

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



**December 8, 2024 — Second Sunday of Advent**

### **John is Greater than the Prophets**

Luke is telling us that the story which he is sharing with us is not a myth or a legend. Luke is telling us that Christianity is an historical religion that makes very real historical claims. He is saying that the saving events that he is about to tell us are not divorced from everyday life. They don't occur "once upon a time." They took place in a very special time and place. The incarnation means that the Son of God became flesh and dwelt among us in a particular place and a particular time.

Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need and that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory. Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets. But John is greater than the prophets. He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh".

John quotes Isaiah 40:3 to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

Today's message of the Gospel is: Luke is telling us that John the Baptist is the curtain raiser to the rescue mission of Jesus the Messiah. Against the backdrop of one of the greatest rescue missions in Jewish history – the return from Babylon – God once again is decisively entering human history in this place and at this time, but now for the greatest rescue mission of all.

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 8

Second Sunday of Advent  
Bar 5: 1-9/Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11/Lk 3: 1-6

### Monday – December 9

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Gn 3: 9-15, 20/Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12/Lk 1: 26-38

### Tuesday – December 10

Advent Weekday  
Is 40: 1-11/Mt 18: 12-14

### Wednesday – December 11

Advent Weekday  
Is 40: 25-31/Mt 11: 28-30

### Thursday – December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Zec 2: 14-17/Lk 1: 26-38

### Friday – December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr  
Is 48: 17-19/Mt 11: 16-19

### Saturday – December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church  
Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11/Mt 17: 9a, 10-13

### Sunday – December 15

Third Sunday of Advent  
Zep 3: 14-18a/Phil 4: 4-7/Lk 3: 10-18

## FAITHFILLED



Join us Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00PM, in the church as we celebrate *The Festival of Lessons and Carols*, a service of scripture and song that dates back to the late 19th century. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas.

### Fr. Charley's Christmas Baskets

If you are in need of a basket or know someone who is in need of one please contact the parish office at 256-852-0788 before December 15th.

### Wedding Anniversaries

Jason & Catherine Bardis, Daniel & Nora Hawk,  
Jacob & Lillian Salazar, Francis & Kathryn Wessling



### 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, George Plattsmier, Paul Shea, Mark Wiegmann, Kim Birkett, Riley Scott 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. 7	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Jeanette Prerost †
Sun.	Dec. 8	8:00AM 10:00AM	Adam Smith † Velma Glass † Deacon Larry Howell †
Mon.	Dec. 9	7:00AM 12:00PM	Souls in Purgatory † Erin Little (I) Dan & Stephanie Knutson †
Tues.	Dec. 10	12:00PM	Charley McBreaty †
Wed.	Dec. 11	12:00PM	Deacon Larry Howell †
Thurs.	Dec. 12	12:00PM 5:30PM	Souls in Purgatory † Katrina Alookaran †
Fri.	Dec. 13	5:00PM	Erin Little (I) Cathy Hicks †
Sat.	Dec. 14	5:00PM	Michael Smith † RoseAnn Nussberger †
Sun.	Dec. 15	8:00AM 10:00AM	Joseph & Rose Multeri † Deacon Larry Howell †

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Dec. 8	Parish Christmas Party/Bonfire Youth Group Christmas Party	4:00PM 5:00PM
Mon. Dec. 9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <b>(Holy Day of Obligation)</b> <b>NO CHAIN ROSARY</b>	7:00AM 12:00PM
<b>Tues. Dec. 10</b>	Vespers & Adoration	6:00PM
Wed. Dec. 11	Lessons & Carols	6:00PM
Thurs. Dec. 12	Bible Study Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Dinner to follow Charismatic Prayer Group	9:30AM 5:30PM 7:00PM
Tues. Dec. 17	Vespers & Adoration	6:00PM

### St. Joseph Sunday Missal

We have a few 2025 St. Joseph Missals left please come to the office if you need one The cost is still \$5.00 each.

### OLQU has more options for Online Giving!

Text GIVE to 256-598-5239 or Scan the QR available in the Gathering Area or on our website, olqu.org. Our Parish also has a brochure with instructions for all Online Giving options. We will continue to send contribution envelopes to those who prefer them. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley at bookkeeper@olqu.org or call 256-852-0788

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)

### CONFIRMATION PRAYER CROSS

We still have some wooden crosses at the wooden CROSS display in the gathering area. Please take one as a reminder to pray for a confirmation candidate. The students personalized their crosses and thank you for your prayers.

Josiah Dorsey, Blake Duckworth, Felicity Ebelhar, Daniella Enyoung, Jordan Francisco, Daniel Manglona, David McClure, George Plattsmier, Brennan Pry, Isabella Scariya.

The catechists appreciate your prayers, too! Claudia McClure & Dominic Ebelhar.

### HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK YET?



You might be surprised to find some good movies and documentaries to watch on your family MOVIE NIGHT!

**DID YOU SIGN UP???** NOTE: all parishioners are eligible with an email.

You can't beat it for FREE...just sign up at **FORMED.ORG** and enjoy!



Tuesday evenings  
6:00 PM in Joy Hall

### NATIVITY PAGEANT Christmas Eve 4:30 PM Mass

**1st rehearsal: December 8th - Noon  
for children wanting to participate!**  
**2nd rehearsal: December 15th— Noon**



## 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](http://www.jp2falcons.org)! Please contact our Admissions Office at 256-430-1760 (ext. 117) with questions.

**Holy Family School: Give the gift of giving!** Help our kids "play Santa" for their family and friends while supporting the school. Please consider donating new or never used gift items to stock the Santa Store. Students can shop for just \$1-5/item. Donations can be given to Ruth Gorman or taken to the school by Monday December 9th. Questions, text 256-651-4533/email [rumien3791@gmail.com](mailto:rumien3791@gmail.com).

## MUSIC \* YOUTH MINISTRY \* LITURGY NEWS

### Youth Ministry

Christmas Party is December 8th at 5:00PM in the Youth Room. We will play the annual Right Family Game. Please bring a wrapped Christmas Ornament under \$5.00.

### 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](mailto:mark@olqu.org).

### Music Ministry

Christmas Choir Vigil Mass/Children's Mass for grades 1-12 will begin rehearsal on December 1 at 12:15PM in the Music Room. All children/youth are welcome. Rehearsals: Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22.

December 11 (Wed) at 6PM join us for *Lessons & Carols*. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and Song that dates back to the late 19th century. In this service we listen to nine Scripture lessons that recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News.

## MINISTRIES \* NEWS \* EVENTS

### 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.



### Christmas Flower Envelopes

Flower envelopes available on the tables outside the church if you wish to make donations in honor of or in memory of a family member or a friend. \$15 each. Envelopes need to be in **no later than Sunday, December 15th**.



### November New Members

Please welcome Enrique & Jill Ramos; Mark & Jamie Hulin; Dakota, Lynsey and Hallie Hill into our OLQU family.



**Loving Hands:** "The humblest tasks get beautified if loving hands do them". – Little Women.

A very 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.

## 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

### EWTN

**Attention Christmas Shoppers!**

The EWTN Gift Shoppe's

Christmas Open House

Is Friday, December 12th

8 AM—5PM

5817 Old Leeds Rd. Irondale, AL 35210

205-271-2929

www.ewtnrc.com

### **St. John Paul II**

Is seeking applicants for a full-time School Bookkeeper!

[www.jp2falcons.org/employment](http://www.jp2falcons.org/employment) for information.

### **Catholic Center of Concern**

Is in need of monetary donations, pacifiers, soft teethers, receiving blankets, hooded bath towels/baby washcloths, baby wash, shampoo, lotion, knit and plush blankets, hats, toys, books, diapers size NB, 4, 5, and 6, baby wipes. Donations can be dropped off at:

1010 Church St NW, Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 963-9355



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 8	Immaculate Conception Building & Renovation Fund
December 15	Seminarian Education Fund St. Vincent de Paul
December 22	Building Fund

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	9,760.58
Weekly Collection 11/30-12/1	\$	4,979.18
Religious Education	\$	647.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	475.00
Building Fund	\$	410.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	165.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	230.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	340.00
All Saints Day	\$	41.00
Beacons of Hope	\$	36.00
Christmas Day	\$	125.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	74.00
Disaster Relief	\$	168.00