



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, September 17, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."
- Mt 18:21-22

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©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, 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, September 17

- HIV Ministry Meeting - 10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Tuesday, September 19

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

Thursday, September 21

- 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
- Community Meal and Social Services
1 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Parish Hall

Saturday, September 23

- Youth Archery Event at Washington Park
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - see pg. 7
- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m.
- KPC 4th Degree Meeting
after 4 p.m. Mass

Sunday, September 24

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

Stewardship

Offertory - September 9/10, 2023

\$ 6,119.00
\$ 1,956.00 - online offertory
\$ 100.00 - Zelle Donations
\$ 8,175.00

Offertory - September 10/11, 2022

\$ 4,691.00
\$ 1,585.00 - online offertory
\$ 6,276.00

Expenses for September 2023 - to date

\$16,278.29

Thank you for your generosity!

Attendance September 9/10 2023

300

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - September 23

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Keith Wilson
Denise Wilson

Sunday 9 a.m. - September 24

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Debra Causay
Pat Brown
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP
Barbara Edwards-Hill

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - September 24

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Greg Chappell
Liz Mardis
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Sharon Binion
Lena Young

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 17

- 9 a.m. Mass - Seminarians
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - OLA Catechists

Monday, September 18

- 8 a.m. Mass - Dcn Michael and Eileen Foggie

Tuesday, September 19

- 8 a.m. Mass -

Wednesday, September 20

- 8 a.m. Mass - Students at HACs

Thursday, September 21

- 8 a.m. Mass - For the Homeless

Friday, September 22

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

Saturday, September 23

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

Sunday, September 24

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

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 per intention) and during the weekdays (\$10 per intention) are the recommended donations.

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



There is a clear message in this final section (Mt 18:21-35): Forgiveness is the life-blood of the loving community. To get this point across, Jesus uses a parable. Parables tend to make us glide over the surface and miss the depth of their main message. This is especially true with this parable of the unforgiving servant.

In reading and experiencing this parable, we need to pay attention to the great exaggerations that are used to make a simple and clear point. The first hyperboles are about the debt of the unforgiving servant. In the context of Jesus' time, it was the equivalent of billions upon billions of dollars. Yet, the servant pleaded for time as if he could accomplish the impossible task of retribution. The generosity of the king in his merciful forgiveness is likewise pressing the limits of the imagination. Then, receiving the incredible mercy, the unforgiving servant almost immediately attacks the fellow servant whose debt is quite manageable. The second servant has an almost verbatim plea for mercy but it is rejected. He is cast into

prison with no way to pay the debt and no way to freedom.

None of this makes any sense if the issue is paying back the debt. Of course, it is not. The issue is forgiveness received and forgiveness to be shared. The king does not condemn the unforgiving servant because he had robbed his money. The king's main grievance is the failure to share forgiveness. The king's question is directed to all of us: "Should you not have mercy on your fellow servant as I had on you" (Mt 18:34)?

The appeal is clear. We have been forgiven. In the divine economy, our forgiveness has consequences. We must share it with all our brothers and sisters. If the forgiveness is truly our gift, it will flow to others. Otherwise, we cancel it if we stay locked into the rigid and self-centered condition of the unforgiving servant.

Continued on page 9

Catechetical Sunday Reflection by Tina Carter

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened" (Matthew 11:28).

As the rich summer greens become the yellows, reds, and purples of the Fall, it is time for our catechetical season to begin. We are all called to be teachers of our faith through our actions and deeds for one another.

The theme of Catechetical Sunday 2023 is "*Come to me all you who labor and are burdened*". In this passage, Jesus reminds us that we are not alone on this journey that we call life. We have an advocate in Christ through the Holy Spirit that will provide us with guidance and strength to become better disciples to serve God and God's people. It is through the guidance and leadership of our parents, godparents, church leaders, and elders that we are given the tools needed to live out our faith in a meaningful and intentional way.

Parents are the first teachers of the faith. It is through their example that children use their parent's model to build their faith. The first church that any child is introduced to is the domestic church. This is where patterns of behavior are first formed like praying and sharing favorite bible stories that serve as the building blocks for families. Parents, however, don't carry this alone. The domestic church

expands to include the parish community where all are engaged in sharing the faith with one another. Children are given the opportunity to engage with one another through Sunday School and sacramental preparation. Parents receive sound advice and support from the pastor, other parents, and elders in the faith. Bible studies and sermons speak to the realities of living in a fallen world while using the lessons of our biblical ancestors to help us navigate what can be the choppy waters of life.

Learning about faith is lifelong, multifaceted, and a communal endeavor. Like all relationships, a relationship with God and God's people requires, commitment, patience, understanding, humility, and love. It is through the commitment of our catechists, faith leaders, and most importantly family members that the strength of our faith can only become stronger, and we become beacons of the light of Christ in a world that can be dark.





The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms during Sunday Mass are available at the following times:

October 29, 2023

For more information about the Sacrament of Baptism and Baptismal Prep Classes, please speak with Tina Carter or email her: tinalcarter71@gmail.com

September Birthdays

9/02 Jennifer Iwuchukwu
9/02 Joyce Lane
9/04 D.E. Simmons
9/05 Thomas Craig Rich
9/07 Blanche Price
9/08 Fr. Carl Gales, SVD

9/09 Maestro Tyrone Pittman
9/11 Deacon Merv Johnson
9/14 Tina Carter
9/22 Ajike Sumpter
9/23 Celestial Kolheim-Smith
9/25 Jada E. Lucas

9/25 Shirley Peoples
9/26 Yoconda Bowen
9/26 Trent Dean
9/26 Gussie McShan
9/28 Christine Bowden
9/29 James Hunter

Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, September 17

Readings: Sir 27: 30 28: 7/ Ps 103: 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12 (8)/ Rom 14: 7-9/ Mt 18: 21-35

OLA Book of Prayer: Dorla Allen, David Berry, Roscoe Burns, MC Johnson, Naiya Williams

Monday, September 18

Readings: 1 Tm 2: 1-8/ Ps 28: 2. 7. 8-9/ Lk 7: 1-10

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

Tuesday, September 19

Readings: 1 Tm 3: 1-13/ Ps 101: 1b-2ab. 2cd-3ab. 5. 6/ Lk 7: 11-17

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

Wednesday, September 20

Readings: 1 Tm 3: 14-16/ Ps 111: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Lk 7: 31-35

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

Thursday, September 21

Readings: Eph 4: 1-7. 11-13/ Ps 19: 2-3. 4-5/ Mt 9: 9-13

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

Friday, September 22

Readings: 1 Tm 6: 2c-12/ Ps 49: 6-7. 8-10. 17-18. 19-20/ Lk 8: 1-3

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

Saturday, September 23

Readings: 1 Tm 6: 13-16/ Ps 100: 1b-2. 3. 4. 5/ Lk 8: 4-15

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

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:

JUDITH EASTER
M.C. JOHNSON

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
Parish Administrator
galesce0422@gmail.com
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

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

Peace and Social Justice

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

THE JOY OF STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



zelle

You can send your offertory through Zelle:

ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com



Our Lady of Africa Parish



What: Community Meal & Resource Assistance

- **Referrals and Assistance for Essential Resources like:**
 - Medicaid and SNAP signup help
 - Government phone signup
 - CHA housing application help

Where: Our Lady of Africa Parish
607 E Oakwood Blvd
Chicago, IL 60653

When: 1-3 PM, First and Third Thursday of each month, starting
September 7th and 21st

Interested in volunteering at a meal?
Contact Father Carl Gales at 773-624-5375



SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 23

ARCHERY CLINIC
AT

NEW LOCATION
WASHINGTON PARK
5758 S COTTAGE GROVE BLVD
11AM TO 1PM

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY
THE MEN'S COALITION

Want to become Catholic? Let's talk about OCIA***!

Becoming Catholic is to enter into history. You become linked to the earliest traditions that are at the roots of all Christian denominations.

What you will discover is that being Catholic unites all peoples all over the world. You will travel to one side of the world to the other and still experience the worship of the One Holy Catholic Church.

Beautiful in its unity and multifaceted in its diversity, Catholicism embraces the most humble to the richest philosophical and theological minds. In prayer and through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, the diverse gifts of each member shines through the ages in the history of the Saints.

If you would like to explore becoming Catholic, please let us know. You can contact the Parish Office (773) 624-5375 and start your process of discernment.

***** OCIA stands for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) . It was changed by the USCCB in November 2021.**

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

You're cordially invited to Our Lady of Africa's Blessed Sacrament Society Stay at Home Tea



Sunday, October 15, 2023

(After the 11:30 mass)

Raffle tickets available

(\$5 each or 6 \$25.00)

1st Prize: \$200.00

2nd & 3rd Prizes: \$100.00

4th-6th Prizes: \$50.00

7-8th Prizes: \$25.00

**No worries, no special prep, no need to stress, just enjoy this cup, then kindly
send your donation of any amount to aid the continuation of our good work.**

**Enjoy, relax, savor and know this pleasure for your donation is making a
difference.**

All proceeds go to Our Lady of Africa Church



For more information contact:

Deborah Powell (Chair) @ 708-547-9097

Gloria Dean (Financial Officer) @ 773-502-5035

Virey Spight Harris (Financial Officer) @ 773-651-0891

Tasha McShan (President) @ 773-474-2823





Continued from page 3

Forgiveness is at the heart of the kingdom that Jesus proclaimed and lived. At the very beginning, he said, "Repent, the kingdom is at hand" (Mt 4:17)! Those who accept the invitation into the kingdom need to understand its demands. God's intervention is unleashing an overwhelming explosion of divine mercy and forgiveness. This calls all to both absorb and share the lifegiving current of the new reality that Jesus is setting free. This great blessing of mercy is a healing power that must be shared. Forgiveness is to be extended to all in the gracious and abundant manner God has displayed. What God wants is "mercy, not sacrifice" (Mt 9:12; 12:7).

The point is so blatantly clear. We say it in the Our Father. We express it in the Golden Rule (Mt 7:12). The Sermon on the Mount is saturated with its implications. We need to forgive! If we do not, we block the flow of divine mercy. We cannot earn God's forgiveness but the simple painful truth is, we can lose it by not sharing it.

The main message the parable is a summons into a sea of divine mercy. The consequences of this gracious gift is our responsibility to our sisters and brothers. Our ambiguity draws us into the struggle to let go of the hurts. The presence of both the weeds and the wheat within our heart pulls us away from the obvious and overwhelming demand to forgive others. Even with all the clarity and power of the revealed word, we know how difficult it is to forgive.

In fact, forgiving is one of the most problematic of any human tasks. The immensity of the hurt, the unfaithfulness, the

injustice or the neglect consume our soul. For most of us, the journey from the hurt and pain to the "I forgive" is a long and treacherous road. Today's message of divine mercy, so clear and overwhelmingly righteous, is very slow to penetrate the hurting heart.

I like to describe it like this. When it comes to mercy and forgiveness, we tend to use a teaspoon to measure our distribution of mercy to those who have offended us. On God's part, mercy and forgiveness is like a torrential downpour that washes clean all in its path. The contrast is frightening, but so very real.

There are some things that we can do to help ourselves in this dilemma. We should have patience with ourselves and admit we need to let go of the hurt. We should pray for the person and ourselves. We should accept our weakness in God's sight and seek to lean on God's unrelenting love and mercy. We also should face up to another common self-deception. We label individuals as unworthy of our forgiveness.

Thomas Merton talks about the absurdity of trying to determine who is worthy of our forgiveness. He asks just who among our "unworthys" are persons Christ did not die for. We know well that Christ died for all, plain and simple. We need to share in that universal love in our life. It surely will be a struggle to forgive. But it is utter foolishness for us to have a list of those who are not worthy of our forgiveness. Our obvious choice should be to use God's list. God has made it clear that everyone is on the divine inventory.





CHICAGO BLACK CATHOLIC ALLIANCE PRESENTS

*Looking Back: Where
We Have Been as
Black Catholics"*

OCTOBER 16TH

REVIVALIST
REV. ART ANDERSON, OFM
ST ALPHONSUS
& ST PATRICK PARISH

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR. MARK NIMO.

ST. SIMON OF CYRENE
(St. Martin de Porres site)
5112 W. Washington Blvd,
Chicago, IL 60644



AUTHENTICALLY BLACK & TRULY CATHOLIC:
FAITH, PEACE, AND LOVE IN UNITY

OCTOBER 17TH

REVIVALIST
REV. CARL GALES, SVD
OUR LADY OF AFRICA

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR. C. VANESSA WHITE

OUR LADY OF AFRICA
615 E. Oakwood Blvd,
Chicago, IL 60653

*Where We are NOW
as Black Catholics"*

5PM-6PM | FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP | 6:30PM-9PM | REVIVAL SERVICE

there will be a love offering collection

*Where we are going
as Black Catholics"*

OCTOBER 18TH

REVIVALIST
REV. MICHAEL PFLEGER
ST SABINA

WORD ON FIRE SPEAKER:
DR KIMBERLY LYMORE

ST. SABINA
1210 W. 78th Pl,
Chicago, IL 60620



JAMMY JAM - OCTOBER 20th

TIME TO JAMMY JAM

Our Lady Of Africa Church
Holy Angels School



DIAPER DRIVE

We are also collecting diapers
for our church. We would
appreciate any donations!

You're invited!

Join us on Friday, October
20th from 3pm - 6pm, for
an evening of food and
fun while we celebrate
Jammy Jam

750 E 40th St

OLA BOOK CLUB - The 1619 PROJECT

OLA BOOK CLUB

NOVEMBER 12

"IF WE ARE TRULY A GREAT NATION, THE TRUTH
CANNOT DESTROY US."

OUR NEXT BOOK IS THE 1619 PROJECT

"James Baldwin famously said, 'Not everything
that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be
changed unless it is faced.'"

Nikole Hannah-Jones, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

Donate Diapers



**Our Lady
of Africa**



Catholic Charities Diaper Depot distributes diapers throughout Chicagoland.

Donate new, unopened diaper boxes to support families in need.

Diapers can be brought to mass on Sundays.

To **volunteer** to pack diapers for families, contact ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com.

Needed Sizes: Newborn, 1, 2, 3

Our Lady of Africa & the Diaper Bank Project of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
catholiccharities.net



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 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:
(773)624-5375