



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, November 26, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

### **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, 2nd, (3rd) Sunday of each month*)

2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*last two Sundays of 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.

### **Parish 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.

Office Administrator: Ms. Shirley McKinney



## This Week at OLA

### Sunday, November 26

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

### Tuesday, November 28

- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

### Wednesday, November 29

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

### Thursday, November 30

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line | 9 a.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

### Friday, December 1

- **Daily Mass begins | 10:30 a.m. | Church**
- Devotion and Adoration | 6:30 p.m.  
| Church

### Saturday, December 2

- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

### Sunday, December 3

- Sunday School | 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Class | 1:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

## Stewardship

### Offertory - November 18/19, 2023

\$ 11,405.99  
\$ 2,091.00 - online offertory  
\$ 13,496.99

### Offertory - November 19/20, 2022

\$ 6,436.30  
\$ 725.00 - online offertory  
\$ 7,161.30

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 13,496.00 - Total Offertory  
\$ (926.09)

Thank you for your generosity!

## Attendance Past Weekend

4 p.m. Mass	26
11:30 a.m. Mass	290
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>322</b>

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - December 2

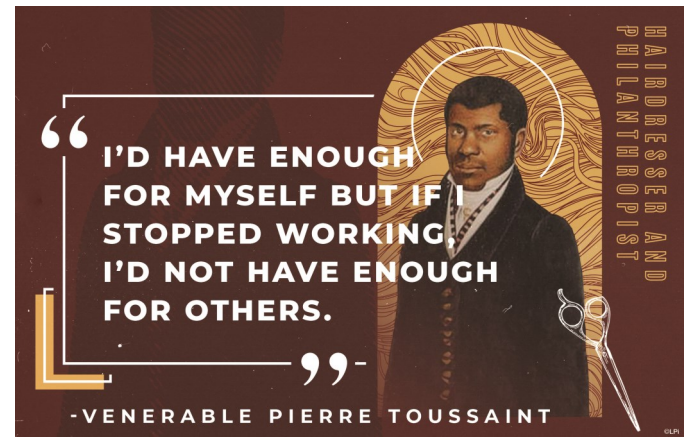
- Priest: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: James Asenso  
Theresa Rhea

### Sunday 9 a.m. - December 3

- Priests: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP  
Marcheta Smith
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Shirley McKinney  
Ladell Johnson

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - December 3

- Priests: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: Larry Cope  
David Powell
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Regina Cook  
Earlene Hodges



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, November 25

- 4 p.m. Mass - For the Faithful Departed

### Sunday, November 26

- 9 a.m. - ✠ Argentry Mitchell ✠
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - For the Faithful Departed

### Monday, November 27

- 8 a.m. Mass - Poor Souls in Purgatory

### Tuesday, November 28

- 8 a.m. Mass - Poor Souls in Purgatory

### Wednesday, November 29

- 8 a.m. Mass - Poor Souls in Purgatory

### Thursday, November 30

- 10 a.m. Mass - OLA Church Family

### Friday, December 1

- 8 a.m. Mass - Divine Word College Benefactors

### Saturday, December 2

- 4 p.m. Mass - OLA Church Family

### Sunday, December 3

- 9 a.m. - OLA Church Family



### **MEET MS MARCHETA SMITH**

For Marcheta Smith, it is the example from her mother that gave her the passion that she has for her faith. Marcheta and her brothers were born and raised in Chicago. Even though her mom was raised Methodist, and her father was Baptist, their journey with the Catholic church began at Corpus Christi in Bronzeville and later at Our Lady of the Gardens. It was the choice of Marcheta and her brothers to become Catholic in the late 1960s and their mother who was following the faith, later joined them after her youngest brother Kermit was confirmed.

In addition to her mother being a strong influence on Marcheta's spiritual journey, there was a dynamic young priest in Fr. Ed Delaney who engaged with the youth in the community and supported the work of the Black Panthers by providing meeting spaces for them. These strong ties led her older brothers, Chester, and Charles, to become Divine Word Missionary priests and for Marcheta to serve the church in several roles over the years.

Currently, Marcheta is a lector, Minister of Care, and Eucharistic Minister and serves on the Formative Parish Council. In addition to the ministries at church, she is also a part of the Bowman Francis ministry founded by her brothers Frs. Chester, Charles, and Fr. Ken Hamilton. Marcheta also serves on the Kaduna Dada and Ambassadors of the Word, a youth ministry focusing on rites of passage for young people. She also works with grade school children and families with youth who are diverse learners.

When asked about ways that the larger church can change, Marcheta emphasized the importance of transparency about what the church is and where it is going. She stated that "people need to be able to see themselves in the plan." Marcheta noted that at Our Lady of Africa, she has seen more people being a part of what is happening in the building of our faith community and there are signs of hope for a vibrant future within the parish. The town hall that took place over the summer provided parishioners an opportunity to voice their concerns and have a seat at the table. These are ingredients for building a strong faith community. She also said that as things have changed in these past two and a half years, people continue to be open to the process.

The advice that she offers to the youth is to "find a church where you feel at home." Church communities must provide spaces and opportunities for youth and young adults to grow and learn about their faith at their own pace. For adults, Marcheta reminds us to be open to what our youth has to offer. "There is so much to learn from them." Meet them where they are and allow them that same joyful opportunity to contribute in the way that they know how. If they change, it is because they have found value in what has been shared.

May the ministries and programs that Marcheta serves continue to be blessed by her insights and contributions.





## MIGRANTS - PLEASE HELP

**THE TEMPORARY SHELTER ON 35TH AND MICHIGAN AVE  
IS LOOKING FOR WINTER CLOTHES FOR MIGRANTS.**

**IF YOU HAVE GENTLY USED WINTER CLOTHES  
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.**

### Christ the King - Reflection by Gardis Watts

This Sunday, our church celebrates the last feast of Ordinary Times before we head to Advent. It is known by several titles: "The Feast of Christ the King", "Christ the King Sunday", or "The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe." Established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, it is suggested that this day is a recognition of Jesus as king of all creation. While most of us can parallel the earthly definition of a king, it is not about that. This is not in reference to some worldly kingdom with aristocratic rulers. We cannot look at this king as some tyrannical ruler who does as he pleases. This is not even about reestablishing the ancient political system of a monarchy. What this feast day brings to our attention is the sovereignty of God through Jesus his son. That God institutes the power of peace through love. While it is established who is king, the question becomes: Who are the citizens that benefit in this kingdom? In our gospel reading for the week, Jesus specifies this.

In the gospel reading, we find Jesus, once again, teaching about the Kingdom of God. He enlightens the listeners on those who will be accepted and those who will be exiled. Jesus references those that are part of the kingdom as sheep and the outcast as goats. Some will ask the question: Why are the sheep good and the goats bad? Jesus in the gospels always references his followers as sheep. Sheep by nature tend to wander off from its flock and the shepherd brings them back into the flock (Matt 18:12). Goats on the other hand have been intentionally exiled as part of a ritualistic process of atonement in Hebrew tradition. When the community makes penance for their sins, they allow the high priest to bring a live goat where they place the sins on the goat's head and let it loose into the wilderness (Lev 18:20-28), thus the meaning of 'scapegoat.'

In his teaching, Jesus further elaborates on their judgment. He qualifies them for their citizenship in the kingdom on whether they took care of

him or not. Both sides wonder when did they see Jesus in need. In answering, Jesus concludes that anybody who would recognize him would automatically give him assistance. However, Jesus makes himself invisible when he is with the oppressed of society. Jesus drives this point home that this kingdom cannot come unless we live in a world of peace and that all people, especially the marginalized, benefit from a just society rooted in love.

Going back to Pope Pius XI, he marks this feast day with an encyclical (Papal Letter) he wrote in 1925 called *Quas Primas*, which in Latin means "In the First." Pius writes this letter in response to the growing secularism in Europe during that time. He parallels this with growing poverty amongst the people and political instability within the nations affected by the First World War. Pius feels that the morality of the world has declined because people are turning away from God. And with this deterioration of society, peace cannot be established without the Kingdom of Christ. According to Pius, the only way we can obtain peace in this world is to submit to the teachings of Jesus. Pius states in the letter, "that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Savior, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations" (*Quas Primas*, 1).

Jesus does not rule as a worldly autocrat or earthly dictator would. He rules in love. To reciprocate that love back to God, we must be willing to love our neighbor (Matt 22:35-40). And in order to love our neighbor, we have to define who are our neighbors, which Jesus says is the one most in need (Luke 10:29-37). While Jesus rules in love, he encourages us to do the same, especially to the needy. Let us observe this feast day by continuing our mission in building the Kingdom of God in love for one another as Christ Our King loves us.



## A Day of Reflection

Sponsored: by the Blessed Sacrament



When: Saturday, Dec 2, 2023

Where: Tolton Heritage Center located 44 E 41<sup>st</sup> Chicago, IL 60653

Time: 9:00am -1:00p.m

Chairpersons: Shawnece, Gladys and Sandra (contact with any additional questions)

**All are welcome. Please bring a friend and come be encouraged.**

**Free will offering accepted, Continental breakfast will be provided by: The Blessed Sacrament Society.**

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



GIVE TO OUR CHURCH  
NO MATTER WHERE  
YOU ARE

zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

[ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com)



## Confirmation Class Schedule

**Classes take place on Sundays from 1:30 pm until 3:00 pm at**

**The Tolton Center  
4058 S Michigan Ave.**

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE ON**

**November 19th  
December 3rd & 17th**

**Contact Tina Carter [tinalcarter71@gmail.com](mailto:tinalcarter71@gmail.com) for more information.**

### November Birthdays

**11/03 Keisha Chavers  
11/03 Tasha McShan  
11/07 Vircy Spight-Harris  
11/08 Larry Carter  
11/09 Florence Glenn  
11/10 Stephanie Inis**

**11/11 Jacqueline Perisee  
11/12 Meltonia Swain  
11/19 Fr. Manie Manuel, SVD  
11/19 Sr Mary Pokorny, OP  
11/20 Jordan Amman  
West-Williams**

**11/21 Jackson Lucas  
11/22 Ola Credit  
11/27 Vanessa Beavers  
11/27 Altha Williams  
11/29 Carolena & Gabriella  
McEwen**

### Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

#### **Sunday, November 26**

Readings: Ez 14: 11-12. 15-17/ Ps 23: 1-2. 2-3. 5-6  
(1)/ 1 Cor 15: 20-26. 28/ Mt 25: 31-46

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Pamela Jones,  
Tasha McShan, Anastacia Mebane,  
Euphrasia Mutinda

#### **Monday, November 27**

Readings: Dn 1: 1-6. 8-20/ Dn 3: 52. 53. 54. 55. 56/  
Lk 21: 1-4

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

#### **Tuesday, November 28**

Readings: Dn 2: 31-45/ Dn 3: 57. 58. 59. 60. 61/  
Lk 21: 5-11

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

#### **Wednesday, November 29**

Readings: Dn 5: 1-6. 13-14. 16-17. 23-28/ Dn 3: 62.  
63. 64. 65. 66. 67/ Lk 21: 12-19

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Majorbelle James,  
Annette Lee, Gail McGruder, Minnette Penman  
Sheila Williams

#### **Thursday, November 30**

Readings: Rom 10: 9-18/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10. 11/  
Mt 4: 18-22

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

#### **Friday, December 1**

Readings: Dn 7: 2-14/ Dn 3: 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80.  
81/ Lk 21: 29-33

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

#### **Saturday, December 2**

Readings: Weekday: Dn 7: 15-27/ Dn 3: 82. 83. 84.  
85. 86. 87/ Lk 21: 34-36

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Mary Crawford,  
Nazaree Fuller, Mable Gray, Marjorie Heard  
Sr. Jamie Phelps, O.P.,

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Mark your calendars for December 9th.

We will have a Hope and Healing Circle at Our Lady of Africa.

The ministry, going forward, will now be lead by Velma Hill.

To register, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 773-624-5375.

**DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2023**

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



**Coffee and Donuts Provided**

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

**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY CLOSED UNTIL JAN 27, 2024**



### Mobile Food Pantry



**ATTENTION!!!**



**DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS THERE WILL BE NO PANTRY  
FOR THE MONTHS OF**

**NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

**WE WILL RETURN JANUARY 27, 2024**

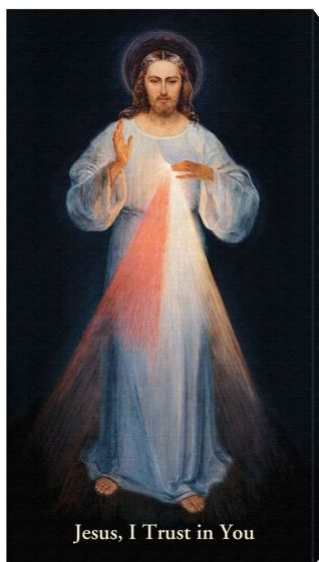
**Where: St. Elizabeth Church/SVD P Food Pantry**

**Corner 41<sup>st</sup> St and Wabash Ave**





## Devotion to the Divine Mercy - FRIDAYS at 6:30 P.M.



Beginning the first week of November, we will have Devotion and Adoration on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

After a hectic and busy week, you can come and spend time in communal prayer. Our world has been besieged by injustice and cruelty. The war in the Middle East is but one effect of all the hatred that is plaguing humanity. Prayer changes things. And the Devotion to Divine Mercy is powerful in moving mountains.

I hope you will come and spend time in prayer and devotion on at least one Friday of the month. In addition to the Divine Mercy Chaplet, there will be time for sharing, reflection, music, contemplation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

“For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

For more info:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/chaplet>

## ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

Angel Tree provides an opportunity for local congregations to extend the hope of the Gospel and enfold Angel Tree families into church life through delivering Christmas gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents. We are asking for OLA Church Family members to be generous and extend love to kids are really in need of care and support through the holidays.

Please bring your gifts to the church for the Angel Tree Christmas no later than December 19th.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office 773-624-5375 or Debra Crosby.

Your gifts will make a difference in the youth of our future. Help bring hope and healing through love and compassion and acts of care.



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 - CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

This year, we will have Midnight Mass for the first time in many years! I am very excited and I hope that you will be too! We will start Carol Singing at 11 p.m. For those concerned with safety, we will have police patrolling so as to make sure that we are all safe.