

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



### January 26, 2025 — Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Trust in the Lord always

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading. Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls.

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!" Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Please Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners; the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion; the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests; and the forging of an everlasting covenant. It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it. If you compare [Luke 4:16-17, 21](#) and [Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10](#), you will get it clearly.

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year. Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God. The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

The Gospel is the all-powerful and all-merciful word of God for us today. It's a life-giving word that has supernatural power to change, transform, and bring freedom and healing to those who accept it as the living word of God. When the president of the synagogue called on Jesus to read from the book of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus chose to read Isaiah's description of what the Messiah would do when he came to restore God's kingdom for the people of Israel.

The Lord Jesus speaks this same word to each of us today - he comes to bring us healing and restoration, pardon and freedom from the oppression of sin, despair, hopelessness, and destruction. We shall believe his word with expectant faith and trust. The Lord will not refuse to pour out his Spirit on all who trust in him. Ask the Lord Jesus to renew in us the joy of the Gospel and the freedom to live each day with trusting faith, joyful hope, and fervent love.

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 – January 26

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12: 12-30/Lk 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

### Monday – January 27

Weekday

Heb 9: 15, 24-28/Mk 3: 22-30

### Tuesday – January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Heb 10: 1-10/Mk 3: 31-35

### Wednesday – January 29

Weekday

Heb 10: 11-18/Mk 4: 1-20

### Thursday – January 30

Weekday

Heb 10: 19-25/Mk 4: 21-25

### Friday – January 31

St. John Bosco, Priest

Heb 10: 32-39/ Mk 4: 26-34

### Saturday – February 1

Weekday

Heb 11: 1-2, 8-19/Mk 4: 35-41

### Sunday – February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3: 1-4/Heb 2: 14-18/Lk 2: 22-40

## PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE

GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

★ PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ★



Have you made your photo appointment? Photos will be taken February 27-28 and March 1 at OLQU. Contact Mary Herrera (256.653.0485) or Bev Massa (256.503.7995) with any question or if you would like assistance in registering. Father Charley's goal is 100% participation of our Parish Family.

### Wedding Anniversaries

Orlando & Mary Herrera



### Let us Pray for the Living and the Deceased

For the living:

Barbara Chandler, Patricia Thomas, Mary Lou Zurowski, Helen Bill-Cash, Rose Marie Phillips, Paul Shea, Riley Scott, Susan Baechler, Patrick Buckley, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Cathy McCoy, and all those in our parish community in need of physical or spiritual healing.

For the deceased:

Peter Quintanilla, son of Pedro and Jacqueline Quintanilla.

## 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.	Jan. 25	5:00PM	Alfred Corsale † Frances Curry †
Sun.	Jan. 26	8:00AM	The Parish Family
		10:00AM	Henry Day † John Fowler †
Tues.	Jan. 28	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Wed.	Jan. 29	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Thurs.	Jan. 30	12:00PM	Stephen Nason (I)
Fri.	Jan. 31	12:00PM	Andre Koume †
Sat.	Feb. 1	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Henry Rexing †
Sun.	Feb. 2	8:00AM	Kisito Kutolbenu † Quinton Martin †
		10:00AM	Tim Martin †

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Feb 1	<b>First Saturday</b>	
	Adoration	7:30AM
	Mass	8:00AM
	Altar Server Training	10:00AM
Sun. Feb. 2	OLQU Breakfast	8:45AM
Thurs. Feb. 6	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00PM
Fri. Feb 7	<b>First Friday</b>	
	Adoration	11:00AM
	Healing Mass	Noon
	St. Andrew's Table to follow in Joy Hall	

**Assistance Needed** A female parishioner is in need of assistance in getting dressed (her blouse) in the morning at her home while she is rehabilitating from shoulder surgery. She is capable of performing all other tasks, but cannot raise her one arm. A monetary stipend is available. This will be for approximately four weeks in the Meridianville area. Schedule is flexible and open to more than one person splitting the task. If you are available to assist, please contact the office at 256-852-0788.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)

### CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

The confirmation candidates will be attending their overnight retreat the weekend of Feb. 7th & 8th at Monte Sano State Park. We are happy for them to have this spiritual experience to enhance their faith journey. Please, as always, keep them in your thoughts and prayers! They are: Josiah Dorsey, Blake Duckworth, Felicity Ebelhar, Daniella Enyoung, Jordan Francisco, Daniel Manglona, David McClure, George Plattsmier, Brennan Pry, and Isabella Scariya.

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



Our RCIA participants are faithfully preparing to be initiated into the Church this Easter. We officially welcome them at the *Rite of Acceptance & Welcoming* this weekend, at the 10 AM Mass. Please pray for them as they continue their journey of faith!

They are:

Susanne Bales, Carlo Ballesteros, Bailey Carwile, Sasi Intharasorn, Deandre Jamar, Antonia Lopé, Ngoc Nguyen, Daniel & Kaitlyn Pacey, Enrique Ramos, and Lisa Smith.

### Renovation News

Dear families: Next Sunday we will begin entering the RE building through the east exterior double doors in the gathering area (by the prayer walk). We will lead the children to class after the class prayer. AFTER class they will gather in Joy Hall for their snack time. You may wait in Joy Hall while your child is in class. Remember to pick them up in Joy Hall. Thank you in advance for your support!

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

### St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Apply to join our 2025-2026 Falcon Family! **Deadline is Saturday, March 1.** 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.

*St. John Paul II is searching for a principal!*

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

### Holy Family School Open House January 26th

We are kicking off Catholic Schools Week with a Mass at 11:15am in the Church and a tour of the new school from 1-3:00PM.

## MUSIC \* YOUTH MINISTRY \* LITURGY NEWS

### Youth Ministry

#### Upcoming Events

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

### Liturgy

#### Liturgical Ministers Needed

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](mailto:mark@olqu.org) or call at 256-852-0788.

### Music Ministry

#### Children's Choir

St. Cecilia and St. Francis music choirs resume rehearsals on Sunday at 12:15PM in the music room. All children are welcome from 3rd grade to 12th. We look forward to a wonderful year of singing, learning, and fellowship. If you have any questions contact [mark@olqu.org](mailto:mark@olqu.org) or [rosranch@yahoo.com](mailto:rosranch@yahoo.com).

## MINISTRIES \* NEWS \* EVENTS

### OLQU E-MAIL Addresses

OLQU is e-mailing important events, such as Church closures due to inclement weather, important date reminders, Holy Communion, Confirmation or any information Fr. Charley needs to put out quickly. If you are not receiving them contact the parish office. 256-852-0788.

### OLQU Breakfast

Sunday, February 2 from 8:45 AM to 9:15AM we will have our monthly breakfast. All are welcome!

St. Andrew's Table will meet Friday, February 2nd after the Healing Mass. Please come and join us for food and fellowship!

# FUNRAISER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

## FOOD ★ FELLOWSHIP ★ FUN

**FEBRUARY 15 (SATURDAY)  
6:15PM - JOY HALL**

**COST ANY DONATION, BIG OR SMALL  
IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

SIGN-UP BY FEBRUARY 9 TO ATTEND

**100%** OF DONATIONS GO TO THE BUILDING FUND

## 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

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We only have today. Let us begin." — Mother Teresa

## 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

### *Most Merciful Jesus Catholic Parish's Bless Fest May 3-4*

This is the 3rd Annual Bless Fest. Are you interested in being a vendor at this year's Bless Fest? Space is limited so submit your application soon!!

Questions About this event, email Patty Foltz at [mercyfest@mercyparish.church](mailto:mercyfest@mercyparish.church).

### *The Office of Black Catholic Ministry*

*Pressents*

A Diocesan Prayer Breakfast in Commemoration of

**The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

10:00 A.M. Saturday March 1, 2025 Tickets \$25.00

For information or to order tickets call 205-838-8313



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](http://www.wwme.org) or 205-530-3607.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 26	Building Fund
February 2	Religious Education
February 9	Building & Renovations
February 16	Seminarian Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection 1 18/19	\$	4,952.00
Religious Education	\$	31.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	751.00
Building Fund	\$	375.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	68.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	539.00
Disaster Relief	\$	37.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	27.00