



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, May 7, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“In my Father’s house
there are many dwelling
places. If there were not,
would I have told you that
I am going to prepare a
place for you?” - Jn 14:2

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.

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 7

- First Communion - 10 a.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center
- Parish Council Formation Meeting - 10 a.m.
| Parish Office
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Class - 1:30 p.m.
| Tolton Heritage Center

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

- Mass at Holy Angels School - 10 a.m.
| Gymnasium
- Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Evenings with Fr Augustus Tolton
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. | Tolton Heritage Center

Thursday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 13

- Neighborhood Association Meeting
10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m. | Parish
- Altar Server - 2 p.m. | Parish

Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day

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

Stewardship

Offertory - April 29/30, 2023

\$5,627.00
\$1,380.00- online offertory
\$7,007.00

Offertory - April 30/May 1, 2022

\$4,580.87
\$ 440.00 - online offertory
\$5,020.87

Payroll for April 2023

\$20,757.08

Total Expenses for April 2023

\$22,043.70

Weekly average of expenses (4 weeks)

\$10,700.20

Next week's 2nd Collection (May 13/14) is for
Catholic Charities.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - May 13

- Lectors: Dr. Dorothy Williams

Sunday 9 a.m. - May 14

- Lectors: Don McKinney
Shirley McKinney
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Zachary Smith
Barbara Hill

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - May 14

- Lectors: Velma Hill
Silmon Reed
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Marcheta Smith
Trish Rawls

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 6

- 4 p.m. Mass - Newly Baptized of OLA

Sunday, May 7

- 9 a.m. Mass - OLA Church Family
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Michael L. Hill II
Requested by Velma Hill

Monday, May 8

- Eleanor Griffin

Tuesday, May 9

- Cassette West-Williams

Wednesday, May 10

- Helen Brooms

Thursday, May 11

- James Barker

Friday, May 12

- Gail McGruder

Saturday, May 13

- 4 p.m. Mass - OLA Mothers

Sunday, May 14

- 9 a.m. Mass - Heavenly Mothers
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - All Mothers

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. Please submit a Mass Intention request by calling the Parish Office.

Baptisms at OLA!



Baptisms during Sunday Mass are available at the following times:

Solemnity of the Holy Trinity Sunday - June 4, 2023

August 27, 2023

September 24, 2023

October 29, 2023

Baptism of the Lord - January 8, 2024

Easter Vigil - March 30, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 7, 2024

For more information about the Sacrament of Baptism and Baptismal Prep Classes, please speak with Tina Carter or email her: finalcarter71@gmail.com

Sacrament of Marriage

Our Lady of Africa is THE place to have your Wedding!!

For all the young couples discerning their future together, there is a lot of planning that is involved. Along with the preparations for your wedding day, you should plan to meet with the priest and have wedding prep which is about 3 months. The couple and priest would meet once a week, either in person or on Zoom to talk about their plans, their commitment to one another, and what the Sacrament of Marriage truly means.

To discuss your future wedding plans, please contact Father Carl at the Parish Office.

Month of Marian Devotion

May is the Month of Mary. The month begins with May Crowning. This is a long-standing tradition in the Church where we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary by crowning her statues in our churches.

Other devotions include: praying the Rosary every day, praying the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, making pilgrimages to Marian Shrines, and visiting parishes dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

As Our Lady of Africa Parish, our church is a Marian site.

Some of the Titular Feasts for our parish include

April 30th - Feast of Our Lady of Africa

May 29th - Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mother of the Church

June 17th - Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

August 15th - Solemnity of the Assumption

September 8th - Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 7th - Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

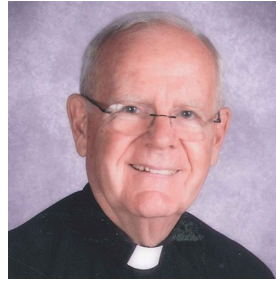
January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God



As we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, we honor her Son. We honor the first of all Christians and we honor our heritage and our lineage as children of God. Let us pray that we can come to understand the mystery of Divine Love and Grace that we are so blessed to have through her intercession. And may we heed her command in fulfilling our purpose in the Christian life: "Do whatever He tells you..." (John 2:5)

May God's blessings be with you all!

Fr. Carl



Dear Friends,

In one of the first retreats I had as a young Carmelite, the preacher told us he slept in a coffin. He wanted to grow in awareness that he was going to die. At the time, I thought it was really weird. Now that I am several decades closer to my death, I think the nightly coffin routine is way beyond weird.

In the Easter Season, there is a magnificent message about our personal death. It is not all that bad. In fact, it is a wonderful gift! The Preface for the Mass of the Resurrection for burials lays out a very comforting description in this way:

In him who rose from dead our hope of the resurrection dawned. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.

Lord, for your faithful people life is changed not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.

Today's Gospel is often used in funeral masses. In the context of this powerful ritual, most people get it. We are going to a better life. The problem is most of us only get it when we can no longer evade the reality of death. The death of a loved one simply engulfs us in the great and painful mystery that is death. There is only a token nod to the overwhelming gift of the resurrection. This is usually expressed in the phrases "the end of suffering" and "he/she is now in a better place".

Our culture is very evasive in facing death for what it is: a very big and defining part of life. The message of the Easter season surely does

not call us into the bizarre and morbid activity of sleeping in a coffin. It does, however, invite us to face death as a crucial part of our life.

Life is a gift for today. I need to embrace it in joy and wonder all the more enthusiastically because I have no guarantee of tomorrow. God calls us to live this day in love and service. Accepting death as a truly big part of our life is not an invitation to live in worry and anxiety. It is a call to be realistic.

The good and the bad, the harmonious and conflictual, sickness and health, and all the elements of our human condition are all held in the loving hands of the gracious God revealed in Jesus. Jesus is the way and the life and the truth (Jn 14:6) Jesus tells us. ***"Do not let our hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places."*** (Jn 14:1-2)

Today we are all one day closer to God's loving call that changes our death into life everlasting. This is the message of the Easter Alleluia! We are fools to not accept this reality and let it define how we live. The Resurrection is real. It means death has lost its sting. Our job is to celebrate with a life filled with hope and joy.

If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will be drawn into the most real and honest response to the ever-present dilemma of death. Jesus tells us he is the way, the surest way to God. Jesus is the fullest and richest expression of God. All of his teachings and patterns of life, all of his miracles and service, and most of all, the great revelation of love in the Passion, Death and Resurrection – they all invite us to walk in love with Jesus. The astonishing song of the Alleluia we proclaim this Easter Season directs our heart to Jesus. For indeed, there is no surer way that leads to the truth and fullness of life that is God.



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. Tracy O'Sullivan, O.Carm.
Dcn. Michael Foggie
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

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

May Birthdays

5/01 Beverly Sims

5/02 Michael Hill

5/05 Zachary Smith, SVD

5/06 Joanne McClure

5/06 Mattie Slate

5/08 Katie Jordan

5/09 Edwin Hill

5/10 Dorothy Dunbar

5/11 Brenda Inis

5/14 Flora Smith

5/15 Keith Wilson

5/16 Bro. Alu Aisi, SVD

5/17 Jean Porter

5/18 Patricia Brown

5/21 Nazaree Fuller

5/22 Fred Hail III

5/22 Anthony Williams

5/23 Donna Perisee-McFarlane

5/23 Phyllis Shackelford

5/24 Parris Washington

5/24 Sharon Crossley- Neal

5/24 Karen Perisee-Woodson

5/26 Ladell Johnson

Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, May 7

Readings: Acts 6: 1-7/ Ps 33: 1-2. 4-5. 18-19 (22)/ 1 Pt 2: 4-9/ Jn 14: 1-12

OLA Book of Prayer: Mary Crawford,
Nazaree Fuller, Mable Gray, Marjorie Heard

Monday, May 8

Readings: Acts 14: 5-18/ Ps 115: 1-2. 3-4. 15-16/ Jn 14: 21-26

OLA Book of Prayer: Sr. Eleanor Doidge,
Tyrone Fuller, Bettie Green, Lorraine Henderson,
George James

Tuesday, May 9

Readings: Acts 14: 19-28/ Ps 145: 10-11. 12-13ab. 21/ Jn 14: 27-31a

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

Wednesday, May 10

Readings: Acts 15: 1-6/ Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4ab. 4cd-5/ Jn 15: 1-8

OLA Book of Prayer: Irene Dove,
Rosemary Gardner, Barbara Golden,
Kelly Robin Hill, Leslie Jackson

Thursday, May 11

Readings: Acts 15: 7-21/ Ps 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 10/ Jn 15: 9-11

OLA Book of Prayer: Judith Easter,
Frederick Gibson, Anna Marie Hampton,
Rita Holland, Mildred Jackson

Friday, May 12

Readings: Acts 15: 22-31/ Ps 57: 8-9. 10 and 12/ Jn 15: 12-17

OLA Book of Prayer: Elsie Freeman,
Florence Glenn, Exie Haralson, Sandra Houston

Saturday, May 13

Readings: Acts 16: 1-10/ Ps 100: 1b-2. 3. 5/ Jn 15: 18-21

OLA Book of Prayer: Andre D. Golden,
Catherine Harper, Doris Humphries,
Therese Jessie, Gloria Leonard



BLESSED SACRAMENT SOCIETY

WOMEN'S DAY OF EMPOWERMENT

**Our Lady of Africa Church
607 East Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60653**

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Donation: \$25.00

Zelle: blessedsacramentsociety@yahoo.com

9am-3pm

Guest Speaker

Shawn L. Hines (Motivational speaker)



**Continental Breakfast
Empowering Guest Speaker
Paint & Sip Activity
Meditation
Lunch
Women Vendors**



For tickets contact:

Tasha McShan @ 773-474-2823 (President)

Lena Young @ 773-848-3581 (Chair)

Virey Spight Harris @ 773-485-0885 (Financial Secretary)



50/50 Split Fundraiser

TICKETS COST

- ✓ 2 tickets for \$5.00
- ✓ 5 tickets for \$10.00



Tickets will be sold at the Saturday 4P.M,
Sunday 9 A.M and 11:30 A.M Masses
Starting April 29 until May 27th

Drawing will be held on May 27th at Deacon
Manie's First Thanksgiving Mass Reception



**FUNDRAISER BENEFITS
SEMINARIANS IN COLOMBIA
SOUTH AMERICA**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



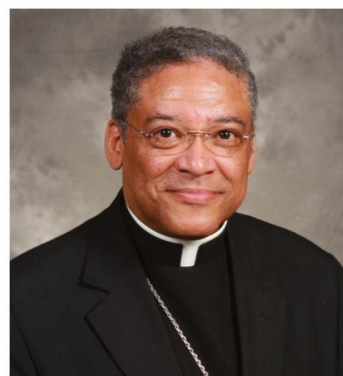
Evenings with Venerable Augustus Tolton



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.