



# OUR LADY OF AFRICA

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday, April 7, 2024



Served by the Society of the Divine Word



**RECEIVE**  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT.

— JOHN 20:22 —

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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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 Sunday)  
2:30 p.m.—Igbo Community (*last two Sundays*)  
6:00 p.m.—French (*1st Sunday*)  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10 a.m.  
Wednesday: 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  
Or by appointment (773)624-5375

## **Parish Administrator**

Father Carl Gales, SVD

## **Contact Us**

Phone: 773-624-5375  
Email: [ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofafricachicago@gmail.com)  
Mail: 615 East Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60653

## **Church Address**

607 East Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60653

## **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## **Website**

[www.ourladyofafricachicago.com](http://www.ourladyofafricachicago.com)



## This Week at OLA

### Sunday, April 7

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

### Tuesday, April 9

- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Phone-In Bible Study | 6 p.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967

### Wednesday, April 10

- Social Justice Meeting | 6 p.m.  
| Tolton Center
- **Daily Mass | 6:30 p.m.**

### Thursday, April 11

- Angels on Air Phone Prayer Line | 9 a.m.  
| (267) 807-9601 | Code: 340-355-967
- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Food Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon  
| Tolton Center

### Friday, April 12

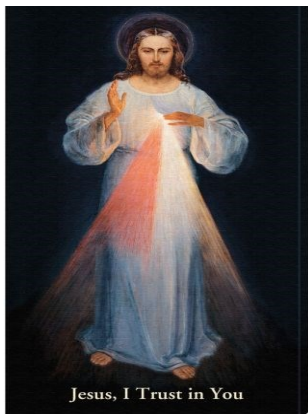
- **Daily Mass | 10:30 a.m.**
- Adoration, Taize, and Devotion  
| 6:30 p.m. | Church

### Saturday, April 13

- Hope & Healing Circle | 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
| Parish Hall
- Choir Rehearsal | 12:30 p.m. | Church
- Altar Server Training | 2 p.m. | Church

### Sunday, April 14

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



Jesus, I Trust in You

## Ministry List for Upcoming Liturgies

### Saturday 4 p.m. April 13

- Priest: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Theresa Rhea  
Eileen Foggie

### Sunday 9 a.m. April 14

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Shirley McKinney  
Michael Morman
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Rosemary Sykes  
Sonia Davis

### Sunday 11:30 a.m. April 14

- Priests: Fr. Carl Gales, SVD
- Lectors: Lisa Pruitt  
Silmon Reed
- Eucharistic Ministers:  
Velma Hill  
Trish Rawls

## Attendance March 27—31

Holy Thursday	135
Good Friday	91
Easter Vigil	139
9 a.m. Mass	90
11:30 a.m. Mass	288
2:30 p.m. Mass	140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>883</b>

## Stewardship

### Offertory - March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)

\$ 15,109.00  
\$ 3,033.00 - online offertory  
\$ 18,142.00

### Offertory—March 28-30 (Holy Triduum)

\$ 3,459.00 - online included

### Offertory - April 1/2, 2023 (Palm Sunday)

\$ 8,590.00  
\$ 1,181.00 - online offertory  
\$ 9,771.00

### Average Weekly Operating Costs

\$ (14,423.08)  
\$ 21,601.00 - Total Offertory  
\$ **7,177.92**

Thank you for your generosity!



## Written in the Wounds

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all."

It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28

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



# zelle



You can send your offertory through Zelle:

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





## April Birthdays

4/05 Rosetta Batiste  
4/05 Avis Green  
4/07 Thelma Jackson  
4/09 Chery Tyson  
4/11 Joyce Franklin

4/15 Marcia Berry  
4/17 Dwight Hearn  
4/17 Merrill Tyson  
4/18 Julie Sumpter  
4/22 Barbara Golden

4/25 Gail Betty  
4/26 Ku-San Thomas  
4/27 Jean Parkham-Jacques  
4/28 Alan Emerson Hicks  
4/30 Edith Smith

## Mass Schedule

### Sunday, April 7

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY—2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Readings:** Acts 4: 32-35/ Ps 118: 2-4. 13-15. 22-24/  
1 Jn 5: 1-6/ Jn 20: 19-31

**Mass Intentions:**

4 p.m. | Divine Word College Benefactors

9 a.m. | OLA Church Family

11:30 a.m. | OLA Church Family

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

### Monday, April 8

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD—SOLEMNITY

**Readings:** Is 7: 10-14; 8: 10/ Ps 40: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10.  
11/ Heb 10: 4-10/ Lk 1: 26-38

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

### Tuesday, April 9

TUESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTERTIDE

**Readings:** Acts 4: 32-37/ Ps 93: 1ab. 1cd-2. 5/  
Jn 3: 7b-15

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

### Wednesday, April 10

WEDNESDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTERTIDE

**Readings:** Acts 5: 17-26/ Ps 34: 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/  
Jn 3: 16-21

**Mass Intentions:**

6:30 p.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

### Thursday, April 11

ST. STANISLAUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

**Readings:** Acts 5: 27-33/ Ps 34: 2 and 9. 17-18. 19-  
20/ Jn 3: 31-36

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

### Friday, April 12

FRIDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTERTIDE

**Readings:** Acts 5: 34-42/ Ps 27: 1. 4. 13-14/  
Jn 6: 1-15

**Mass Intentions:**

10:30 a.m. | Poor Souls in Purgatory

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

### Saturday, April 13

SATURDAY OF THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTERTIDE

**Readings:** Acts 6: 1-7/ Ps 33: 1-2. 4-5. 18-19/  
Jn 6: 16-21

**OLA Book of Prayer:** Nolan Humphries,

Cindy Jirsa, Monica Lewers, Bernadine McNeal,  
Jeff Moore

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 is the recommended donation per intention) and during the weekdays (\$10 recommended per intention) are available.

Please submit a Mass Intention request by filling out an Mass Intention Envelope and calling the Parish Office to confirm the scheduled time: 773-624-5375.



The Tolton Ambassadors-Chicago would like to announce that they are accepting essays from Catholic school students and students who faithfully attend a Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago for the **2024 Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Essay Contest**.

**The contest is for students in grades 5 through 8**

Essays must be 500 –1500 words in length.

Parent permission is required to participate.

**Essays should answer the following question:**

**We know that Father Tolton was the first recognizable Black Catholic priest in the United States. The road to priesthood and his life after ordination was not easy. We know his life was full of challenges, yet he continued to pursue his dream and became a Catholic priest. Reflect on Father Tolton’s life as you answer the following:**

**Chicago has received over 30,000 men, women and children who fled from their home countries in South America in pursuit of a better life in the United States. You have seen news reports and read articles on their plight since arriving in Chicago. Some say, “We do not have enough resources to share with them.” How do you think Fr. Tolton would want us to handle this crisis? What message would he give to inspire Catholics to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ?**

Essays will be judged on *Originality, Connection to Theme, Paragraph Construction, Organization and Mechanics*.

**Essays must be submitted by an Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic school faculty member or a Catholic Church administrator to:**

**[toltonambassador.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:toltonambassador.chicago@gmail.com)**

Essays must be submitted by 11:59 pm Sunday April 14, 2024.

Winners will be announced Monday April 22, 2024. Three people will be awarded prizes.

Winners will receive a cash prize 1<sup>st</sup> place \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$100

The prizes will be awarded Saturday May 4, 2024 during the Tolton Essay Luncheon. Luncheon tickets are free for students who submit essays and their parents. Tickets are \$30 or \$15 for those 12 and under.



## EASTER IS THE SEASON OF BAPTISMS

### THE NEXT BAPTISM DATES ARE FAST APPROACHING

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED,  
NOW IS THE TIME TO SCHEDULE AND MEET WITH TINA CARTER,  
OUR BAPTISM COORDINATOR AND CATECHIST.

EMAIL: [TINALCARTER71@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TINALCARTER71@GMAIL.COM)

#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***Jesus answered (Nicodemus), "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." -John 3:5***

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2<sup>nd</sup> edition paragraph 1215 states "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

It is through this sacrament of initiation that we enter a new life with Christ and fellow believers.

Faith communities are built and nourished with committed believers. At Our Lady of Africa, it is important that we share what the sacred gift of Baptism has brought us and develop a deeper faith-filled relationship with all those who wish to have their children baptized. We are a faith family of believers and for any relationship to grow, it requires commitment, attention, and mutual intentional care. In that light, parents who desire Baptism for their child must be parishioners at Our Lady of Africa, attend Mass regularly, and attend a mandatory baptismal preparation class.

Baptism requests will be confirmed upon submission of the following requirements:

1. Completion of the application.
2. Parents and Godparents attend Baptismal Prep Class.

Families can decide to have the class via Zoom or meet in person with Ms. Carter. Only 1 Godparent is needed, but 2 are acceptable. Godparents should attend the class even if they will not be physically present on the day of the Baptism.

#### Requirements for Godparents

The Catholic Church requires the following of Godparents: (canon 874.1)

The godparents are to be chosen by the parents or guardians. They are to be at least sixteen years of age. They must be Catholics who have already been confirmed and have received the holy Eucharist. They should be leading a life in harmony with the faith, i.e., practicing Catholics (attending Mass), if married, in a valid Catholic Marriage, etc. They may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. You may choose one or two godparents. If you choose two, one must be male and the other female. The godparents must have the qualifications and intention to carry out this duty.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**\*\*Non-Catholic Witness (Can.874.2)** A baptized person from a non-Catholic ecclesial (church) community may be admitted as a witness to baptism but only with a Catholic Godparent. This person is not formally called a Godparent but will be referred to as a Christian Witness.

Children aged 5 and up are encouraged to attend Sunday school regularly to help them also learn about their faith.

Adults interested in Baptism are encouraged to enroll in the Order for Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) and will be baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Public Baptisms (baptisms during Mass) are available at the following times within the next two months:

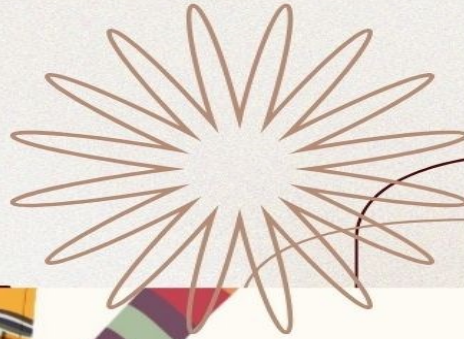
**April 14th, May 26th,**

Private baptisms are also available by appointment.

The suggested donation offertory for baptisms is \$50.00.



**You're invited!**



a safe space to share what's going on in your life



**HOPE AND HEALING**

©L

Coffee and Donuts Provided

Saturday, April 13  
9am to 11:00  
607 E Oakwood Blvd

**OLA Musical Gala Raffle Tickets!**

**DATE OF RAFFLE: APRIL 19, 2024**

ORDER ONLINE  
ON OUR WEBSITE,  
BY ZELLE,  
AFTER MASS,

OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE!

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!!  
SUPPORT THE OLA MUSIC FUND!



**OLA MUSICAL GALA RAFFLE PRIZES**

FIRST PRIZE: \$2,000

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000

THIRD PRIZE: \$500

ONE TICKET: \$25  
FIVE TICKETS: \$100



**DIVINE MERCY - ADORATION - DEVOTION - WILL RESUME**

**FRIDAY ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR APRIL:  
APRIL 5TH, APRIL 12TH, APRIL 26TH  
6:30 PM**



## Social Justice Story Time



### Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Join our social justice story time for our youngest friends on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the King Branch of Chicago Public Library. We share stories, songs, and rhymes around a specific theme. Come and make new friends and learn more about a social justice topic. Our theme for April will be "Celebrate the Earth." This event is aimed at children aged 2-6. This will be co-hosted by Our Lady of Africa Social Justice Ministry and Chicago Public Library King Branch, which is located at 3435 S. King Dr.

## 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,  
Tiffany Swann-Covington  
Shawnece Wilson

### Clergy

Fr. Carl Gales, SVD  
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

### IT Crew

Gloria Dean - *Lead*

### Knights of Peter Claver

Thomas Rich - *Grand Knight*

### Knights of Peter Claver

Lady's Auxiliary  
Lena Young - *Grand Lady*

### Maintenance

Tyrone Smith

### Medical Ministry

Dr. James Hunter

### Men's Coalition

Michael Morman - *President*

### Music Ministry

Maestro Tyrone Pittman

### OCIA

Kimberly Brooks

### Social Justice and Peace

Byron Diggs - *Co-Chair*  
Parris Washington - *Co-Chair*

### 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

## Homeless and Migrants

If you have men's clothing that you would like to donate, there is a great need at the homeless shelter we are partnering with.

Thank you for your continued support of the homeless.