

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



### February 16, 2025 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Are you rich in Poverty?

The blessings and woes we hear in today's Gospel mark the perfection of all the wisdom of the Old Testament. That wisdom is summed up with marvelous symmetry in today's First Reading and Psalm: Each declares that the righteous—those who hope in the Lord and delight in His Law—will prosper like a tree planted near living waters. The wicked, who put their “trust in human beings,” are cursed to wither and die.

Jesus is saying the same thing in the Gospel. The rich and poor are, for Him, more than members of literal economic classes. Their material state symbolizes their spiritual state.

The rich are “the insolent” of today's Psalm, boasting of their self-sufficiency, the strength of their flesh, as Jeremiah says in the First Reading. The poor are the humble, who put all their hope and trust in the Lord. We've already seen today's dramatic imagery of reversal in Mary's Magnificat. There, too, the rich are cast down while the hungry are filled and the lowly exalted.

That's the upside-down world of the Gospel: in poverty, we gain spiritual treasure unimaginable; in suffering and even dying “on account of the Son of Man,” we find everlasting life.

The promises of the Old Testament were promises of power and prosperity—in the here and now. The promise of the New Covenant is joy and true freedom even amid the misery and toil of this life. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we're to be pitied if our hope is “for this life only.”

The blessings of God mean that we'll laugh with the thanksgiving of captives released from exile, feast at the heavenly table of the Lord, “leap for joy” as John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb, and rise with Christ, “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

Jesus began his sermon on the mount by addressing the issue of where true happiness can be found. The word *beatitude* literally means *happiness* or *blessedness*. Jesus' way of happiness demands a transformation from within - a conversion of heart and mind which can only come about through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. If we want to be filled with the joy and happiness of heaven, then we must empty ourselves of all that would shut God out of our hearts.

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 – February 16

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jer 17: 5-8/1 Cor 15: 12, 16-20/Lk 6: 17, 20-26

### Monday – February 17

Weekday  
Gn 4: 1-15, 25/Mk 8: 11-13

### Tuesday – February 18

Weekday  
Gn 6: 5-8; 7: 1-5,10/Mk 8: 14-21

### Wednesday – February 19

Weekday  
Gn 8: 6-13, 20-22/Mk 8: 22-26

### Thursday – February 20

Weekday  
Gn 9: 1-13/Mk 8: 27-33

### Friday – February 21

Weekday  
Gn 11: 1-9/Mk 8: 34– 9: 1

### Saturday – February 22

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle  
1 Pt 5: 1-4/Mt 16: 13-19

### Sunday – February 23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Sm 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23



### NITE AT THE RACES @ OLQU Fund Raiser

March 1, 2025 – 6:15PM

Please join your Parish Family at this very fun and rowdy event! This is a free event! Horses will be sold after all Masses for \$25.00 each. There will be food and drink available to purchase. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call Orlando Herrera 256-990-7212 or ask anyone from the men's club.

### Wedding Anniversaries

Javier & Miriam Ruiz-Rivera  
Daniel & Catherine Todorowski



### 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:*

Tameka Conley sister of Tim Conley; William Fideli cousin of Deacon Jim Multeri

## 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.	Feb. 15	5:00PM	RoseAnn Nussberger † Albert Corsale †
Sun.	Feb. 16	8:00AM	Peter Quintanilla †
		10:00AM	Anna E. Glass †
Tues.	Feb. 18	12:00PM	Ouseph Alookaran †
Wed.	Feb 19	12:00PM	Mathen †
Thurs.	Feb. 20	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Fri.	Feb. 21	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Sat.	Feb. 22	5:00PM	The Vu Family † The McClure †
Sun.	Feb. 16	8:00AM	Peter Quintaniilla †
		10:00AM	Richard Moniz † Tim Martin †

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Feb. 16	Coffee & Donuts	8:45AM
Thurs. Feb. 27/Fri. Feb. 28/ Sat. Mar. 1	Directory Pictures will be taken at your appointment times!!	
Sat. Mar. 1	First Saturday Adoration	7:30AM
	Mass	8:00AM
	Nite at the Races	6:15PM
Sun. Mar. 2	No Breakfast	
Wed. Mar. 5	Ash Wednesday Masses	7AM/ Noon/6PM
Fri. Mar. 7	First Friday	

### Mass Intentions

We have many dates and times available for those who wish to have Masses for friends and loves ones. Please contact the office at 256-852-0788 to schedule a Mass. The stipend is \$10.00 per Mass.

Altar Flowers may be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one, to mark a special occasion or simply to donate. Please contact the parish office at 256-852-0788 to schedule a date. The cost is \$150.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Susan Turner (susan@olqu.org)

### Renovation News

Dear families: Please remember that we are using the gathering area doors that lead out to the pavilion, to access the RE building. We will proceed this way until the renovation is complete.

You may stay in Joy Hall or have some quiet time in the church while your child is in class.

After class, students will wait for parents/ family members in Joy Hall. Thank you!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

The candidates attended their retreat this weekend at Monte Sano State Park. Thank you to all who contributed to this event! Let us continue to pray for them: 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.



Tuesday Evenings 6:00 PM

February, 11th:

Father Charley will present the

“Sacrament of Holy Orders”

## 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 Announces Michael C. Burke as the New President!

Mr. Burke has more than 40 years of experience in Catholic school education. Contact the school for more information.

## MUSIC \* YOUTH MINISTRY \* LITURGY NEWS

### Youth Ministry

#### Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 9th is game night. Bring a game to share and a willing spirit to win. All youth grades 7-12 are welcome to participate.

#### Shadow Stations

Will be presented on Sun. April 13 after the 8:00AM Mass. We welcome all 7th –12th grade students to participate in this event. Planning Meeting is Feb. 23 after R.E. Parents and youth are welcome to help.

### 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

St. Cecilia Choir & St. Francis Ensemble will be preparing for 4th Sunday Masses and for Easter Sunday Mass. If you are interested in having your child participate please contact Mark Blackburn at 256-852-0788 or [mark@olqu.org](mailto:mark@olqu.org) or Maria Roos at [roosranch@yahoo.com](mailto:roosranch@yahoo.com).

St. Mary's Choir is preparing for Tenebrae and Holy Week. Our weekly rehearsals are held in the Church at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

## 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 Parish Registration Forms** We ask anyone who is new to the parish to fill out a form and join of church family. We also request any parishioner who needs to update their family information to please take a form and give us updated information. We have many changed or disconnected phone numbers in our database. They are in the gathering area. Please help us keep are membership information correct.

**Old Palms** You may leave your old palms in the basket in the Gathering Space.

**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 Multer at 256-852-0788 or Email:[deaconjim@olqu.org](mailto:deaconjim@olqu.org).

## 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

**Grief Ministry:** Almaretta Brislin 256-603-1213

**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

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much." 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

### *Camp St. Bernard St. Bernard Preparatory School Cullman, Alabama*

Camp St. Bernard has opened registration for  
Campers ages 6-14 for June 2025

Campers are provided with a traditional summer camp experience while spending time on the campus of St. Bernard Abbey. For more information on this unique, affordable, Catholic program visit the website at [campstbernard.com](http://campstbernard.com) or email John Arndt, the Camp Director at [campstbernard@gmail.com](mailto:campstbernard@gmail.com).

### *The Office of Black Catholic Ministry Presents*

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

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 16	Seminarian Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul
February 23	Building Fund
March 2	Religious Education

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Feb 8-9	\$	6,192.00
Religious Education	\$	159.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	240.00
Building Fund	\$	440.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	1,762
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	140.00
Disaster Relief	\$	99.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	25.00