



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, November 5, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



## 31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant.”

- Mt 23:8-11

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, 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 5

- Blessed Sacrament Meeting - 10 a.m.  
| Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room
- Confirmation Classes - 1:30 p.m.  
| Tolton Center

### Tuesday, November 7

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

### Wednesday, November 8

- Bible Study - 11 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Social Justice Committee - 6 p.m.  
| Tolton Heritage Center

### Thursday, November 9

- 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

### Friday, November 10

- Devotion and Adoration - 6:30 p.m.  
| Church

### Saturday, November 11

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

### Sunday, November 12

- KPCLA Meeting - 10 a.m.
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.  
| Sunday School Room

## Special Prayer Request

Please pray for Aude Perrin  
who is battling an illness.

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Pray for the repose of the soul of  
✠ Angela Jones ✠

## Stewardship

### Offertory - October 28/29, 2023

\$ 5,476.00  
\$ 1,450.00 - online offertory  
\$ 262.00 - Zelle Donations  
\$ 7,188.00

### Offertory - October 29/30, 2022

\$ 10,304.25  
\$ 860.00 - online offertory  
\$ 11,164.25

### Expenses for October 2023

\$ 35,998.81

Thank you for your generosity!

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. - November 11

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Shawnece Wilson  
Ted Budzynski

### Sunday 9 a.m. - November 12

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Vita Faulkner  
Rosemary Sykes
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Miriam Hunter  
Gladys St. Leger

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. - November 12

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Mary Johnson  
Velma Hill
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Regina Cook  
Earlene Hodges

## Attendance October 28/29 2023

Saturday Vigil - 4 p.m.	30
Sunday - 9 a.m.	82
Sunday - 11:30 a.m.	197
Sunday - 2:30 p.m. Igbo Mass	223
<b>Weekend Total:</b>	<b>532</b>

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, November 4

- 4 p.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (3)

### Sunday, November 5

- 9 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (4)
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (4)

### Monday, November 6

- 10 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (5)

### Tuesday, November 7

- 10 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (6)

### Wednesday, November 8

- 10 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (7)

### Thursday, November 9

- 8 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (8)

### Friday, November 10

- 8 a.m. Mass - All Souls Novena (9)

### Saturday, November 11

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

### Sunday, November 12

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



**Dr. Dorothy Williams**  
**OLA Church Family Member**

Dr. Dorothy Williams DD, PhD is a dynamic surrendered vessel, God appointed, Holy Spirit anointed, woman of destiny. She is a widow, mother, grandmother, godmother, and servant of God and God's people. Her motto is: I Depend On God.

Raised in a faith community home family of various Christian denominations, Dr. Williams has always searched for a more intimate relationship with God by developing meaningful connections with others. When reflecting on her spiritual journey, Dr. Williams felt connected when she first joined St. Anselm parish, realizing now that it was pre-destined. Even though all her children were baptized as Catholic Christians, she raised them ecumenically. For Dr. Dorothy, God is too big to fit inside a box of denominational traditions. Our very tradition is universal because Jesus is universal. Dr. Williams says that she was caught in the net but not on the rod.

When discussing the recent changes that have occurred among the churches, Dr. Williams offers this wisdom; everything has a season. To take advantage of the goodness and blessings that God has to offer, sometimes we must give up something. Change is inevitable in our life's journey. Life is full of adjustments, and disagreements. Sometimes our life's GPS tells us to go straight ahead but when we arrive, there is a do not enter sign or no outlet, so we must make an adjustment and turn around. Sometimes, our movement may look like we are going backward but if we reflect on the symbol of the Sankofa bird, while it may be looking back, it is moving forward. The Sankofa bird is using what it has learned in past experiences to move forward toward a better future. We must realize that what was done 50 years ago is not done today. We must change.

She also reminds us to bring Jesus to the young people in a way they can relate. We need to find ways to challenge our youth. They always want to know and are always seeking. Dr. Dorothy hopes that those who will and have a desire to grow closer to God will do so. God will judge us on what we did and why we did it.

In addition to local and national graduate studies, Dr. Dorothy Williams is a Fr. Augustus Tolton Alum from the Catholic Theological Union and matriculated from Cross-Cultural Studies in Ghana West Africa. She is a licensed ordained minister of the Gospel, and a committed member of the Faith Community of Our Lady of Africa Church and the Apostolic Ecumenical Network. Dr. Williams has served as a chaplain in hospitals throughout Northern Indiana and currently serves as a certified Christian consultant with special compassion for HIV/AIDS, Prison, and Subway ministries as well as a certified mental health counselor.

-Tina L Carter





## 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 5th & 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 5**

Readings: Mal 1: 14b 2: 2b. 8-10/ Ps 131: 1. 2. 3/ 1  
Thes 2: 7b-9. 13/ Mt 23: 1-12

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

#### **Monday, November 6**

Readings: Rom 11: 29-36/ Ps 69: 30-31. 33-34. 36/  
Lk 14: 12-14

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

#### **Tuesday, November 7**

Readings: Rom 12: 5-16ab/ Ps 131: 1bcde. 2. 3/  
Lk 14: 15-24

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Denise Lawson,  
Lenda Mason, Deborah Mitchell, Clara Reisner

#### **Wednesday, November 8**

Readings: Rom 13: 8-10/ Ps 112: 1b-2. 4-5. 9/  
Lk 14: 25-33

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

#### **Thursday, November 9**

Readings: Ez 47: 1-2. 8-9. 12/ Ps 46: 2-3. 5-6. 8-9/ 1  
Cor 3: 9c-11. 16-17/ Jn 2: 13-22

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Jan Johnson, Lugenia Lewis,  
Carolyn McQuerter, Michael Moore

#### **Friday, November 10**

Readings: Rom 15: 14-21/ Ps 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4/  
Lk 16: 1-8

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

#### **Saturday, November 11**

Readings: Rom 16: 3-9. 16. 22-27/ Ps 145: 2-3. 4-5.  
10-11/ Lk 16: 9-15

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Edith Lane, Alfrances Sharpe,  
Deniece Thomas, Rachel Watson,  
Dorothy Williams

## Medical Ministry Report



The following is the breakdown for the OLA Medical Ministry Vaccination event that occurred on October 29, 2023:

<u>TYPE OF INJECTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER</u>
FLU HD	13
FLU REGULAR	8
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	3
(BOOSTER) TETANUS	4
PREVNAR 20 (PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE)	5
COVID (MADERA) BOOSTER	20
SHINGLES	2
<b>TOTAL INJECTIONS GIVEN:</b>	<b>55</b>

Thank you for making this vaccination drive a success!

Report submitted by: Velma J. Barker-Hill RN, MSN, MAPS  
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

## THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



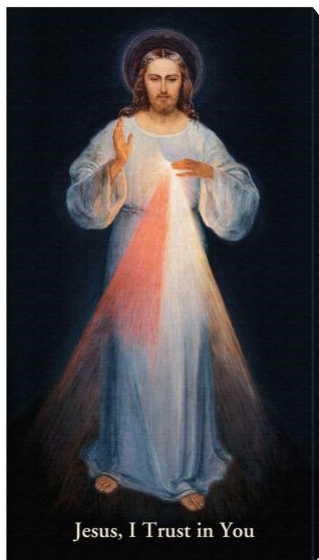
# zelle

You can send your offertory through Zelle:

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



## 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>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 - TURKEY GIVEAWAY

This year we will be giving away Turkeys for your Thanksgiving Holiday Celebrations. PLEASE REGISTER TO GET YOUR TURKEY. ONE TURKEY PER HOUSEHOLD.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 - UNITY MASS - ONE MASS ONLY

The Townhall Meeting brought out an important focus for the need to have more opportunities for all the different communities that worship at Our Lady of Africa to worship together as one. Based on this need, we are having a Unity Mass that will unite our African-America, Ghanaian, Nigerian-Igbo, and French-speaking Communities. Bishop Perry will be the main celebrant. On that Sunday, we will have only ONE Mass at 11:30 a.m.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023 - THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

Come to the House of the Living God and Give God Thanks for another year. Mass will be at 10 a.m. and if you'd like to volunteer at the Homeless Shelter for that day, we are looking for volunteers to go after Mass.



### 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.



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**SIGN UP IN  
NARTHEX**

**classes  
begin**

**December 3**



**FIRST COMMUNION**



**ORDER OF CATHOLIC INITIATION  
FOR ADULTS**



**SIGN UP IN  
NARTHEX**

**classes  
begin**

**November  
15**





## 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Reflection by Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan O.Carm

In my second or third year as a young priest, at the end of the Second Vatican Council, I began to tell people to drop the Father and just call me Tracy. Very shortly one of the wise leaders of the parish pulled me aside to tell me a simple truth: It was not about me!

She said the community needs to respect and honor the role of the priest. It was very important to them. Therefore, I would be wise to stop the nonsense about, "Call me Tracy."

All organizations need to use titles no matter how hierarchical or democratic. The question is, do these titles lend themselves to service of the grater good or the personal enhancement of the individual. This is the issue of today's gospel.

While Jesus is addressing the faults of the Jewish leaders, He is even more forcefully speaking to the disciples about leadership in the Christian community. It must be service first and foremost. **"The greatest among you must be a servant." (Mt. 23:11)**

That is easier said than done. There is a drive in the ordinary human experience that calls us to seek privilege, prestige and recognition. We are all inclined to be special. Every gathering of human beings has to deal with organization and leadership that lives with the tension between power and service. Obviously, in the faith community, this conflict plays itself out between the clergy and the laity and, even more so, in the role of the hierarchy in the Church. All of this festers in the curse of clericalism that plagues the Church.

Those who are the recipients of titles have the responsibility to go beyond the title. They need to offer the integrity of service free of privilege and prestige. This is first and foremost the task of the clergy. However, there is no group in the Church that is not challenged by this tension between power and service.

The Festival committee wants to passionately help the parish but it is very easy to lose track and reduce the whole effort to how much income the group makes on their project in comparison to other groups. The Liturgy Committee deals with the same tension. While all are there in the name of Jesus, it is not unheard of that some of the greatest conflicts in a parish take place in how to arrange the worship of the Lord! The ushers and the Eucharistic ministers also tend to raise the ego above the service sometimes. Actually, there is no parish group

that is free of this insidious temptation. Likewise, the parish and the school share a ministry, but at times, it hard to find the spirit of the Gospel in these troubled relations. I always remember an old Baptist minister that told me as a young priest, "The devil comes into the church through the choir!" Over my many year as pastor, I have come to realize that the choir has no monopoly as the welcoming committee for the devil.

Jesus gave us a lesson about the Christian community in chapter eighteen of Matthew's Gospel. Asked who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God, Jesus says we must become like little children. Then there is a series of teachings about the Christian community. Jesus lays out a clear plan for all, especially the leaders. Humility is the foundation. We must especially pay attention to the weaker members and the ones that stray away. All this is done in the context of a deep and loving forgiveness.

Today's Gospel passage stresses Jesus' appeal for personal integrity. We need to maintain the connection of our core gospel values and our actions. The clear implication about the scribes and Pharisees is the frightening challenge of the slippery slope of hypocrisy in public ministry. The words and the gestures were correct, however, the basic thrust of their action was about building up their prestige and privilege, their personal and economic gain. This cancer of hypocrisy is never far away in any public ministry in the Church. This why we all need deep personal prayer to set us free from this gross self-deception.

The public rubric and the public dress of church ministers readily lends itself as an obstacle to gospel simplicity. Too often, the role of clerics and ministers slides into one of pretentious do-gooders, or attention-grabbers where piety is worn as a costume. It is no easy task to be a humble servant in the midst of the pull to self-centered roles and rubrics in most church's public ministry.

It is obvious that we have work to do to realize Who is the only Teacher and the only Father. (Mt 23: 9) It is a long journey for all of us to realize **"it is not about us"**. Jesus tells us that that the real journey of the gospel is away from personal power and prestige and towards service: **"The greatest among you must be your servant." (Mt 23:11)**