



OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, September 3, 2023



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”
- Mt 16:24b-25

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.

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 3

- Blessed Sacrament Society Meeting
10 a.m. | Parish Hall
- Sunday School - 11:30 a.m.
| Sunday School Room

Monday, September 4

- **LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, September 5

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

Wednesday, September 6

- Peace & Social Justice Committee - 6 p.m.
| Tolton Center

Thursday, September 7

- 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 9

- Choir Rehearsal - 1 p.m.
- Altar Servers Training - 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 10

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

Stewardship

Offertory - August 26/27, 2023

\$ 6,779.00
\$ 1,075.00 - online offertory
\$ 300.00 - Zelle Donations
\$ 8,154.00

\$ 30,864.66 - August Collection: 2023

Offertory - August 27/28, 2022

\$ 4,652.50
\$ 840.00 - online offertory
\$ 5,492.50

\$ 26,833.50 - August Collection: 2022

Expenses for August 2023

\$ 49,283.13

Thank you for your generosity!

Attendance August 26/27, 2023

446

Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

Saturday 4 p.m. - September 9

- Priest: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: Shawnece Wilson
Ted Budzynski

Sunday 9 a.m. - September 10

- Priest: Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ
- Lectors: Vita Faulkner
Shirley McKinney
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Rosemary Sykes
Sonia Davis

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - September 10

- Priest: Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, OCarm
- Lectors: Velma Hill
Silmon Reed
- Eucharistic Ministers:
Regina Cook
Earlene Hodges

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

- 8 a.m. Mass - Rachel Watson

Tuesday, September 5

- 8 a.m. Mass - Mary Crawford

Wednesday, September 6

- 10 a.m. Mass at Holy Angels School
Intention: Teachers

Thursday, September 7

- 8 a.m. Mass - Elijah Wall +

Friday, September 8

- 8 a.m. Mass - Nazaree Fuller

Saturday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 10

- 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.



Dear Friends,

From time to time, when I am frustrated working with people, especially in the Church, I say Jesus made only one mistake. He chose to let people to do His work. Of course, this is basically no different than what Peter told Jesus in today's Gospel.

In the beginning of the Gospel of John we have a world shattering proclamation, **"The Word became flesh."** (Jn 1:14) *This is God's plan. This is how Jesus accepted the call to save the world. Becoming flesh was not an isolated event. It is in accepting the totality of His humanity that God chose to save the world. This meant He accepted all of us as we are as part of His reality. For Jesus this meant an encounter with evil that would lead to his Passion and Death.*

So, when Jesus named Peter as the rock upon which He would build His Church, He accepted Peter, and all of us, His followers, as we are: broken and in need of being fixed. This is why it is so difficult for us to understand the Church. It is a home for sinners in need of healing, a home for the broken and lost in need of wholeness and new direction.

In today's story, Jesus tells Peter, and all of us, His chosen way of salvation. He was going to restore the world by entering into the pain and suffering of our broken humanity to heal it from within. The suffering and death of Jesus are the ultimate consequences of **"the Word became flesh."** (Jn 1:14)

Peter could not handle Jesus' words about the cross and rejection, denial and death. Most likely, he had great difficulty in the potential loss of personal power and prestige along with the unthinkable invitation to take up his cross. Peter was shocked by Jesus' new direction, a way Peter surely had not anticipated nor desired. Jesus was replacing the popular expectation of military might and privileged prosperity and power. Now Peter was confronted with the cross and loss of his comfort and convenience. So, he did what we all are constantly tempted to do. Like Peter, we make Jesus over in our image rather than accepting God at his Word which is Jesus in the flesh. Only in Jesus do we have a real expression of God's plan of salvation.

Today's announcement of the Jerusalem journey to rejection, suffering and death is the first of three such proclamations in the next few chapters of Matthew's Gospel. In each episode the disciples totally miss the point.

We continue the difficult task of accepting Jesus on His terms and not our terms. The Church is always in the struggle of searching for the integrity of the gospel message. We are never far from the temptation to tell Jesus how to do it our way just as Peter did. We continue to live with false expectations of having this perfect community and a problem-free personal life to carry on the ministry of the Gospel. We find it hard to accept that Jesus has fully embraced us in our brokenness and confusion. He has chosen to use the vessels of clay that we are to proclaim and celebrate the gospel message.

We cannot stand the sex scandal, the clericalism, the anti-women expressions of the Vatican officials, the distorted wealth and you name it. The Church can be truly agonizing with so much clarity in its documents and such mediocrity in its reality. Yet, these very same failings are always mixed with the incredible faithfulness of so many families working against all odds, good priests trying their best, women religious continuing to be quiet and hidden heroes of the Gospel, the silent and loving suffering of so many hidden lives. The weeds and wheat will be with us to the end.

Jesus wants us to be open to the mystery of the Incarnation. We need to accept each other in our brokenness just as Jesus did when He became flesh. Paul expresses the wonder of this event in his great hymn in the letter to the Philippians:

**Though He was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.
Rather, He emptied Himself
And took the form of a slave being born in the
likeness of men
He was known to be of human estate,
And it was thus that He humbled Himself,
Obediently accepting even death,
Death on a cross! (PHI 2:6-8)**



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
9/07 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 Gussie McShan
9/29 James Hunter



Please Remember in Daily Prayer and Devotions

Sunday, September 3

Readings: Jer 20: 7-9/ Ps 63: 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9 (2b)/
Rom 12: 1-2/ Mt 16: 21-27

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

Monday, September 4

Readings: 1 Thes 4: 13-18/ Ps 96: 1 and 3. 4-5. 11-
12. 13/ Lk 4: 16-30

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

Tuesday, September 5

Readings: 1 Thes 5: 1-6. 9-11/ Ps 27: 1. 4. 13-14/
Lk 4: 31-37

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

Wednesday, September 6

Readings: Col 1: 1-8/ Ps 52: 10. 11/ Lk 4: 38-44

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

Thursday, September 7

Readings: Col 1: 9-14/ Ps 98: 2-3ab. 3cd-4. 5-6/
Lk 5: 1-11

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

Friday, September 8

Readings: Mi 5: 1-4a or Rom 8: 28-30/ Ps 13: 6ab.
6c/ Mt 1: 1-16. 18-23

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

Saturday, September 9

Readings: Col 1: 21-23/ Ps 54: 3-4. 6 and 8/
Lk 6: 1-5

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

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
HAMILTON PARK

513 W 72nd St, Chicago, IL 60621
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 1, 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





Dear OLA Church Family,

In an effort to be as transparent as possible, we are placing your responses to the Town Hall Meeting in this week's bulletin.

We hope that you will find these results helpful and provide you with everyone's feedback so that you know that what happened will have effect in our future session.

We will take into account what you shared and do our best possible to make the changes that you suggest. Also, this will serve as our benchmark to be accountable and show the progress that we are making.

Further constructive suggestions and comments are welcome.

God Bless you all and have a wonderful Labor Day Holiday!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Carl Gales, SVD

Finance Formative Council

Appointed until July, 2024

Until time when a New Pastor will be assigned to Our Lady of Africa

Cyprian Alaribe
Vanessa Beavers
Greg Chappell
Theresa Dishman
Deacon Michael Foggie
Karyn Price
Theresa Rhea
James Teemer

Parish Formative Council

Appointed until July, 2024

Until time when a New Pastor will be assigned to Our Lady of Africa

Tina Carter
Keisha Chavers
Larry Cope
Trent Dean
Deacon Michael Foggie
Ladell Johnson
Mark Kutame
Michael Morman
Marcheta Smith
Gardis Watts



OLA Parish Town Hall Meeting Results



Parishioners' Discussion Responses from Townhall Meeting

<u>One word</u> <i>What does Unification Mean?</i>	<u>One word</u> <i>Challenges</i>	<u>Open Discussion</u> <i>Suggestions/OLA Future</i>
• Coordination	• Consistency	• Put God first
• Acceptance	• Stuck on tradition	• Come to Christ, not a building
• Oneness	• Encouragement	• Be open and accepting
• Growth	• Selfishness	• Empower our youth
• Hope	• Timeliness	• Share
• Love	• Participation	• Listen to one another
• Faith	• Acceptance	• Strength in unity
• Understanding	• Unification	• Move around the sanctuary/sit in different seats and pews
• Transparency	• Change	• Understand the role of the laity
• Ministry	• Warmth	• The grieving process: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance
• Trust	• Community	• Observe Holy Days of Obligation
• Forgiveness	• Outreach	• Education
• Togetherness	• Umbrella	• Marketing
• Sharing	• Vision	• Tithing
• Honor	• Welcoming	• Create a new vision
• Whole	• Guidance	• Family
• Community	• Friendliness	• Adopt and adapt
• Collaboration	• Belonging	• Stop the drama
• Team	• Identity	• Become socially conscious
• Family	• Strategy	• Embrace change



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honesty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop processes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to disagree
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend different Masses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build OLA unity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love being a Black Catholic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ego 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew our spirit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be curious
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, talent and treasure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to learn
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth-centric
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change is not easy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace the new reality
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have name tags
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build unity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be part of a ministry
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to know one another
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say 'Hello'
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective work
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelize
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay welcoming
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common bond
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Parish events
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something for someone else
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be one church



Our Lady of Africa Townhall Meeting Survey **55 Surveys were submitted**

1. How productive was the Townhall Meeting?
 - a. Very productive = **69%**
 - b. Somewhat productive = **30.9%**
 - c. Not productive at all
2. Were your ideas, concerns and/or issues addressed properly? If not, please add your ideas, issues and/or concerns in the box below.
 - a. Yes = **65.4%**
 - b. No = **5.4%**
 - c. Somewhat = **27.2%**
 - d. No response = **1.8%**
3. Were you comfortable with sharing your ideas, issues and/or concerns?
 - a. Very comfortable = **61.8%**
 - b. Somewhat comfortable = **30.9%**
 - c. Not comfortable at all = **1.8%**
 - d. No response = **5.4%**
4. Overall, how would you rate the Townhall Meeting?
 - a. Excellent = **38.1%**
 - b. Good = **56.3%**
 - c. Fair = **5.4%**
 - d. Poor
5. Would you like the Parish to host more forums, like the townhall meeting?
 - a. Yes = **92.7%**
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe = **7.2%**
6. Did the Financial and Parish Leadership presentations meet your expectations?
 - a. Yes = **80%**
 - b. No = **1.8%**
 - c. Somewhat = **18.1%**
 - d. Not at all



Additional Comments

- I have been here for less than one year and don't have the grief or baggage from merging parishes. I believe we should spend more time discussing the parish's future and growth.
- Thank you! Let's be OLA strong!
- This was needed very much. Thank you.
- Clarification on debt forgiveness, parish solvency, and conflicting messages about financial status post-Renew My Church.
- Need a fundraising committee to organize an annual fundraiser.
- These forums should be held more frequently.
- Let's do it again/update.
- Please form a collaboration with other parishes to have a youth minister hired for our youth before we lose them.
- I think the financial report should have been passed out to everyone.
- We need to remember the church is a sanctuary. Some people need to remember it's a place of prayer, not a catch-up venue.
- People were able to discuss was important. Discussions and words should not be evaluated as good.
- This was very informative.
- Communication is always good.
- Good idea to have parish meeting. Should continue to do so.
- Very informative. Great job.
- No comment.
- Thank you for allowing people to ask questions at this first forum. Thank you for all that you do.
- Well done.
- The urgency is on unification. Only then, can we continue the work toward education, expansion, etc.
- It would be helpful to focus future meetings on specific items to be discussed.
- This is progress.



- Great opportunity to come together.
- I understand people's concern with traditions, but as a new member, it seems clear to me that the parish's financial situation is the most important matter for our energy to be oriented.
- I think for the people that did not come, you should put the information in the bulletin.

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



NEW Gender-Based Violence Ministry NEEDS YOU!

Do you believe everyone can help end gender-based violence?

If so, we invite you to join the new gender-based violence ministry formed through a collaborative initiative between Our Lady of Africa and St. James on Wabash churches. The churches are joining forces to better serve their South Side parishes and leverage their resources.

We are a team of dedicated volunteers whose mission is to increase awareness about gender-based violence, advocate for prevention, education, and policy changes, and provide support and resources to survivors and their loved ones.

We are looking for volunteers who are compassionate, empathetic, discreet, and committed to ending gender-based violence. No experience is necessary, and we will provide you with all the training you need.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to:

1. Educate the community about gender-based violence
2. Raise awareness of the issue and promote prevention
3. Develop communitywide programming and events
4. Make a positive impact on your community

Together, we all can make a difference in the lives of survivors of gender-based violence. Join us today!

Please sign-up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/hhpQXuht0J>.

Or call the Parish Office: 773-624-5375.



Upcoming Events!



OUR
17th
YEAR!

GBUS CHICAGO

BRONZE
ARTIST LOFTS

TROLLEY TOUR 2023

DATES:

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

SEPT 15

3rd FRIDAYS
6-9PM

SPACES:

Blanc Gallery

Bronzeville Artist Lofts

Faie Afrikan Art

Gallery Guichard

South Side Community
Art Center

Continuous rotating
double decker buses!
Board at any location!

RSVP on Eventbrite for events and gallery schedules:

<https://bit.ly/2023bronzevillearttour>

Sponsors:



PEOPLES GAS

