



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, September 24, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word

FIRST



“Thus, the last will be
first, and the first
will be last.”

MATTHEW 20:16

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, September 24

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

Tuesday, September 26

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

Wednesday, September 27

- School Mass - 10 a.m.
| Holy Angel's School Gym
- Bible Study 11 a.m. | Parish Hall

Thursday, September 28

- 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

Saturday, September 30

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 1

- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting
10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- **Diaconate Ordination**
of Zachary Smith, SVD
and Andrew Wang, SVD
At the 11:30 a.m. Mass
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Stewardship

Offertory - September 9/10, 2023

\$ 4,485.00
\$ 595.00 - online offertory
\$ 626.01 - Zelle Donations
\$ 5,706.01

Offertory - September 10/11, 2022

\$ 4,525.00
\$ 690.00 - online offertory
\$ 5,215.00

Expenses for September 2023 - to date

\$33,150.64

Thank you for your generosity!

Attendance September 16/17

309

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - September 30

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Theresa Rhea
Silmon Reed

Sunday 9 a.m. - October 1

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Sr. Joanne Delehanty, OP
Marcheta Smith
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Ladell Johnson
Shirley McKinney

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - October 1

- Priest: Bishop Mark Bartosic
- Lectors: Larry Cope
David Powell
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Newly Ordained Deacons

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, September 25

- 8 a.m. Mass - M.C. Johnson

Tuesday, September 26

- 8 a.m. Mass - ✠ Ms. Willa Mae Diggs ✠

Wednesday, September 27

- 10 a.m. Mass - Students at HACs

Thursday, September 28

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

Friday, September 29

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

Saturday, September 30

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

Sunday, October 1

- 9 a.m. Mass - Mr. Robert L. Clark
- 11:30 a.m. Mass - Divine Word Missionaries

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.



Our world is fractured because it is ruled by systems like racism, sexism and capitalism. These systems produce a hierarchy that creates a certain underclass of people who are constantly abused and subjugated by the people who created these systems of oppression. And when these systems are allowed to operate, injustice becomes prevalent. And when you have a society that is slight of justice, you have little peace and a lack of love. Bitterness, hatred and indifference spread like a virus and our society is infected with this sickness. In the Kingdom of God, you don't have this type of problem.

In our gospel reading for this week, we find Jesus giving one of his many recorded parables illustrating the Kingdom of God. The parable is the laborers in the vineyard. A landowner went out early in the morning to find people to work in his vineyard where he negotiates a set pay for them. He later finds several other laborers throughout the day looking for work and he hires them as well. At the end of the day, the landowner tells his foreman to pay all the workers the amount he agreed to pay the ones he hired in the morning. He also told the foreman to pay the last hired first. When the ones hired first saw they got paid the same amount as the others, they complained to the landowner. They accused him of treating them dishonestly because they worked the longest and they should be paid the most. The landowner retorted and told them that he paid them the amount they agreed on, which was a denarius. He also told the early workers that his generosity should not be their focus of envy. And when Jesus ended the lesson, he completed it with, "the last will be first and the first will be last."

Just like today, Jesus lived in a world where oppressors unjustly exploit and subdue the oppressed. In this parable, Jesus revolts against the standard rule of society. The parable starts off with a landowner, who we have to assume has some sort of wealth. This is significant because Jesus in the parable describes the landowner going out hiring workers. In a world where the caste system is the rule, why would a wealthy landowner expose himself to poor labor peasants when he has a foreman to do that? This was intentional by Jesus to break the social

divide. A wealthy man going out hiring day laborers and negotiating terms of their pay was unheard of in that time. The landowner represents a privileged person who situates himself with those who society might consider the downtrodden.

The morning laborers bring an important insight to the parable because they are the ones who complain to the landowner about their wages. They become the critics of the other laborers, noting to the landowner that they feel entitled to more since they worked the longest. They forget that they are victims under the same system as the other laborers while attempting to serve the system as persecutors. Some biblical scholars think that Jesus' purpose of the morning laborers was to represent the Pharisees. These are the same people who question Jesus' interaction with sinners and tax collectors, showing them mercy while calling the Pharisees 'brood of vipers' (Matt 12:34). But who represents the 'morning laborers' of today? Is it the ministers who constantly condemn through their pulpit instead of teaching love? What about members in the church who see spiritually and emotionally broken people in their church wondering why they are here? Could it be working class people who look down on the homeless as pariahs? Is it the six-figure income person who looks at people on welfare as leeches? Are they the modern-day black person who feels that racism is not that big of a deal because they made it? We must ask ourselves the more important question: When are we the 'morning laborers' in our lives?

In Jesus' teaching of the kingdom through these parables, he takes societal norms and flips it over as he did with the table of the money changers in the temple (Matt 21:12). Are we courageous enough like the landowner to break the partitions set up by caste that prevent those with means to help with the destitute? Or are we the 'morning laborers' who are less concerned about others and only think of ourselves? This is the dilemma we are faced with in this parable. Let us find ourselves building the kingdom where no one is abused and the ones who require the most help get the most help.



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
9/16 Elliot Williams
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 24

Readings: Is 55: 6-9/ Ps 145: 2-3. 8-9. 17-18 (18a)/
Phil 1: 20c-24. 27a/ Mt 20: 1-16a

OLA Book of Prayer: Jean Porter, Shirley Simmons,
Renee Trotter, Doris Whitaker

Monday, September 25

Readings: Ezr 1: 1-6/ Ps 126: 1b-2ab. 2cd-3. 4-5. 6/
Lk 8: 16-18

OLA Book of Prayer: Susan Larry, Betty Lumpkins,
Judy Michaelis, Maria Jossey Owen

Tuesday, September 26

Readings: Ezr 6: 7-8. 12b. 14-20/ Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4ab.
4cd-5/ Lk 8: 19-21

OLA Book of Prayer: Margaret Stewart,
Joanne Wallace, Rita White, Patricia Williams

Wednesday, September 27

Readings: Ezr 9: 5-9/ Tb 13: 2. 3-4a. 4befghn. 7-8/
Lk 9: 1-6

OLA Book of Prayer: Tyna Rule, Alonzo Studstill,
Joyce Wallace, Yvonne Whitenier,
Sheila Williams

Thursday, September 28

Readings: Hg 1: 1-8/ Ps 149: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6a and
9b/ Lk 9: 7-9

OLA Book of Prayer: Marionette Phelps,
Beverly Sims, Cynthia Thompson,
Cassiette West-Williams, Evelyn Williams

Friday, September 29

Readings: Dn 7: 9-10. 13-14 or Rv 12: 7-12a/ Ps
138: 1-2ab. 2cde-3. 4-5/ Jn 1: 47-51

OLA Book of Prayer: McShan Family,
Allen Peoples, Phyllis Shackelford,
Sunnette Varnado Smith

Saturday, September 30

Readings: Zec 2: 5-9. 14-15a/ Jer 31: 10. 11-12ab.
13/ Lk 9: 43b-45

OLA Book of Prayer: Nolan Humphries,
Cindy Jirsa, Monica Lewers, Bernadine McNeal,
Jeff Moore

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:

BYRON DIGGS AND FAMILY AT THE PASSING OF HIS MOTHER, MS. WILLA MAE DIGGS

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



DIASPORAL RHYTHMS
PRESENTS

INTIMATE SPACES



October 7th & 8th 2023

TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 15, 2023 ON LINE AT:

DiasporalRhythms.Org

Featuring 3 collections for each tour track:

Track A-Bronzeville
Track B South Shore

Registration and Boarding
Logan Center for the Arts 8:30AM

DIASPORAL



RHYTHMS



Hope and Healing Circle



Mark your calendars for October 14!!!

We will have a 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 and Trenesha Boyd.

To register, please email Sr. Janet: janet@pbmr.org or Sign-Up in the Narthex.



DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2023
TIME: 9:30 A.M. to 11 A.M.
BREAKFAST SERVED AT 9 A.M.

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.

**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





Our Lady of Africa

WE ARE ONE

Holy, Catholic & Apostolic
EST. July 4, 2021 • Chicago

615 E Oakwood Blvd
Chicago IL 60653
773-624-5375

<http://www.ourladyofafricachicago.org>



The Sacrament of Confirmation imparts character and enables the person who has been baptized to continue the journey of initiation into the Christian faith, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Those who receive this Sacrament are empowered to witness to Christ in word and in-deed, and to proclaim the gospel message.

Children who participate will complete the following:

- ✓ A two-year catechetical process
- ✓ 5 service hours per year
- ✓ Regular Mass attendance
- ✓ Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ✓ And other formation activities including retreats.



Classes take place on Sundays from 1:30 pm until 3:00 pm at
Our Lady of Africa Tolton Center
4058 S Michigan Ave.

Confirmation Orientation for parents and students will take place on Sunday, September 17th at 1:30 pm at the Tolton Center, and a makeup session on Sunday, October 1st at 10:45 am at Our Lady of Africa Parish Hall.

If you have a youth entering grades 5-10 in the Fall of 2023 and would like for them to receive the [Sacrament of Confirmation](#) or have any questions, please contact:

Tina Carter at tinalcarter71@gmail.com,
Stephanie Gado at sgado12@gmail.com, or
Theresa Rhea at theresarhea@att.net





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