

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



May 11, 2025 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

My Sheep Hear My Voice

Israel's mission—to be God's instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth is fulfilled in the Church. By the "Word of God" that Paul and Barnabas preach in today's First Reading, a new covenant people is being born, a people who glorify the God of Israel as the Father of them all. The Church for all generations remains faithful to the grace of God given to the Apostles and continues their saving work. Through the Church, the peoples of every land hear the Shepherd's voice and follow Him.

The Good Shepherd of today's Gospel is the enthroned Lamb of today's Second Reading. In laying down His life for His flock, the Lamb brought to pass a new Passover by His blood, freeing "every nation, race, people and tongue" from bondage to sin and death. The Church is the "great multitude" John sees in his vision today. God swore to Abraham his descendants would be too numerous to count. And in the Church, as John sees, this promise is fulfilled.

The Lamb rules from the throne of God, sheltering His flock, feeding their hunger with His own Body and Blood, leading them to "springs of life-giving waters" that well up to eternal life. The Lamb is the eternal Shepherd-King, the son of David foretold by the prophets. His Church is the Kingdom of all Israel that the prophets said would be restored in an everlasting covenant.

It is not a kingdom any tribe or nation can jealously claim as theirs alone. The Shepherd's Word to Israel is addressed now to all lands, calling all to worship and bless His name in the heavenly Temple. This is the delight of the Gentiles—that we can sing the song that once only Israel could sing, today's joyful Psalm: "He made us, His we are—His people, the flock He tends."

St. Cyril of Alexandria Explains the People who Listen and those who do not listen to God's call this way: The mark of Christ's sheep is their willingness to hear and obey, just as disobedience is the mark of those who are not his. We take the word "hear" to imply obedience to what has been said. People who hear God are known by him. No one is entirely unknown by God, but to be known in this way is to become part of his family. Therefore, when Christ says, 'I know mine,' he means I will receive them and give them a permanent mystical relationship with myself. It might be said that inasmuch as he has become man, he has made all human beings his relatives, since all are members of the same race. We are all united to Christ in a mystical relationship because of his incarnation. Yet those who do not preserve the likeness of his holiness are alienated from him... 'My sheep follow me,' says Christ. By a certain God-given grace, believers follow in the footsteps of Christ. No longer subject to the shadows of the law, they obey the commands of Christ and, guided by his words, rise through grace to his own dignity, for they are called 'children of God'. When Christ ascends into heaven, they also follow him."

We shall always be obedient children of God in our day-to-day life and follow Him to Heaven which he promised us. 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:

Church during renovation

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 Church during renovation

Adoration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:30am

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday – May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13: 14, 43-52/Rev 7: 9, 14b-17/Jn 10: 27-30

Monday – May 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 11: 1-18/Jn 10: 1-10

Tuesday – May 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 11: 19-26/Jn 10: 22-30

Wednesday – May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26/Jn 15: 9-17

Thursday – May 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 13: 13-25/Jn 13: 16-20

Friday – May 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 13: 26-33/Jn 14: 1-6

Saturday – May 17

Easter Weekday

Acts 13: 44-52/Jn 14: 7-14

Sunday – May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14: 21-27/Rev 21: 1-5a/Jn 13: 31-33a, 34-35

OLQU African Community

The African Community at OLQU invites the church community to join them in Joy Hall on Sunday, May 18th after the 10:00AM Mass for "A Taste of Africa". There will be a variety of African delicacies and some educational information about Africa. The event is free and any donations received will be donated to the building Fund. Please join us for good food and fellowship.

Happy Mothers Day

From the OLQU Staff

Deacon Jim, Donna, Mark,
Susan and Shirley



May God Bless you today and always!

Wedding Anniversaries

Ramon & Guadalupe Diaz



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, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Cathy McCoy, Teresa Wilson, Mary Stumpe, Riley Scott and all those in our parish community in need of physical or spiritual healing.

For the deceased:

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to have a loved one remembered during the liturgy for any special occasion - a birthday, anniversary, get well, deceased etc. Contact the Parish office at 256-852-0788.

Sat.	May 10	5:00PM	Pope Francis † Rose Ann Nussberger † The Souls in Purgatory †
Sun.	May 11	8:00AM	Pope Francis † Nita Baldemar †
		10:00AM	Pope Francis † Larry Howell † Jen Anne Mance †
Tues.	May 13	12:00PM	Communion Service
Wed.	May 14	12:00PM	Communion Service
Thurs.	May 15	12:00PM	The Parish Family (I)
Fri.	May 16	12:00PM	Ella Pullman (I)
Sat.	May 17	5:00PM	Pope Francis † Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sun.	May 18	8:00AM	Pope Francis † Miriam Briceno †
		10:00AM	Pope Francis † Eugene Glass † Malynn Pullman (I)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. May 11	Mother's Day	
Mon. May 12	Chain Rosary	7:00 AM—8:00PM
Tues. May 13	Marian Bells	3:30PM
Wed. May 14	St. Mary's Choir	6:30PM
Thurs. May 15	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00PM
Sun. May 18	Recognize HS & College Graduates (at all Masses) OLQU African Community Event	11:00AM

Father Charley

Fr. Charley is due back from vacation at the end of this week. Please pray for him to have a safe trip returning to us.

Portrait Café Directory 2025 Pictures

If you had your picture taken during the March session all the pictures are on the round table in the Gathering Area. There are also a few pictures left from the first session. Please take them home and enjoy them.



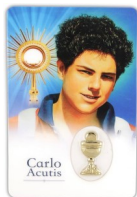
High School & College Graduates If you are/ have a graduate in your family please call or email the parish office by May 11th. The OLQU family would like to recognize all of our 2025 graduates.

"The Greatest Gift"

We are hosting a morning of activities on the wonder of the Eucharist for children ages 5—12 years old.

Wednesday, June 4th, 9 AM—Noon

No fee is required; just registration info for planning purposes. St. Joseph's and St. Mary of the Visitation parishes are also participating in this special event. Please see display in the gathering area for a form or use this QR code to register online.

**Thank You!**

A very special thank you to our religious education & RCIA catechetical team for another year of dedicated service to our parish family!

They are: Anna Anderson, Karen & Rob Ruiz, Maria Roos, Maria Chacha, Jayci Cloys, Job Victor, Marli Walden, Juliana Njoku, Christine Cuevas, Debbie, Mary, & Harold Schoepflin, Christine Dennis, Celeste Brothers, Lucille Mims, Landon, Stephanie & Jason Duckworth, Sonya Little, Carole Packard, Bridget Knatt, Jeff Anderson, Suzanne Jones, Maria Nolen, Claudia McClure, Dominic Ebelhar, Steven Andre, All'Wyn Graham, Almaretta Brislin, Beth Anderson, and Rumaasha Maasha.

May God bless you with a relaxing, peaceful, and safe summer!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS***St. John Paul II Catholic High School***

St. John Paul II announces the hiring of Mr. Michael P. Henry as the school's new Principal. Mr. Henry joins JP II with over 20 years of experience of experience in Catholic school education as an assistant principal, educator and athletic coach in many different schools districts in the Southeast.

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**

Youth Group will have its annual "Game Night" on May 25th. Families are welcome to participate. We will have hamburgers & hot dogs. This will be a time for fellowship, games and food. Bring a friend, an appetite and some sportsmanship.

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

Music Ministry is offering lessons for the youth and adults of this parish. We offer 30 minute lessons for Bells, Brass, Guitar, Piano, Vocal and Woodwind. No prior experience is necessary and experienced music makers are also welcome. A reduced fee may apply for the lesson. If you are interested in lessons for your child, youth or self please get in touch with Mark Blackburn at mark@olqu.org or 256-852-0788.

Remember, Music is a special gift from God and everyone is encouraged to enjoy this art.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

Papal Conclave, in Roman Catholicism, the assembly of cardinals to elect a new pope and the system of strict seclusion to which they submit for the election process. The term conclave comes from the Latin phrase cum clave, meaning "with a key." Papal succession has evolved considerably since the early church, and the rules of this procedure were not codified until the early 20th century.

The key Aspects of a Papal Conclave:

Secrecy: cardinals and anyone who may enter the conclave take an oath for life to maintain confidentiality about the proceedings.

Seclusion: Cardinals are locked in the Sistine Chapel, isolated from the outside world with no phones, internet, or newspapers.

Voting: The voting takes place in the Sistine Chapel, with ballots burned and smoke released to signal the outcome. Black smoke indicates an inconclusive vote, while white smoke signifies the election of a new pope. Cardinals cast secret ballots, and a two-thirds majority is required to select a new pope.

May: The Month of Mary

A few suggestions for this month of May as it is a good time to remember the mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Begin each day with the Hail Mary, or the Memorare, the Hail Holy Queen, or the Angelus/Regina Coeli. Pray the Rosary daily and remember her for these events: The Immaculate Conception, The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Wedding at Cana, Our Lady of the Rosary and the Assumption. Perhaps a Novena to Mary is a good way to make the month of May special for you.

"Lord grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You, and always follow Your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will."

Mother Teresa

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 Lord never tires of forgiving. It is us who tire of asking for forgiveness,"

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



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Easter brings us new hope. Let us bring new hope to Our marriage by attending a Marriage Encounter Experience to learn how Jesus gives us the graces for a strong Sacrament. The next WWME will be a virtual one hosted by the WWME community. It is scheduled for June 6-8. A \$100 Non-refundable registration fee applies. Early registration is highly recommended. Sign up at wwme.org/apply (look for weekends in Atlanta). For more information contact: Doug & Maureen Newlands at 678-242-9963.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

May 11	Building & Renovations Fund
May 18	Seminarian Education Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul
May 25	Building Fund

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Apr. 26-27	\$	6,520.00
Religious Education	\$	825.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	262.00
Building Fund	\$	2,340.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	270.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	213.00
Catholic Home Mission s	\$	410.00
Disaster Relief	\$	122.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	25.00