

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



### February 2, 2025 — The Presentation of the Lord

#### Presentation of the Child Jesus.

Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So, the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She, who is all-pure, presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus' "redemption," but seems to describe instead a religious consecration such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice. Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel to the Temple as a priest. The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood. Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself.

There are lessons we can draw from these readings for our lives today. 1. Reconfirm our commitment to God's will. Joseph's and Mary's obedience in presenting Jesus at the temple shows the importance of aligning our lives with God's. 2. Recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Cultivate a life of prayer, reflection, and openness to the Holy Spirit to discern God's presence and guidance in everyday moments of our lives. 3. Our hope and patience in God's promises, like Simeon's declaration, show the reward of waiting faithfully for God's promises and trusting in God's timing, maintaining hope even during long seasons of waiting, knowing he fulfills his word. 4. The recognition of universal salvation — Simeon acknowledges Jesus as a light for Revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel, emphasizing God's inclusivity. Embrace a broader vision of God's work, understanding that his love and salvation are for all people not just a select group. 5. Endurance through challenges -- Simeon prophesied the suffering Mary would face, reminding us that growth often involves trials. Accept difficulties as opportunities for refining faith and deepening trust in God's purpose. When we have trials and challenges, let us always think about Mary and Joseph. They had gone through all these in their lives. God Bless you 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 – February 2

The Presentation of the Lord  
Mal 3: 1-4/Heb 2: 14-18/Lk 2: 22-40

### Monday – February 3

Weekday  
Heb 11: 32-40/Mk 5: 1-20

### Tuesday – February 4

Weekday  
Heb 12: 1-4/Mk 5: 21-43

### Wednesday – February 5

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr  
Heb 12: 4-7, 11-15/Mk 6: 1-6

### Thursday – February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs  
Heb 12: 18-19, 21-24/Mk 6: 7-13

### Friday – February 7

Weekday  
Heb 13: 1-8/Mk 6: 14-29

### Saturday – February 8

Weekday  
Heb 13: 15-17, 20-21/Mk 6: 30-34

### Sunday – February 9

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 6: 1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15: 1-11/Lk 5: 1-11

## PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE

GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

## ★ PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ★

*Thank you to all who made their appointment for our pictorial directory. All appointments have been filled for Feb. 27– Mar. 1st. Good news, additional dates have just been announced, Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th. If you have not scheduled your appointment, expect a call from Portrait Café for the additional appointments. Contact Mary Herrera (256.653.0485) or Bev Massa (256.503.7995) with any question.*

**Recycled Palms** You may leave your old palms in the basket in the Gathering Space beginning Feb.9th..

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Al & Pam Horn

Lyle & Patricia Thomas



### **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.

## 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. 1	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Quinton Martin †
Sun.	Feb. 2	8:00AM	Kisto Kutolbenu † Quinton Martin †
		10:00AM	Tim Martin † Katalin Gibson †
Tues.	Feb. 4	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Wed.	Feb. 5	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Thurs.	Feb. 6	12:00PM	The Parish Children (I)
Fri.	Feb. 7	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Sat.	Feb. 8	5:00PM	Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sun.	Feb. 9	8:00AM	Marguerite Thompson †
		10:00AM	The Souls in Purgatory †

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Feb. 6	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00PM
Fri. Feb 7	<b>First Friday</b> Adoration Healing Mass St. Andrew's Table to follow in Joy Hall	11:00AM Noon
Sat. Feb. 8/Sun. Feb 9	Communion Ministers –remain after which ever Mass you attend for a few minutes.	
Mon. Feb. 10	Chain Rosary	
Sat. Feb. 15	Fundraiser Meal (Donations)	6:15PM
Sun. Feb. 16	Coffee & Donuts	8:45AM

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

**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)

### 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.



A very special welcome to our participants preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments in April. We assure them of our prayers and look forward to the day they are one with us in faith.

They are:

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

### Renovation News

Dear families: The renovation process is now underway. Students will be led to the RE building thru the gathering area doors leading to the pavilion. AFTER class they will gather in Joy Hall for snack time. PLEASE pick them up in Joy Hall, especially Grades 3 & under.

You may wait in Joy Hall or have some quiet time in the church while your child is in class. 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 I is searching for a principal!  
[www.jp2falcons.org/employment](http://www.jp2falcons.org/employment) for information.

## MUSIC \* YOUTH MINISTRY \* LITURGY NEWS

### Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 10th is game night. Bring a game to share and a willing spirit to win. All youth grades 7-12 are welcome to participate.

### 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



### January New Members

Please welcome Robin Betian, Alan, Libby, John & MacMillan Kerr, Ebin Valiapasampil to our OLQU family.

### Contribution Statements

The 2024 Contribution Statements were mailed January 29th. You should receive one if you contributed monies this past year.

### 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.

# 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

"We will be the happiest people in the world if we belong to God." — 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*

*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



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

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	\$	6,037.47
Religious Education	\$	54.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	156.00
Building Fund	\$	2,651.77
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	149.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	404.00
Disaster Relief	\$	183.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	49.00
Altar Flowers	\$	300.00