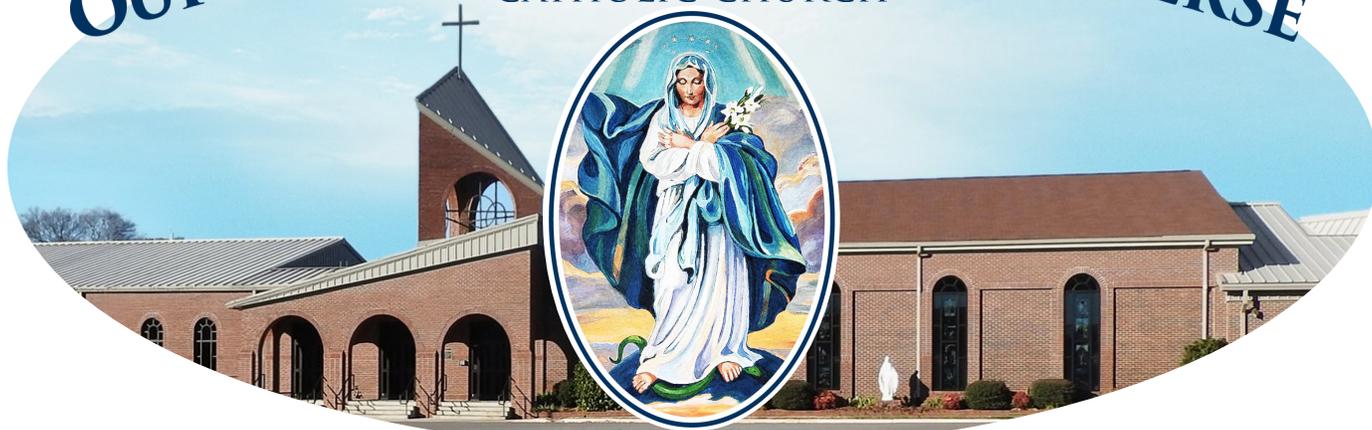


OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



March 2, 2025 — Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be Compassionate always.

In last week's Gospel, our Lord challenged us: "Be compassionate as your Father in Heaven is compassionate!" In today's Gospel we hear, "Judge not, and you shall not be judged." True compassion must always be at the heart of judging. That is why it is so important that we recognize and address the plank in our own eye before taking issue with the splinter in our brother's eye. Our Lord is not asking us to disqualify ourselves from making any judgment, since no one is perfect. Our Lord is setting out a vision of the integrity between what we are and what we say. Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it. Being judgmental is actually being inconsistent. We claim the right to judge others but we refuse to be judged. If we face the truth about ourselves and acknowledge our own daily struggles with sin, we are less likely to set ourselves up in judgment over others in a "judgmental" sort of way. If we recognize how much we need God's mercy, then our hearts will be much more compassionate when we encounter other people's faults. St Bernard tells us that, "if you have eyes for the shortcomings of your neighbor and not for your own, no feeling of mercy will arise in you but rather indignation. You will be more ready to judge than to help, to crush in the spirit of anger than to instruct in the spirit of gentleness." Ask the Good Lord to help us not judge others wrongly at any time. Leave the Judgement in the hands of the Lord, because He is the only one who is Perfect.

Lent is fast approaching. It is one of the five seasons on the Catholic liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday kicks off the Lenten season, which prepares for Easter with six weeks of repentance and closeness to God. It comes after Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras, a time for one last round of celebration before Lent begins.

Catholics observe Ash Wednesday with prayer and fasting to put themselves in the place of Jesus, who spent 40 days fasting in the desert and refusing temptations from Satan before he began his public ministry.

Priests will place ashes on observers' foreheads in the shape of a cross to mark them as sinners seeking renewal with God. It is a symbolic turning of one's heart towards God, recognizing the brokenness that exists and the need for salvation.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting."

Lent is a 40-day season that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday the week before Easter, although some denominations continue it until Holy Saturday.

Fasting and abstinence are obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the Friday before Easter. Observers must abstain from eating meat on the other Fridays during Lent. During the fast, observers may eat one full meal a day, or two smaller ones if they don't add up to a full meal.

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 (Ash Wednesday) and ends at sundown on Thursday, April 17 (Holy Thursday). God Bless you all.

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 – March 2

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 27: 4-7/1 Cor 15: 54-58/Lk 6: 39-45

Monday – March 3

Weekday
Sir 17: 20-24/Mk 10: 17-27

Tuesday – March 4

Weekday
Sir 35: 1-15/Mk 10: 28-31

Wednesday – March 5

Ash Wednesday
Jl 2: 12-18/2 Cor 5: 20-6: 2/Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

Thursday – March 6

Thursday after Ash Weekday
Dt 30: 15-20/Lk 9: 22-25

Friday – March 7

Friday after Ash Weekday
Is 58: 1-9a/Mt 9: 14-15

Saturday – March 8

Saturday after Ash Weekday
Is 58: 9b-14/Lk 5: 27-32

Sunday – March 9

First Sunday of Lent
Dt 26: 4-10/Rom 10: 8-13/Lk 4: 1-13



Daylight Savings Time

Begins Sunday March 9 at 2:00AM. Set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed to be on time for church Sunday morning!!

Wedding Anniversaries

Aaron & Kristin Berryman
Bill & Townley Whalen



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, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Cathy McCoy, Jean Matjazic, Pam Horn 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.	Mar. 1	5:00PM	Aaron Berryman Jr, † The Santos Family †
Sun.	Mar. 2	8:00AM	The People of Ukraine (I)
		10:00AM	William Fideli †
Tues.	Mar. 4	12:00PM	Mathen†
Wed.	Mar. 5	7:00AM	The Parish Family (I)
		12:00PM	Alexis Lopez-Gomez †
		6:00PM	The Parish Family (I)
Thurs..	Mar. 6	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Fri.	Mar. 7	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory†
Sat.	Mar. 8	5:00PM	Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sun.	Mar. 9	8:00AM	John La poncee †
		10:00AM	Regina Mathen †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Mar. 5	Ash Wednesday Masses 7AM/ Noon/6PM	
Fri. Mar. 7	First Friday Adoration Mass Healing Service Fish Fry Stations of the Cross	11:00AM Noon 4:00PM 6:00PM
Mon. Mar. 10	Chain Rosary Exposition of the Holy Eucharis Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass	7:00AM—8:00PM 5:00PM
Wed. Mar. 12th	Men's Club	6:00PM
Thurs Mar. 13/Fri. March 14	Lenten Mission	6:30PM
Sat. Mar. 15	Lenten Confessions	8:30-11:00AM

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5th is a day of to abstain from meat Ages 14-59 and to fast (limit 1 large meal and 2 small ones with no snacks) This is for anyone 18-59 years.

Catholics unable to observe fasting due to health issues are asked to practice other kinds of self-denial suitable to their condition.

GRADES 3—10 Parents, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is a way for the children to meet the forgiving Jesus. During class time this Lent, your students in grades 3—10 will go to confession with Father Charley. Please help guide them in making a good examination of conscience. Thank you!

RCIA The catechumens and candidates are continuing their faith journey toward the Easter Sacraments! We are delighted to have a large group and feel truly blessed by their presence! Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as time draws near. They are: Susanne Bales, Carlo Ballesteros, Eduardo Mason, Kaitlyn & Daniel Pacey, Enrique Ramos, Lisa Smith, Jaydon Schaefer, Sasithorn Intharasorn, Deandre Jamar, Antonio Lopé, and Ngoc Nguyen.

Renovation News 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. Parents may stay in Joy Hall or have some quiet time in church while your child is in class. After class, students will wait for parents/family members in Joy Hall. Thank you!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

St. John Paul II Catholic High School is currently accepting applications for two open positions: Principal and Athletic Director. Applicants who have the qualifications and expertise for the roles are encouraged to apply. For a complete job description and instructions for applying, please visit www.jp2falcons.org/employment today.

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

Shadow Stations

Will be presented on Sun. April 13 after the 8:00AM Mass. All youth 7th –12th grade are encouraged to help plan and present the Shadow Stations of the Cross for our parish on Palm Sunday. Food will be served and fellowship will be a must.

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 or call at 256-852-0788.

Music Ministry

St. Mary's Choir is preparing for Tenebrae, Service of Darkness, and is welcoming anyone who would like to participate with voice or instrument. Please contact Mark at mark@olqu.org or call the office if you would like to be part of this event.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

Lenten Workshops of Spiritual Gifts and Growth

Join us at OLQU on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm From March 13th– April 10th. These are informal sessions of teaching, witness and prayer tailored to address your questions. If you have any questions contact Jeff Anderson at 256-852-8734.

40DAYS 40 PSALMS...

Let's PRAY the PSALMS with FATHER CHARLEY this Lent. Videos will be posted daily on YouTube, FACEBOOK, and the parish website. A weekly Lenten challenge is posted with the video. At the end of each week fill out a slip of paper at the display table and drop it in the box. Winners will receive a special gift from Father Charley. See display for details.



Black and Indian Mission Collections

For the last 140 years the evangelization of Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States has been helped by this yearly Collection. In our dioceses, this fund provides monetary support to 7 parishes, 4 schools and 4 diocesan ministries each year from the national mission collection.

Education is fundamental in changing the mores and morals of a society. Your monetary assistance provides opportunities for a solid Catholic education in our Indian and Black Catholic mission schools, allows the purchase of catechetical materials and bibles and provides for the formation of lay leadership.

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 or email John Arndt, the Camp Director at campstbernard@gmail.com.

Pray for Pope Francis

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 2	Religious Education
March 9	Black & Indian Missions
	Building & Renovations Fund
March 16	Seminarian Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Feb 22/23	\$	6,069.00
Religious Education	\$	49.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	271.07
Building Fund	\$	2,407.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	89.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	185.07
Disaster Relief	\$	165.00