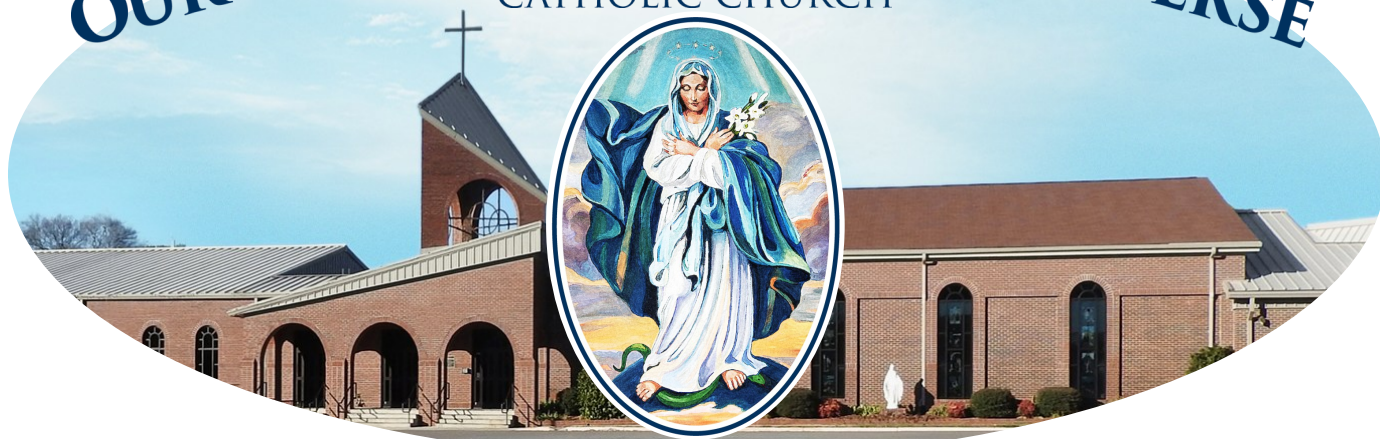


OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



September 14, 2025 — The Exaltation of the Cross

Exaltation of the Cross

The Feast of the Holy Cross, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, or Feast of the Cross, commemorates the True Cross. On 13 September, 335, the Constantinian Basilica over the Holy Sepulcher was consecrated in Jerusalem. The day after the church's consecration, the relic of the cross was shown or "exalted" the first time to the people for veneration. Later, the feast was also associated with the commemoration of the recovery of the Holy Cross by Emperor Heraclius on 13 September 628.

In English, the feast is called The Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the official translation of the Roman Missal, while the 1973 translation called it The Triumph of the Cross.

According to Christian tradition, the True Cross was discovered in 326 by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, during a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was then built at the site of the discovery, by order of Helena and Constantine. The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the cross. One-third was brought to Rome, one-third remained in Jerusalem and deposited in the Senso-ria basilica Santa Croce (Holy Cross in Jerusalem), and one-third was taken to Constantinople to make the city impregnable.

The history of this feast begins in Constantinople where it was the custom to carry the relic of the True Cross through the streets and squares of the city to ask for God's blessing and for relief from sickness.

The cross, once a symbol of suffering, human cruelty, violence at its worst, has been transformed by Christ's self-giving love. It has become a sign of love, forgiveness and the very symbol of salvation and God's boundless love for us. In today's gospel, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about his journey to the cross. Jesus knows that the cross is in his future. He says, "The son of man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life".

Carrying the cross today means staying true to God, to love, to the commandments and to our baptismal calling. Because each of our lives and challenges is unique, the cross we bear is specific to each one of us. When we embrace our crosses in faith, it is transformed. The good news is that, with each cross we bear, we have an opportunity to renew our relationship with God.

We shall pray to Jesus Christ to give us the courage to carry the cross with great joy and never complain. Our crosses appear to us in different ways – like sicknesses, failures, losing jobs or even unexpected things that happen in our lives suddenly. The one who carried the cross without any complaint – Jesus Christ – will give us the courage to carry ours. He is always with us when we carry our daily crosses. He is really helping us, telling us that He is with us always. 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:
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 – September 14

The Exaltation of the Cross
Nm 21: 4b-9/ Phil 2: 6-11/Jn 3: 13-17

Monday – September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows
Heb 5: 7-9/Jn 19: 25-27

Tuesday – September 16

Ss. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
1 Tm 3: 1-13/Lk 7: 11-17

Wednesday – September 17

Weekday
1 Tm 3: 14-16/Lk 7: 31-35

Thursday – September 18

Weekday
1 Tm 4: 12-16/Lk 7: 36-50

Friday – September 19

Weekday
1 Tm 6: 2c-12/Lk 8: 1-3

Saturday – September 20

Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang, Martyrs
1 Tm 6: 13-16/Lk 8: 4-15

Sunday – September 21

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 8: 4-7/1 Tm 2: 1-8/Lk 16: 1-13

"A Taste of Africa Part II" -The African Community of

OLQU invites the church community to join them in Joy Hall on Sunday September 21st after to 10:00 am Mass. There will be a variety of African delicacies, a fashion parade, and a Power-Point presentation about the African continent as a whole. Donations will be accepted and given to the building fund.

Chapel Wing

Our Construction is finished! Please come visit our "Chapel Wing". The Chapel is beautiful and we have an office annex, a storage room, music room, youth room and meeting rooms. All these areas will be in full use shortly.

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, Rily Scott, Deacon Jim Bodine, Theresa Fuemmeler, Jill Ramos, Zora Abidi, Lisa Connor and for 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: a birthday, anniversary, get well, deceased etc. Contact the Parish office at 256-852-0788.

Sat.	Sept. 13	5:00PM	Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sun.	Sept. 14	8:00AM	The O.C.I.A. Class (I) Candido Damian †
		10:00AM	Elissa Leonard †
Tues.	Sept. 16	12:00PM	Barbara Cassani †
Wed.	Sept. 17	12:00PM	Jerry Tan (I)
Thurs.	Sept. 18	12:00PM	Patricia Rhonemus †
Fri.	Sept. 19	12:00PM	Michael Smith † William Skinner †
Sat.	Sept. 20	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Barbara Cassani †
Sun.	Sept. 21	8:00AM	Kenneth McGowan † Angelica Rozborski †
		10:00AM	Jeffrey Jenkins †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. Sept 16	O.C.I.A. Vespers & Adoration	6:00PM 6:00PM
Wed.. Sept. 17	St. Mary's Choir	6:30PM
Thurs. Sept. 18	Seeking Truth Bible Study Charismatic Prayer Group	9:30AM 7:00PM
Sun. Sept. 21	A Taste of Africa Part II	11:00AM
Sun. Sept. 28	Family Picnic	12:15PM
Sat. Oct. 4	Pet Blessing	10:00AM

August New Members

Please welcome Eduardo Reyes & Ivette Espinoza & children Bradley, Joseph and Brianna Reyes; Betty Cummings; and Vishal Tharakan Perekadan



Wedding Anniversaries

Damian & Diane Hochmuth, Luster & Roxanna Ingram, Henry Lesesne & Beata Lesesne-Klosowska, and Richard & Janice Montelongo

Mass Intentions

We have dates available for those who wish to have a Mass requested for loved ones living or deceased. Contact the parish office at 256-852-0788. The stipend is \$10.00 per Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes are now in session. Please see Susan Turner to register. Registrations received after Sept. 1st will incur an additional \$10 fee.

SUNDAY CLASS SCHEDULE

All Grades-Preschool* thru 10th	11:00 AM - Noon
First Sacrament Class is 2nd Gr.	11:00 AM - Noon
Confirmation Class is 10th Gr.	11:00 AM - Noon
*Preschool (age 3 by Sept. 1st & potty trained)	

ORDER of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS

The O.C.I.A. program is now in session. If you know someone who may be interested or you are interested in learning more about our Catholic faith please join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM, in Joy Hall.

Questions? Contact Susan Turner: Susan@OLQU.org

FATHER'S SUNDAY GOSPEL COLORING CONTEST has begun! Students in 1st—4th grades are encouraged to participate and learn about the gospel reading each week. Coloring sheets are available at the display in the gathering area. Return them to the drop box the following week with name & grade written on the front. Winners will get a prize from Father.

*Congratulations to the winner of the
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time entry.
Bonnie Gorman—2nd grade!*



CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

JP II would like to invite all parish families with students currently in 8th grade to our upcoming Future Falcon day. Prospective families will be able to observe classes, tour our school and meet students, faculty and staff. They will also learn more about our admissions process, tuition assistance opportunities, curriculum and extracurriculars. JP II admissions for the 2026-2027 school year will open on October 1, 2025 to our area partner school students and on November 1, 2025 to the public. This year open house event will be on September 18 from 8:30am to 10:30am at JP II School. They will host another open house for 7th grade families on November 6, 2025 from 8:30am-10:30am. Registration link : <https://forms.gle/rzrToMSTDyWEG7y7>.

YOUTH MINISTRY * LITURGY MINISTRY * MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Youth Ministry begins a new year on Sunday, September 14th with game night. We meet every second Sunday at 4:30—7pm. Youth Group is open to all 6th through 12th grades. Please bring a friend.

Please contact Mr. Mark with any questions at mark@olqu.org.

Liturgy Time and Talent

Time & Talent: Our Lady, Queen of the Universe will have an exploration of Time and Talent of September the 21st.

Please consider ways that you can share your talent with your parish family. A special thank you for all who currently volunteer to make this house of God a treasure.

Contact Mark at mark@olqu.org

Music Ministry Children's Choir & Youth Ensemble

The Children's Choir & Youth Ensemble start Sunday, September 7th in Joy Hall at 12:15pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child or youth to learn how to participate in the Mass. We practice the first three weeks and sing for the fourth Sunday each month at the 10am Mass. The children and youth sing for the Christmas Vigil Mass and on Easter Sunday.

Please contact Mark Blackburn if you are interested at mark@olqu.org.

MINISTRIES * NEWS

Baptism If you have a child in need of Baptism and have not attended a class at OLQU contact Deacon Jim Multeri for information regarding when a class availability. Email him at deaconjim@olqu.org or call 256-852-0788 ext. 116.

Wishing to get Married? Couples who want to get married in the Catholic Church are required to attend a Pre-Cana weekend. The Diocese of Birmingham has approved engaged couples to complete one of two online programs, or attend one of four weekends available at the Abbey in Cullman or one of the two weekends in the Huntsville area. For more information about the dates of the online or weekend programs, and to receive more information about Marriage Preparation at Our Lady, Queen of the Universe, contact Deacon Jim Multeri at 256-852-0788 or Email: deaconjim@olqu.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!
OLQU Parish Picnic September 28th @
12:00pm—2:30pm

Please join your Parish family for an afternoon of fun and enjoyment! Please bring a dessert

Bring a chair and an appetite!

Any questions contact Orlando Herrera
256-990-7212



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

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: Rafaael Urrutia 915-227-9509

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

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

Women's Club:

Youth Ministry: Mark Blackburn, Director 256-852-0788

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we have the ability to understand and receive it."

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

MASS ETIQUETTE REFRESHER



WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, THEREFORE:

- We dress modestly as a sign of respect
- We observe silence for those praying before & after Mass
- We bless ourselves with holy water as we enter the church
- We genuflect or bow as we enter the pew
- We remain standing as we receive the Holy Eucharist
- We reserve visiting with each other for the gathering area

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 14	Building & Renovations Fund
September 21	Seminarian Education Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul
September 28	Building Fund

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,358.66
Weekly Collection Sept. 6/7	\$	6,154.24
Religious Education	\$	833.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	177.00
Building Fund	\$	307.00
Building & Renovations Fund	\$	30.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	117.00
Disaster Relief	\$	37.00
Assumption of Mary	\$	2.00