

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 22, 2024 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greetings of A Holy Mother

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king. God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever.

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us." Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh". He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history.

All this is recognized by John the Baptist when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading: "she who is to give birth." And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises: There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you". The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Therefore, we shall put our trust in the Lord Jesus in all the situations of our lives. Lord, increase our faith more as we go through our joys and our sorrows. Let your will be done in our lives.

Love and prayers,

Fr. Charley

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Celebrations:

Saturday: 5:00pm (Vigil) Church

Sunday: 8:00am Church & 10:00am Church

Rosary: Saturday: 4:30pm /Sunday: 7:30am /9:25am

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:

St. Joseph Chapel

Rosary: 11:30 am before Noon Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30—4:30pm

Important Messages

First Friday-Healing Mass/Noon-Church

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist 11:00am

First Saturday morning Mass

8:00am, in the Chapel

Adoration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:30am

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday – December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5: 1-4a/Heb 10: 5-10/Lk 1: 39-45

Monday – December 23

Late Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday – December 24

Late Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday – December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday – December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Friday – December 27

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday – December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday – December 29

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE

GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

★ PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ★



Mark Your Calendars—February 27-28, March 1

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate. More information will be shared after the first of the year.

Wedding Anniversaries

William & Patricia Andre
Steve & Cathy Eacret
Gene & Deborah Gezing
Ferdinand & Catherine Manglona



Let us Pray for the Living and the Deceased

For the living:

Barbara Chandler, Peter Quintanilla, Patricia Thomas, Mary Lou Zurowski, Margaret Dorsey, Helen Bill-Cash, Robert Lemley, Rose Marie Phillips, Paul Shea, Riley Scott, Rosemarie Phillips and all those in our parish community in need of physical or spiritual healing.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to have a loved one remembered during the liturgy for any special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, get well, deceased etc. Contact the Parish office at 256-852-0788.

Sat.	Dec. 21	5:00PM	The Vu Family †
Sun.	Dec. 22	8:00AM	Michael Thomas †
		10:00AM	John O'Brien †
Tues.	Dec. 24	4:30PM	Children of the Parish (I)
		12:00AM	The Parish Family (I)
Wed.	Dec. 25	10:00AM	The Parish Family
Thurs	Dec. 26	12:00PM	Communion Service
Fri.	Dec. 27	12:00PM	Robby Alookaran †
Sat.	Dec. 28	5:00PM	Wilhelmina Corsale †
Sun.	Dec. 29	8:00AM	Robbe Alookaran †
			Jeanette Malkasian †
		10:00AM	Anna Kellcher †
			Fr. Charley Alookaran (I)
			33rd Anniversary of his Ordination

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. Dec. 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	4:30PM
	Music Prelude	3:45PM
	Parish Office Closed	
Wed. Dec. 25	Midnight Mass	12:00AM
	Music Prelude	11:15PM
	Nativity of the Lord Mass	10:00AM
	Parish Office Closed	
Tues. Dec. 31	New Year's Adoration	11:30PM
	Parish Office Closed	
Wed. Jan. 1	New Year's Midnight Mass	12:00AM
	Solemnity of Mary	10:00AM
	Parish Office Closed	
Fri. Jan. 3	First Friday with Healing Mass	12:00PM
	Adoration	11:00AM
	St. Andrew's Table to follow in Joy Hall	
Sat. Jan 4	First Saturday Mass	8:00AM
	Altar Server Training	10:00AM
	Epiphany Party	6:00PM

St. Andrew's Table will meet Friday, January 3 after the Healing Mass. Please come and join us for food and fellowship!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Youth Religious Education: Sundays 11:00 AM -12:00 PM

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)

Dear Parents, the dress rehearsal for the Nativity Pageant is immediately after the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 22nd. Please meet in the Apostles room across from the chapel. Thank You!



Tuesday evenings

6:00 PM in Joy Hall

Class resumes after the holidays on January 7th.

HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK YET?



You might be surprised to find some good movies and documentaries to watch on your family MOVIE NIGHT! Programming you don't have to pay for that is good for the soul...

NOTE: all parishioners are eligible with an email.

Sign up at **FORMED.ORG** and enjoy!

SO, DID YOU SIGN UP??

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Apply to join our 2025-2026 Falcon Family! St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops students in spirit, mind, and body through a Christ-centered, college preparatory education. As a welcoming community of faith, we encourage, challenge, and support our students to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly so they will improve themselves and society through their faith and vocation. Apply today at www.jp2falcons.org! Please contact our Admissions Office at 256-430-1760 (ext. 117) with questions.

Holy Family School: Give the gift of giving!

Thank you to all who helped with gifts for the "Santa Store". It has allowed the children to purchase gifts for their families.

MUSIC * YOUTH MINISTRY * LITURGY NEWS

Youth Ministry

Sunday, January 12th is the Epiphany Party at 5:00 PM. Please bring a wrapped gift, \$5.00, or less, for Dirty Santa.

Liturgy

Family Rosary: At Our Lady, Queen of the Universe we pray the rosary every 3rd Sunday at 4:30PM with Exposition and Adoration of the Holy Body. This is a special time set for the community of believers to adore and pray the rosary for the health of this parish. Please volunteer to help lead this time. We need 5 readers for the decades of the rosary and one person to ring bells. Please contact mark@olqu.org.

Music Ministry

Christmas Choir Vigil Mass/Children's Mass for grades 1-12 will begin rehearsal on December 22nd at 11:15PM in the Music Room. All children/youth are welcome. This is the last rehearsal.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

Epiphany Party

Saturday, January 4 following 5PM Mass is our annual Epiphany Party in Joy Hall. Bring an unwanted gift valued at \$10 for Dirty Santa along with a pot luck to share. Come and have a fun night.



Ireland Pilgrimage

Fr. Charley is leading a Pilgrimage to Ireland May 25th to June 5th 2025. We still have a few spots available. If you are interested in joining this trip or would like additional information, please contact Bernard Acker at 256-701-1199 or the Church Office at 256-852-0788.



Wishing to get Married? Couples who want to get married in the Catholic Church are required to attend a Pre-Cana weekend. The Diocese of Birmingham has approved engaged couples to complete one of two online programs, or attend one of four weekends available at the Abbey in Cullman or one of the two weekends in the Huntsville area. For more information about the dates of the online or weekend programs, and to receive more information about Marriage Preparation at Our Lady, Queen of the Universe, contact Deacon Jim Multeri at 256-852-0788 or Email: deaconjim@olqu.org.

2025 Calendars The calendars are now available and are in the gathering area. Please take only one per family.



OLQU Office Contact Information

Reverend Charley Alookaran, Pastor

aocharley@olqu.org

Deacon James Multeri

deaconjim@olqu.org

Susan Turner, Director of Religious Education

susan@olqu.org

Shirley Bernal, Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@olqu.org

Juan Mark Blackburn SDS, Director of Music and Youth Ministry

mark@olqu.org | youthministry@olqu.org

Donna Pillarella, Parish Secretary

OLQU Parish Office Contact:

office@olqu.org / Telephone 256-852-0788

OLQU Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Mission Statement: We, the Parish Family of Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Catholic Church, through spiritual growth and service to others, seek to follow Mary's example of doing God's will by being a loving and open community centering on the Word, the Sacraments, and the Presence of Christ in our lives.

Councils, Commissions & Ministries

Ministry Coordinator: Eva Andrzejewski 256-430-3486

Finance Council: Fran Spinelli 256-830-4135

Adult Ed/Sacrament/RCIA Susan Turner 256-852-0788

Agape Joy: Maria Nolen 334-517-8157

Altar Linens: Pat Spinelli 256-830-4135

Altar Servers: Jared Ebelhar 256-684-8385

Arts & Environment: Beth Anderson 256-852-8734

Baptism Preparation: Deacon Jim Multeri 256-852-0788

Building & Maintenance: Joe Andrzejewski 256-430-3486

Care Ministry: Deacon Jim Multeri 256-852-0788

Chain Rosary: David McClure 502-759-1939

Charismatic Prayer Group: Jeff Anderson 256-852-8734

Communications: Damian Hochmuth 256-890-1621

EMHC: Maria Nolen 334-517-8157

Fund Raising: Fran Spinelli 256-830-4135

Gardening: Marge Mullen 256-683-1663

Greeters: Tom Heath 256-859-9554

IT & A/V Care: Jim Chaloupka 256-852-0788

Lawn Care: Orlando Herrera 256-990-7212

Lectors: Sybil Shearburn 256-679-7023

Life in Faith: Cindy Williams 256-509-7258

Marriage Preparation: Deacon Jim Multeri 256-852-0788

Loving Hands: Carol Lee 256-852-4095

Mass Coordinator: Pat Spinelli 256-830-4135

Men's Club: Roberto Ruiz 256-655-2509

Money Counters: Pat Spinelli 256-830-4135

Music Ministry: Mark Blackburn, Director 256-852-0788

Pastoral Care: JoAnn Harper 256-859-3330

Prayer Shawl Donna Pillarella 256-852-0788

Queen Bees: Claudia McClure 256-337-6986

Religious Education: Susan Turner, Director 256-852-0788

Sacristans: Pam Mefford 256-509-5000

Safety & Security: Celeste Brothers 707-365-1607

Social: Orlando Herrera 256-990-7212

St. Andrew's Table: Joanna Acker 256-721-6922

St. Vincent de Paul: Luster Ingram 256-852-2899

Ushers: Jay Hammer 256-337-1016

Youth Ministry: Mark Blackburn, Director 256-852-0788

Mass Intentions available for 2024. If you would like to have a Mass for a loved one or in honor of a special occasion please contact the office at 256-852-0788. The stipend is still \$10.

SOCIAL CONCERNS & FOOD PANTRY

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Pantry

Needs: rice, pinto beans, canned meats, mashed potatoes, cake mix, icing, cookies, corn meal mix, pancake mix, syrup, jello, pudding, cereal, coffee, tea, toiletries.

. PLEASE HELP US HELP THE POOR...

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: 256-852-2899

NEWS

Annual Respect for Life Mass

Saturday, January 18 2025

Bishop Steven Raica

9:00AM –Cathedral of St. Paul

2120 3rd Ave. North Birmingham, AL

www.BirminghamMarch for Life.com

St. John Paul II

Is seeking applicants for a full-time School Bookkeeper!
www.jp2falcons.org/employment for information.

MLK Diocesan Prayer Breakfast

January 11 @ 11:00AM—Cost \$25 per person

Cathedral of St. Paul Life Center, 2120 Third Avenue N.,
Birmingham, AL—Contact 205.838.8313 for more information.



All married Catholic couples are invited for an opportunity to enrich their relationship together on February 14-16 at St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman AL. Contact Barney & Kathy Bellard for more information at: barney.kathy.bellard@wwme.org

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 22	Building Fund
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	Solemnity of Mary
January 7	Religious Education

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	9,760.58
Weekly Collection 12/14-15	\$	6,275.00
Religious Education	\$	63.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	1,445.00
Building Fund	\$	1,142.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	335.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	652.00
Christmas Baskets	\$	220.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	690.00
Christmas Day	\$	3,205.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	746.00
Disaster Relief	\$	5.00
General Flowers	\$	120.00