

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



March 30, 2025 — Fourth Sunday of Lent

Found Alive Again

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can, with a clean heart, celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son. Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Epistle. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him. Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses and make our way back to the Father as the prodigal does, but only He can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from our slavery to sin. God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church.

The pain of separation can only be surpassed by the joy of the homecoming and reunion. When God commanded his people to celebrate the Passover annually, he wanted them never to forget what he did for them when he freed them from oppression and slavery in the land of Egypt and brought them back to their promised homeland, which he gave as a sign of his immense love and favor. At the end of their wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Joshua, the successor to Moses, led the people in celebrating the Passover meal after they had safely passed over the River Jordan to their promised homeland.

This crossing over from a land of slavery and oppression to a land of promise and freedom foreshadows the true freedom and homecoming which the Lord Jesus has won for us in his kingdom. Through his victory on the cross the Lord Jesus has delivered us from the dominion of sin and darkness and transferred us to his kingdom of light, truth, and forgiveness. God offers this freedom to all who believe in his Son. God does not desire the death of anyone. That is why he sent us his only-begotten Son to set us free from slavery to sin, Satan, and death and to restore us to everlasting peace, joy, and abundant life with our Father in heaven. In this parable Jesus gives a vivid picture of God and what God is like. God is truly kinder than any of us. He does not lose hope or give up when we stray from him. He is always on the lookout for those who have a change of heart and want to return. He rejoices in finding the lost and in welcoming them home. Therefore, we shall come back to Jesus as "Alive." He loves us more than anybody else in the entire universe. Thank you, Jesus, for Loving us this much.

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 – March 30

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5: 9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5: 17-21/Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Monday – March 31

Lenten Weekday

Is 65 : 17-21/Jn 4: 43-54

Tuesday – April 1

Lenten Monday

Ez 47: 1-9, 12/Jn 5: 1-16

Wednesday – April 2

Lenten Weekday

Is 49: 8-15/Jn 5: 17-30

Thursday – April 3

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32: 7-14/Jn 5: 31-47

Friday – April 4

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2: 1a, 12-22/Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday – April 5

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11: 18-20/Jn 7: 40-53

Sunday – April 6

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43: 16-21/Phil 3: 8-14/Jn 8: 1-11

Seder Meal

The Seder Meal is a commemorative meal that honors the Jewish origins of Christianity. We will gather to recall the Passover, "deliverance," on Wednesday, April 16th at 6 pm in Joy Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available starting the weekend of March 22nd /23rd. Please join us for this special event.



Fr. Charley's Easter Baskets

If you are in need of an Easter basket or know someone who is in need of one please contact the parish office at 256-852-0788 before April 7th.

Mass Intentions

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

Let us Pray for the Living and the Deceased

For the living:

Patricia Thomas, Mary Lou Zurowski, Helen Bill-Cash, Rose Marie Phillips, Paul Shea, Riley Scott, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Cathy McCoy, Jean Matjazic, Teresa Wilson and all those in our parish community in need of physical or spiritual healing.

For the deceased:

Morry Mack brother of Karen Ruiz, Barbara Chandler

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. 29	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Baptist & Dora Santos †
Sun.	Mar. 30	8:00AM	The Souls in Purgatory †
		10:00AM	Erik Knutson †
Mon.	Mar. 31	5:00PM	Misty Wheeler (I)
Tues.	Apr. 1	12:00PM	Thomas Correia †
Wed.	Apr. 2	12:00PM	Felicia Webster (I) Patty Barnard (I)
Thurs.	Apr. 3	12:00PM	Nichole Breighner (I)
Fri.	Apr. 4	12:00PM	Frank & Annamae Capes †
Sat.	Apr. 5	5:00PM	The Vu Family † John Deep †
Sun.	Apr. 6	8:00AM	Florence Jones †
		10:00AM	William Fideli † Phinisha Owens (I)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Apr. 3	Charismatic Workshop	7:00 pm
Fri. Apr. 4	First Friday Adoration Mass Fish Fry Stations of the Cross	11:00 am 12:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm
Sat. Apr. 5	First Saturday Adoration Mass	7:30 am 8:00 am
Sat. Apr. 12	Church Cleaning Day	9:00-11:00 am
Sun. Apr. 13	Palm Sunday	Masses as normal
Tues. Apr. 15	No Mass	
Thurs. Apr. 17	Holy Thursday	7:00 pm
Fri. Apr. 18	Parish Office Closed Outside Rosary Good Friday	3:00 pm 7:00 pm

Lenten Workshops of Spiritual Gifts and Growth

Join us at OLQU on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm continuing to 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.

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! March 30th—8th & 9th

CONFIRMATION The candidates have made it to the final phase of their preparation to receive the sacrament from Bishop Raica on Tuesday, April 8th. Thank you for keeping our young people in your prayers as they continue their spiritual journey. They are: Josiah Dorsey, Blake Duckworth, Felicity Ebelhar, Jordan Francisco, Daniella Enyong, Daniel Manglona, David McClure, Louis Plattsmier, Brennan Pry, and Isabella Scariya. Catechists: Claudia McClure and Dominic Ebelhar
In addition to the high school students, we have RCIA candidates who will join the group to receive the sacrament from Bishop Raica. Please remember them in your prayers as they join our beautiful Catholic faith! They are: Carlo Ballesteros, Jayden Conley, Eduardo Mason, Lisa Smith.

RCIA The catechumens and candidates are getting closer to receiving the Easter Sacraments! Please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as time draws near. They are: Susanne Bales, Enrique Ramos, Sasithorn Intharasorn, Deandre Jamar, Antonio Lopé, and Ngoc Nguyen.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

JPII Admissions for the year 2025-2026 School Year are open. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first serve basis. Inspired by our patron, St. Jon Paul II, our Catholic High School develops students in spirit, mind and body through a Christ-centered, college preparatory education.

Visit www.jp2falcons.org/admissionsprocess to learn more about our new admissions process and timeline or contact our Admissions office at 256-430-1760 ext 117 or admissions@jp3falcons.org for more information.

Holy Family School

Applications for the School Calendar Year 2025-2026 are now being taken. Please contact HFS at 256-539-5221 or email office @hfscatholic.com with any questions.

MUSIC * YOUTH MINISTRY * LITURGY NEWS

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Shadow Stations

Shadow Stations Rehearsals continue in Joy Hall Sunday March 30th from 12:15—2:00 pm. Preparation for Palm Sunday will continue.

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

Tenebrae Service

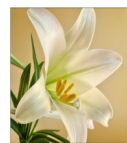
Tenebrae, Service of Darkness will follow our Lenten Monday Mass on March 24th at 6:15 pm. Please join us for this Lenten Event to meditate and pray through word and music the Journey of Christ

Easter Children's Choir

The Easter Children's Choir begins rehearsal Sunday, March 30th after religious Education in the Church. All youth grades 1 through 12 are welcome.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

Easter Flower Envelopes are available on the tables in the gathering area. Donate in memory of, or in honor of a loved one or a friend at \$15 each. The last date to order is April 6th.



40DAYS 40 PSALMS...

Congratulations to Helen Carr for faithfully participating in the Psalm weekly challenge. She's our lucky winner of the drawing for the first week of Lent. Let's remember to participate in Father's challenge and then put our names in the box for these few remaining weeks of Lent.

Please see display in the gathering area!



Catholic Relief Services Collection

The Catholic Relief Services Collection is this weekend, March 29th and 30th. Your support for this collection provides emergency assistance to victims of war, and natural disasters; assists migrants and refugees who need housing, education and specialized legal assistance and supports travelers and others whose livelihoods require special pastoral support to access the sacraments.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection this year. To learn more about this collection and the people who benefit from it, visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

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

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

"A bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."
Pope Francis

SOCIAL CONCERNS & FOOD PANTRY

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Pantry

Needs: Flour, pinto beans, canned meats, mashed potatoes, cookies, sugar, corn meal mix, pancake mix, syrup, jello, pudding, cereal, coffee, tea, toiletries. Please donate non perishable items only.

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.

Widows and Widowers Lunch

The Widows and Widowers group will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 10th at 1:00 pm at Olive Garden 3730 University Drive NW, Huntsville. Please call or text Glenda at 520-603-6708 by April 8th. Newcomers are always welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 30	Catholic Relief Services
April 6	Religious Education
April 13	Building & Renovations Fund
April 20	Seminarian Education Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul
	Easter

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Mar. 22/23	\$	6,734.00
Religious Education	\$	30.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	262.00
Building Fund	\$	1,182.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	305.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	152.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$	30.00
Catholic Home Services	\$	40.00
Disaster Relief	\$	42.00
Easter Flowers	\$	5.00