

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 29, 2024 — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Feast of the Holy Family

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church.

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling. But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church.

When God sent his only begotten Son into the world, Jesus was born into a human family as a Jew who was raised according to the teaching and wisdom of God's word in the Hebrew Scriptures and the religious customs of his people. Jesus was born under the law of Moses and was circumcised on the eighth day and given his name, *Yeshua* in Hebrew (*Jesus* in English) which means "God saves."

We know little about Jesus' early life at home in Nazareth. Luke tells us that Jesus was obedient to his parents - Mary, his mother and Joseph, his foster father. As devout and God-fearing Jews, Joseph and Mary raised the boy Jesus according to the Scriptures and Jewish customs. It was the duty of all Jewish parents to raise their children in the instruction and wisdom of God's word in the Scriptures. We shall also raise our children in the instruction and wisdom of God's word in the Scripture and in the fear of God always. And pray for our Children everyday of our life. May God Bless us and our Families abundantly.

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 29

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

Monday – December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
1Jn 2: 12-17/Lk 36-40

Tuesday – December 31

Seventh within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
1Jn 2: 18-21/Jn 1: 1-18

Wednesday – January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Nm 6: 22-27/Gal 4: 4-7/Lk 2: 16-21

Thursday – January 2

SS Basil the Great and Gregory the Nazianzen Bishops
1Jn 2: 22-28/Jn 1: 19-28

Friday – January 3

The Holy Name of Jesus
1Jn 2: 29—3: 6/Jn 29-34

Saturday – January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Religious
1Jn 3: 7-10/Jn 1: 35-42

Sunday – January 5

The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60: 1-6/Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2: 1-12

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

Christopher Chacha & Ester Mgaya
Emanuel Enow & Jacqueline Takow
John & Suzanne Jones



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. 28	5:00PM	Wilhelmina Corsale †
Sun.	Dec. 29	8:00AM	Robby Alookaran † Jeanette Malkasian
		10:00AM	Anna Kellher † Fr. Charley (I)
Tues.	Dec. 31	12:00AM	The Parish Family (I)
Wed.	Jan. 1	10:00AM	The Parish Family (I)
Thurs	Jan. 2	12:00PM	John & Julia Almedia †
Fri.	Jan. 3	12:00PM	Andre Koume †
Sat.	Jan. 4	5:00PM	The Vu Family†
Sun.	Jan. 5	8:00AM	The Souls in Purgatory†
		10:00AM	Richard Moniz † Bill & Bonnie Andre †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. Dec. 31	New Year's Adoration Parish Office Closed	11:30PM
Wed. Jan. 1	New Year's Midnight Mass Solemnity of Mary Parish Office Closed	12:00AM 10:00AM
Thurs. Jan.2	Bible Study No Charismatic Prayer Group	9:30AM
Fri. Jan. 3	First Friday with Healing Mass Adoration St. Andrew's Table to follow in Joy Hall	12:00PM 11:00AM
Sat. Jan. 4	First Saturday Mass Altar Server Training Epiphany Party	8:00AM 10:00AM 6:00PM
Sun. Jan. 5	OLQU Breakfast	8:45AM
Wed. Jan. 8	Men's Club	6:00PM

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

OLQU Breakfast

Sunday, January 5rd from 8:45 AM to 9:15AM we will have our monthly breakfast. All are welcome! Please sign –up in the Gathering Area.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)



Happy New Year Blessings

to all our children and their families!
May God continue to bless you with a year
full of peace, love and happiness!
Classes resume January 5th, 2025



Tuesday evenings

6:00 PM in Joy Hall

Class resumes 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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 12th is the Epiphany Party at 5:00 PM. Please bring a wrapped gift, \$5.00, or less, for Dirty Santa. All grades 7-12 are welcome.

January 26 is game night. If you have a game you would like to play feel free to bring it.

Liturgy

Liturgical Ministers Needed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. We are looking to find new ministers for our parish masses. Altar Servers, Lectors, Communion Ministers, Ushers, decorators and Sacristans are needed for a smooth 2025 year. If you are interested in serving as a Liturgical Minister don't hesitate to get in touch with Mark Blackburn at mark@olqu.org or call at 256-852-0788.

Music Ministry

Children's Choir

St. Cecilia and St. Francis music choirs will you all a beautiful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. Both choirs will resume rehearsal on Sunday, January 12th at 12:15PM in the music room. All children are welcome from grade 3rd grade to 12th.

We look forward to a wonderful new year of singing, learning, and fellowship.

If you have any questions contact

mark@olqu.org or
rosranch@yahoo.com.

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.



Men's Club

Men of all ages if you would like join the Men's Club they meet of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month at 6:00PM. They help with Nite at the Races, do a Bonfire at Christmas and Fish Fry's during Lent. They have activities after their meetings that are enjoyable. Contact Rob Ruiz at 256-655-2509 for more information.

Loving Hands: We are about to begin a new year. If you have a little extra time on your hands please think about volunteering for the small ministry. A small group of dedicated women have carried on the task of polishing the solid oak pews and dusting/swiffering the floors twice a month ever since this church began. Would you like to join this group? Do you have time to fill in as a substitute if one of the regulars needs to be absent? We meet at 9:30AM on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Volunteers are most welcome to join us. Call Carol Lee at 256-852-4095 with any questions.

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 2025. 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.

SOCIAL CONCERNS & FOOD PANTRY

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Pantry

Our Christmas Basket distribution was a great success.

Thanks to all of you who donated to YOUR St. Vincent de Paul Pantry! Do remember to continue to contribute in 2025!

. 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 Frank and Kathryn Wessling at www.wwme.org or 205-530-3607.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 1	Solemnity of Mary
January 7	Religious Education
January 12	Building & Renovations
January 19	St. Vincent de Paul
	St. John Vianney Seminarian Fd

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	9,760.58
Weekly Collection 12/21/22	\$	6,733.00
Religious Education	\$	25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	105.00
Building Fund	\$	2,607.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	525.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	125.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	5.00
Christmas Day	\$	245.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	50.00
Disaster Relief	\$	60.00