Chicago, IL 60653

Thank you for your generous giving of Time, Talent and Treasure!

Visit us on Facebook: Our Lady of Africa Chicago | 5



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY)

Archdiocese of Chicago's Response to Sexual Abuse of Minors

Early and Decisive

1991

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin convened lay commission to review the Archdiocese of Chicago's procedures for handling accusations of sexual abuse.

1992

The Archdiocese of Chicago put in place policies and procedures to address allegations and issues related to sexual abuse of minors.

The Archdiocese of Chicago created the first Office of Victim Assistance Ministry to provide direct outreach and support to victims-survivors and their families.

The Archdiocese of Chicago created an independent office (now known as the Office of Child Abuse Investigations and Review) to receive allegations of abuse of minors by clergy.

1993

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Independent Review Board convened to review allegations of abuse and to make direct recommendations of the accused clergy's fitness for ministry to Cardinal.

Comprehensive and Sustained

The Archdiocese of Chicago created the **Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY)** in 2003 to bring together the various ministries within the archdiocese that had been operating to ensure the archdiocese is a safe place for children. The following offices work together to stay current on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse:

Office for Assistance Ministry (OAM) personnel reach out and extend supportive services to victims-survivors from the moment they come forward with an allegation of clergy sexual abuse. This includes traveling throughout the country



Healing Garden at Holy Family Church in Chicago.

February 2023



with personnel from the Office of Child Abuse Investigation and Review (CAIR) to meet with and listen to victims-survivors. OAM personnel also provide the opportunity for victims-survivors to get independent professional counseling from fully accredited therapists. Additionally, OAM personnel have worked in collaboration with victims-survivors to respond to their need for healing. This has led to the development of the Healing Garden, annual Mass for Hope and Healing and Pinwheel Service for Child Abuse Prevention, victim-survivor led peace circles, and the Healing Voices magazine. To date over 400 victims-survivors and family members have been served by OAM personnel.

Office of Child Abuse Investigation and Review (CAIR) is headed by a lay professional who provides a compassionate and thorough process for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse against archdiocesan personnel. Archdiocese personnel notify public authorities of all reports of possible abuse of any kind and from any date, regardless of legal requirements.

- The Director of CAIR serves as staff for the Independent Review Board, which is an advisory board for the Cardinal. The Board's main charges are ensuring the safety of children and determining a cleric's fitness for ministry. Over 230 recorded Board meetings have been held. The Board has determined 296 allegations of abuse to be substantiated and determined 75 allegations of abuse to not be substantiated.

Safe Environment Office personnel provide resources to educate archdiocesan clergy, employees and volunteers on how to prevent child sexual abuse, how to recognize sex offender behavior and how to create safe environments for children and youth.

Since 2003 more than 3,700 training sessions in the archdiocese have been held training more than 263,000 adults.

- Archdiocesan parishes and schools are required to provide valuable training to children and youth on how to recognize, respond and report grooming or abuse.
- Safe Environment Office personnel also screen, through name-based background checks, all clergy, employees and volunteers. Office personnel also receive and review fingerprint results for school personnel.

- All employees and volunteers who work with children and youth in the archdiocese must submit a CANTS (Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking Systems) Form.
- All employees and volunteers in the archdiocese must abide by the archdiocese's Standards of Behavior.
- The archdiocese requires Mandated Reporter Training for all clergy, school personnel, religious education personnel, youth ministers and coaches as part of the archdiocese's Safe Environment Compliance.

Priest Monitoring Program is the Archdiocese of Chicago's stringent monitoring program of clergy with substantiated cases of sexual abuse against them. These men have been withdrawn from ministry and are prohibited from presenting themselves as a priest. They are required to comply with numerous restrictions to provide safety for the community, the program participants, and the Church.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was approved in 2002 by the bishops of the United States Catholic Conference.

The latest revision was approved June 2018.

The Charter reinforced what the Archdiocese of Chicago was doing by requiring all dioceses to:

- Heal and promote reconciliation of victims-survivors and their families;
- Make prompt and effective response to abuse allegations;
- Cooperate with civil authorities;
- Discipline offenders;
- Create a safe environment for children and young people through training and screening;
- Provide means of accountability for the future and to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the **Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection** and the **National Review Board**.

Every year the Archdiocese of Chicago participates in an audit of the implementation of the *Charter's* requirements. Every year the archdiocese passes the audit.

To report an allegation of abuse and/or neglect of minors, contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline at 800.25.ABUSE and/or contact your local police department. You can also contact the Office of the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) at 312.534.5254.



Dear Friends,

Jesus had just been the victim of the most profound expression of evil ever in His Passion and Death. This encounter with the consequences of sin and death had terrorized his disciples. Faith and trust had fled with the arrival of the mob in the Garden. They hid in fear and confusion. Despair had subdued the last vestige of hope. They now huddled together in the naked vulnerability of dread and uncertainty.

All of a sudden, Jesus is in their midst. His message is not vengeance. Amazingly, He does not even point the finger at their cowardly collapse. His trusted disciples were too awe-struck to feel the shame. It was a "wow" moment to the thousandth degree. Jesus had risen as he said! Alleluia!

His message was direct, clear, and simple: **"Peace be with you."** (Jn 20:19). His peace conveyed the treasure of forgiveness. These two gifts of peace and forgiveness are in the context of His commissioning and gifting the disciples. **"As the Father has sent me, I send you." As He said this He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the holy Spirit.'** (Jn 20:21-23)

Receiving the Holy Spirit is a symbol of a new creation. Just as God breathed life into Adam in the Garden, so too, Jesus breathed new life into the disciples that makes them holy and leads them to conquer evil.

After the reception of the Holy Spirit, the disciples' story is very different. Fear gives way to courage and commitment. A new conviction leads them to confront power with patience and perseverance. The two-edged sword of Jesus' gospel message cuts through the yoke of terror and cowardice. The gospel is proclaimed in spite of conflict and confusion. Cultural barriers and native parochial narrowness open up to a vision of a universal community that continues to grow to this very day.

Gifted with the Holy Spirit, they join the risen Christ in witnessing to the victory of love over evil and death. The seeds of the new creation were sown in the hearts of these very weak and pedestrian followers of Christ. They began an ever expanding community of faith that has survived and prospered over these two thousand years. Paul draws us into the beautiful

mystery of how this new creation flows from the Spirit-filled hearts. In Galatians Paul writes: **"I say live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desires of the flesh...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."** (Gal 5:16, 22-23)

Today, on this feast of Pentecost, we are invited again to receive the gifts of the Spirit. To do so, we need to turn away from sin which is the refusal to love. As with the first disciples, the Spirit beckons us to continually expand the horizons of our love.

The Spirit empowers and invites us to pray. The Spirit offers a peace that transcends our endless search for security in the things of the world. The Spirit allows us to break loose from the captivity of the cultural bondage to racism, sexism, a blindness to the destruction of creation, and most of all, simply to love one another. Pentecost is the feast of liberation from our fears, anxieties and divisions.

The Spirit calls us to be the hands and feet and, most of all, the heart of Christ within the world of our responsibilities and relationships. We are called to be true witnesses to Jesus gospel message. Less we forget, a witness is one whose life's actions speak so loudly that people cannot hear what you say.

The peace of Christ comes at a price. The patience and gentleness along with the joy and kindness and the other fruits of the Spirit described by Paul are ever so precious gifts. They are possible only in a heart seeking reconciliation that brings the new life of Christ into a world ravaged by sin and death. This is the call for us on this Pentecost: transform our lives by the gift of Christ's peace and His call to forgiveness. Slowly, we must understand that, for the Spirit, there is no limit on forgiveness and the target of inclusiveness is ever expanding and dynamic. The numerous descriptions of "those people" in our heart have to give way a new definition of "us". In this struggle to move out of our comfortable world, we must be open to the Spirit to find the only way that leads to the prized gift of Christ's peace.