

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



March 16, 2025 — Second Sunday of Lent

Transfigured Christ in His Glory.

In today's Gospel, we go up to the mountain with Peter, John, and James. There we see Jesus "transfigured," speaking with Moses and Elijah about His "exodus."

The Greek word "exodus" means "departure." But the word is chosen deliberately here to stir our remembrance of the Israelites' flight from Egypt.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus will lead a new Exodus—liberating not only Israel but every race and people; not from bondage to Pharaoh, but from slavery to sin and death. He will lead all mankind, not to the territory promised to Abraham in today's First Reading, but to the heavenly commonwealth that Paul describes in today's Epistle.

Moses, the giver of God's law, and the great prophet Elijah, were the only Old Testament figures to hear the voice and see the glory of God atop a mountain.

Today's scene closely resembles God's revelation to Moses, who also brought along three companions and whose face also shone brilliantly. But when the divine cloud departs in today's Gospel, Moses and Elijah are gone. Only Jesus remains. He has revealed the glory of the Trinity—the voice of the Father, the glorified Son, and the Spirit in the shining cloud. Jesus fulfills all that Moses and the prophets had come to teach and show us about God. He is the "chosen One" promised by Isaiah, the "prophet like me" that Moses had promised. Far and above that, He is the Son of God. "Listen to Him," the Voice tells us from the cloud. If, like Abraham, we put our faith in His words, one day we too will be delivered into "the land of the living" that we sing of in today's Psalm.

When Moses met with God on Mount Sinai, *the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God*. Paul says that *the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness*. In the Gospel account Jesus appeared in glory with Moses, the great lawgiver of Israel, and with Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, in the presence of three of his beloved apostles. The significance of this mysterious appearance is that Jesus went to the mountain knowing full well what awaited him in Jerusalem - his betrayal, rejection and crucifixion. Jesus very likely discussed with Moses and Elijah this momentous decision to go to the cross. God the Father also spoke with Jesus and gave his approval: *This is my beloved Son; listen to him*. The Father glorified his son because he obeyed. The cloud which overshadowed Jesus and his apostles fulfilled the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came the cloud of God's presence would fill the temple again. The Lord Jesus not only wants us to see his glory - he wants to share this glory with us. And Jesus shows us the way to the Father's glory: follow me - obey my words - take the path I have chosen for you and you will receive the blessings of my Father's kingdom - your name will be written in heaven. We shall look forward to seeing his glory with Him one day in Heaven.

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 16

Second Sunday of Lent

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

Monday – March 17

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9: 4b-10/Lk 6: 36-38

Tuesday – March 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 1: 10, 16-20/Mt 23: 1-12

Wednesday – March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7: 4-5a, 12-14a,16/Rom 4: 13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1: 16, 18-21, 21a

Thursday – March 20

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17: 5-10/Lk 16: 19-31

Friday – March 21

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday – March 22

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20/Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Sunday – March 23

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3: 1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12/Lk 13: 1-9



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.

Wedding Anniversaries

E. J. & Renee Clement

Roberto & Karen Ruiz



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, Teresa Wilson and all those in our parish community in need of physical or spiritual healing.

For the deceased:

Zachary Matjazic, grandson of Jean, Jen Anne Mance, wife of Anthony

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. 15	5:00PM	RoseAnn Nussberger † The Vu Family †
Sun.	Mar. 16	8:00AM	Angela Petruccelli †
		10:00AM	Mary Ann Wieczorek †
Mon.	Mar. 17	5:00PM	Edmund Patrick Vail †
Tues.	Mar. 18	12:00PM	Donnie Shirley † John & Nellie Wujcik †
Wed.	Mar. 19	7:00AM	Francine Slate †
Thurs.	Mar. 20	12:00PM	Angela Pikulski †
Fri.	Mar. 21	12:00PM	Chuck Jaronik †
Sat.	Mar. 22	5:00PM	Jim & Marge Mullen (I) George & Gwen McClure †
Sun.	Mar. 23	8:00AM	Angela Petruccelli †
		10:00AM	Mary Ann Wieczorek †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon. Mar. 17	Adoration Rosary Stations of the Cross Mass	5:00PM
Tues. Mar. 18	Vespers & Adoration	6:00PM
Thurs. Mar. 20	Charismatic Workshop	7:00PM
Fri. Mar. 21	Fish Fry Stations of the Cross	4:00PM 6:00PM
Mon. Mar. 24	Adoration Rosary Mass Tenebrae Service	5:00PM
Fri/Sat Mar. 28/29	Pictures for 2025 Directory	

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.



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 6pm 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.

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 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, Carlo Ballesteros, Eduardo Mason, Kaitlyn & Daniel Paceley, 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 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

Shadow Stations Rehearsals continue in Joy Hall Sundays at 4:30pm Food will be served. Preparation will 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 6:15pm. Please join us for this Lenten Event to meditate and pray through word and music the Journey of Christ

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.

Mass Intentions

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

Baptisms

Sydney Marie Suttles, daughter of Shane & Joana Suttles, was baptized on February 9th.

Gianni Francis Palacio, son of Selfo & Megan Palacio, was baptized on February 15th.

McMillen Vogel Bragg Kerr, son of Alan & Libby Kerr, was baptized February 16th.

Alanah Rose Wieter, granddaughter of Kent & Sharon Wieter, *Was baptized March 1st.*

Our Lady, Queen of the Universe welcomes each of these children into our family.

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

"The only thing ever achieved in life without effort is failure."
Pope Francis

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 donate non perishable items only.

PLEASE HELP US HELP THE POOR...

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: 256-852-2899

NEWS

Her Choice Birmingham Women Center 21st Annual GOLF FORE LIFE

We Need Golfers and Hole Sponsors

Friday, May 16, 2025 - Highland Park Golf Course

Registration 7:45AM · SHOTGUN START 9:00AM

Have fun, save lives and raise funds for Her Choice, the only

pro-life pregnancy resource center located in the heart of

Birmingham. The cost is \$250 (\$125 tax deductible) per

individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately

following the tournament. We need 18 people to organize

foursomes to make this year's fundraiser the most successful

ever. Individual golfers are welcome and will be

paired up. We are also asking individuals, families and

companies to be a Hole Sponsor, \$500.00, or a half Hole

Sponsor, \$250.00. Our signage is beautifully done and shows

others your commitment to the Sanctity of Life. This Ministry

exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy choose life, and

to support them in that decision. Post-Abortion healing support

is also offered. This life-giving ministry of Her Choice exists

because of the gracious giving of people like you. Please,

support this event and contact Her Choice Women's Center:

205.447.8796 · golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 16	Seminarian Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul
March 23	Building Fund
March 30	Catholic Relief Services

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Mar. 8/9	\$	7,127.00
Religious Education	\$	119.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	157.00
Building Fund	\$	395.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	1,972.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	117.00
Disaster Relief	\$	47.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$	801.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	77.00