

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



January 5, 2025 – The Epiphany of the Lord

A King to Behold: They Fell down and Worshiped Jesus the King

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of the Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth”.

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay him homage. That’s the scene, too, in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob. Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth.” Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon. One greater than Solomon is here. He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

St. John Chrysostom, an important Early Church Father who served as Archbishop of Constantinople, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem this way: “Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to “go before them,” drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger.”

We do have a star now which leads us to Jesus; that is “The Holy Bible”. Follow it, read and meditate every day on a passage from it, then we will also reach Jesus Christ Himself. The Bible is our daily guiding Star to reach Him.

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 5

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

Monday – January 6

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3: 22—4: 6/Mt 4: 1217, 23-25

Tuesday – January 7

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4: 7-10/Mk 6: 34-44

Wednesday – January 8

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4: 11-18/Mk 6: 45-52

Thursday – January 9

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4: 19—5: 4/Lk 4: 14-22

Friday – January 10

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5: 5-13/Lk 5: 12-16

Saturday – January 11

Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5: 14-21/Jn 3: 22-30

Sunday – January 12

The Baptism of the Lord
Is 40: 1-5, 9-11/Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7/Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

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

Angel Luis Padilla & Wendy Templeton



“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” — Mother Teresa

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, Susan Baechler 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.	Jan. 4	5:00PM	The Vu Family †
Sun.	Jan. 5	8:00AM	The Souls in Purgatory † Hermogenes Peralta Jr. †
		10:00AM	Richard Moniz † Bill & Bonnie Andre †
Tues.	Jan. 7	12:00AM	Divina Peralta (I)
Wed.	Jan. 8	10:00AM	Mathen Pa †
Thurs	Jan. 9	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory†
Fri.	Jan. 10	12:00PM	Andre Koume †
Sat.	Jan. 11	5:00PM	Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sun.	Jan. 12	8:00AM	The Souls in Purgatory†
		10:00AM	Deacon Larry Howell † Sherry Templeton †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Jan. 4	First Saturday Mass	8:00AM
	Altar Server Training	10:00AM
	Epiphany Party	6:00PM
Sun. Jan. 5	No OLQU Breakfast	8:45AM
Wed. Jan. 8	Men's Club	6:00PM
Thurs. Jan. 9	Bible Study	9:30AM
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00PM
Sun. Jan. 12	Youth Discovery Night	5:00PM
Mon. Jan. 13	Chain Rosary	7:00AM– 8:00PM
Tues Jan. 21	Vespers & Adoration	6:00PM

New to our parish? If you are visiting our parish and are interested in joining our Catholic Family, registration forms are available in the gathering area or at the parish office (office hours are Tues.- Fri. 9am –3pm). Fill one out and drop it into a collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

Altar Flowers may be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Contact Beth Anderson at 256-852-8734 or the parish office at 256-852-0788 to schedule a date. The cost is still \$150.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)

Welcome to 2025!



Dear families: Changes are coming soon with the old hallway renovation. We will be accommodating much of the items in storage in the old building, into the RE building. The old cabinetry will be temporarily moved into the classrooms and RE hallway for this purpose. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during the renovation process. Please know that this temporary situation will not affect the learning environment for your children. Thank You for your support!



Tuesday evenings

6:00 PM in Joy Hall

Class resumes on
January 7th:
"The Sacraments of Initiation"

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 wish 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 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

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.

Men's Club

Men of all ages if you would like to join the Men's Club they meet on 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.

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.

Coffee and Donuts on Sunday January 19th from 8:45-9:15am

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

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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 12/28-29	\$	11,040.60
Religious Education	\$	63.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	90.00
Building Fund	\$	1998.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	55.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	435.00
Altar Flowers	\$	150.00
Christmas Day	\$	4,515.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	55.00
Disaster Relief	\$	280.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	17.00