

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



### March 9, 2025 — First Sunday of Lent

#### Now is the Time to Call upon the Lord and for His Answer

In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel. We've already seen that, like Israel, Jesus has passed through water and been called God's beloved Son. Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights.

He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hunger, He's tempted to grumble against God for food. As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care. When the Devil asks for His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf.

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings.

Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty, the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle.

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the Lord . . . and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

When Jesus went out into the wilderness to fight temptation by the devil, he was led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not rely on his own human strength and will-power for overcoming temptation. He relied on the Holy Spirit to give him strength, wisdom, courage, and self-control. The Lord Jesus knows that we cannot fight temptation on our own. We need the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us. The Lord Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness and to be our guide and strength in times of testing. The Lord gives grace to those who humbly acknowledge their dependence on him and he helps us to stand firm against the attacks of Satan who seeks to destroy us. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to pour out his Spirit upon us that we may have the courage we need to repent of our sins and to turn away from them, and to reject the lies and deceits of Satan. God wants us to "fight the good fight of the faith" with the strength and help which comes from the Holy Spirit. We shall seek God's wisdom and guidance for overcoming sin and avoiding the near occasions of sin in our day-to-day life. We are called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, repentance, and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover. As we begin this holy season of preparation and renewal, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and embrace his will more fully in our lives.

God Bless us 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 9

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26: 4-10/Rom 10: 8-13/Lk 4: 1-13

### Monday – March 10

Lenten Weekday

Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18/Mt 25: 31-46

### Tuesday – March 11

Lenten Weekday

Is 55: 10-11/Mt 6: 7-15

### Wednesday – March 12

Lenten Wednesday

Jon 3: 1-10/Lk 11: 29-32

### Thursday – March 13

Lenten Weekday

Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7: 7-12

### Friday – March 14

Lenten Weekday

Ez 18: 21-28/Mt 5: 20-26

### Saturday – March 15

Lenten Weekday

Dt 26: 16-19/Mt 5: 43-48

### Sunday – March 16

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15: 5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17—4: 1/Lk 9: 28b –36

## 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. 8	5:00PM	Michael Smith, † William Skinner †
Sun.	Mar. 9	8:00AM	John La Ponsee †
		10:00AM	Regina Mathen †
Mon.	Mar. 10	5:00PM	Souls in Purgatory †
Tues.	Mar. 11	12:00PM	James & Angela Correia †
Wed.	Mar. 12	7:00AM	Michael & Margie Matteo †
Thurs	Mar. 13	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Fri.	Mar. 14	12:00PM	Jerald Stohler †
Sat.	Mar. 15	5:00PM	RoseAnn Nussberger † The Vu Family †
Sun.	Mar. 16	8:00AM	Angela Petruccelli †
		10:00AM	Mary Ann Wieczorek †

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon. Mar. 10	Chain Rosary Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass	7:00AM-8:20PM 5:00PM
Wed. Mar. 12th	Men's Club	6:00PM
Thurs Mar. 13	Welcome Workshop-Charismatic Lenten Mission –Cancelled	7:00PM
Fri. Mar. 14	Stations of the Cross Soup to go Lenten Mission	6:00PM 6:30PM
Sat. Mar. 15	Lenten Confessions No Confessions	8:30-11:00AM 3:30-4:30PM
Mon. Mar. 24	Mass Tenebrae Service	5:00PM
Fri/Sat Mar. 28/29	Pictures for 2025 Directory	



## 40 DAYS 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.

## February New Members

Please welcome Valentin Palacios-Gomez & Sasithorn Intharasorn; Nhan Ngo, Le Nguyen, Thai Ngo, Christiana Nguyen, Khang Nguyen, Vanessa Nguyen, Kamris Hicks and Kashawn Hicks; Tammy Ngo, Ethan Ngo, Johnathan Le, Nathan Le, Jayden Lu and Benjamin Duong to our OLQU family.

## Wedding Anniversaries

Nicolas & Jeana Garcia



## 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.

## 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.

**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 16th—3rd & 6th; March 23rd—4th & 5th; 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. Let us continue to remember our young people in our 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

**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.

## 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](http://www.jp2falcons.org/employment) today.

### 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

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](mailto: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](mailto:mark@olqu.org) or call the office if you would like to be part of this event.

## MINISTRIES \* NEWS \* EVENTS



### Lenten Prayer Wall



As we journey through this sacred season of Lent, we invite you to deepen your connection with Christ through prayer. Our **Lenten Prayer Wall** is in the Gathering Area for you to share your intentions, hopes, and reflections. We encourage you to **write your prayers** on the slips provided and place them in the wall as an offering of faith and trust in God's grace. Whether for yourself, a loved one, or the world, your prayers will be lifted up as a community of faith. May this be a time of renewal, reflection, and growing closer to God.

### 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**

**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**

"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).

### ***Widows and Widowers Lunch***

The Widows and Widowers group will meet for lunch on Thursday, March 13 at 1:00pm at Red Lobster, 1818 University Drive NW, Huntsville. Please call or text Colleen at 256-520-0375 by March 11th. Newcomers are always welcome.

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

March 9	Black & Indian Missions Building & Renovations Fund
March 16	Seminarian Fund St. Vincent de Paul
March 23	Building Fund

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Mar. 1/2	\$	8,231.02
Religious Education	\$	767.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	125.00
Building Fund	\$	645.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	105.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	5.00
Disaster Relief	\$	30.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$	20.00
Altar Flowers	\$	150.00