

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

Catholic Parish



February 22, 2026 – First Sunday of Lent

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert “to be tempted.”

The First Sunday of Lent always brings us into the desert with Jesus. Before He begins His public ministry, He enters a place of silence, hunger, and testing. The desert is not a punishment—it is a place of preparation. There, Jesus confronts the temptations that touch every human heart: the desire for comfort, the thirst for power, and the longing for recognition.

In each temptation, the devil tries to pull Jesus away from trust in the Father. Yet Jesus responds not with force, but with fidelity. He shows us that temptation itself is not sin; rather, it is an invitation to choose God again and again. Lent places us in our own “desert,” not to discourage us, but to strengthen us. It is a season to face honestly the patterns, habits, and desires that keep us from loving God wholeheartedly.

The desert also teaches us simplicity. When we fast, pray, and give alms, we strip away what is unnecessary so we can hear God more clearly. Jesus’ victory over temptation reminds us that grace is stronger than weakness, and that God never abandons us in our struggles.

As we begin this holy season, we are invited to walk with Christ—to let Him lead us, challenge us, and renew us. Lent is not about proving our strength; it is about discovering God’s. If we allow Him to meet us in our deserts, He will lead us to Easter joy.

Let us Pray: Lord Jesus, as You faced temptation in the desert, strengthen me in my own moments of weakness. Help me to choose You above all else and to walk faithfully through this Lenten season. Purify my heart, deepen my trust, and draw me closer to Your love. Amen.

I wish you all a very Holy and Blessed Season of Lent. May God always bless us and keep us in His care to fulfill the resolutions which we make in this season and celebrate the Great Easter with the Risen Christ.

Love and prayers,

Fr. Charley

MASS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule/Horario de Misas

Saturday/Sábado 5:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday/Domingo—8:00am & 10:00am

Rosary/Santo Rosario—Saturday/Sábado 4:30pm,

Sunday/Domingo 7:30am/9:25am

Weekday Mass Schedule/Horario Semanal de Misas

Tuesday/Martes; Wednesday/Miércoles; Thursday/Jueves &
Friday/Viernes—Chapel/La capilla

12 Noon/12Mediodía Rosary;/Santo Rosario—11:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confesiones

Saturday/Sábado - 3:30—4:30pm

First Friday-Healing Mass/Primera Viernes Sanación Misas

12 pm/12 Mediodía

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist/Exposición del Santísimo

Sacramento 11:00am

First Saturday morning Mass/Primera Sábado Misas— 8:00 am

Adoration/Adoración Eucarística— 7:30am

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday – February 22

First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7/Rom 5: 12-19/Mt 4: 1-11

Monday – February 23

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

Tuesday – February 24

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

Wednesday – February 25

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

Thursday – February 26

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

Friday – February 27

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

Saturday – February 28

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

Sunday – March 1

Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 12: 1-4a/2Tm 1: 8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

OLQU Easter Baskets

If you are a parishioner or know a parishioner who is in need of an Easter food basket please contact the parish office at 256-852-0788 before March 15th.



Lenten Confession

Saturday, March 7th OLQU will have Lenten Confession from 10:00am-12:00pm. There will be 3 Priests available during that time. There will not be the regular afternoon confessions.

Wedding Anniversary

Nicolas & Diana Garcia
Alan & Libby Kerr



Let us Pray for the Living and the Deceased

For the living:

Patricia Thomas, Mary Lou Zurowski, Paul Shea, Helen Bill-Cash, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Bill Andre, Arthur Nussberger, Donna Murray, Lisa Connor, Maria Nolen, Lucy Sinopole, Jean Matjazic, Kaitlyn Pacey, Michael Vallante, Betty Lemley

For the deceased:

Parishioner Bill Whalen, husband of Townley Whalen, and for 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.	Feb. 21	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Arlene Steckler †
Sun.	Feb. 22	8:00AM	Tom Heath † Joe Miller †
		10:00AM	Anna Glass † Mrs. Henry Stromberg †
Mon.	Feb. 23	5:00PM	Steve & Daphne Stanford (I)
Tues.	Feb. 24	12:00PM	David & Myra Wise †
Wed	Feb. 25	12:00PM	Tom Heath †
Thurs.	Feb. 26	12:00PM	Joe Miller †
Fri.	Feb. 27	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Sat.	Feb. 28	5:00PM	James Powless † George & Gwen McClure †
Sun.	Mar. 1	8:00AM	The Vu Family † Joe Miller †
		10:00AM	Alden Stromberg † Rose Marie Phillips †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Feb. 22	OLQU Breakfast Youth Group Youth Music Rehearsal	8:45am 12:15pm 12:15pm
Mon. Feb. 23	Lenten Monday Mass	5:00pm
Fri. Feb. 27	Stations of the Cross Soup to go	6:00pm
Sat. Feb. 28	Pot Luck Supper "Fr. Charley's Vacation Pictures"	6:00pm
Mon. Mar. 2	Lenten Monday Mass	5:00pm
Thurs. Mar. 5	Lenten Mission	10:00-10:30am 6:00-6:30pm
Fri. Mar. 6	First Friday Lenten Mission Lenten Friday Mass With Healing Service Fish Fry Stations of the Cross Lenten Mission	10:00-10:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm 6:30-7:00pm
Sat. Mar. 7	First Saturday Adoration Mass Lenten Confession (3 priests) No afternoon confession	7:30am 8:00am 10:00am -12:00pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“The Lord, your God, shall you Worship”

The desert is an important place in the Bible. It is a quiet place to meet God, to think deeply, and to have a change of heart. It can also be a place of hunger, thirst, or attack from some dangerous creature. The desert is thus a symbol for those times in life when our faith is tested. Though such times are difficult, they actually help us grow closer to God. Lent is our yearly retreat to the desert.

“Thank you, Lord, for facing temptation in the desert. You conquered evil for me and for all people. Help me always to listen to your word. Help me to love and obey you always.”

MagnifiKid! Vol. 23; Feb. 22, 2026; Pg. 4, 12.

The **MagnifiKid** missalette is available each week in the gathering area for children ages 6—12 to use during the Mass and to take home afterward.

The bake sale was a huge success thanks to all our bakers who donated delicious goodies and to those of you who supported the sale. Our Confirmation candidates worked hard but had a good time being together for this activity! They raised \$706 !! God bless YOU!



FATHER'S SUNDAY GOSPEL COLORING CONTEST is for students in 1st—4th grade to connect with the gospel reading each week. Coloring sheets are available at the display in the gathering area. Father really enjoys the kids participating. Congratulations to our winners for the Feb. 15th:

Haley Osorio Mata 3rd Grade & Laura Bawerima—4th Grade



CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Saint John Paul II High School—Custodian *The custodian plays a vital role in maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors at St. John Paul II Catholic High School. This position is responsible for the upkeep of school buildings and grounds, managing the school's lunch program, and assisting with receiving/storage school supplies and deliveries. Handling of other responsibilities as needed. Maintaining an alignment with the school's mission and Catholic values. Applicants who have the qualifications and expertise are encouraged to apply by sending a cover letter etc. to Diane Olszewski at dolszewski@jp2falcons.org*

Holy Family School is hosting a Nite at the Races on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at St. Joseph Church/ Father Messmer Center Gym. Food and Drinks are available for purchase beginning at 6:30pm and racing starts at 7:00pm. No entry fee to attend! This is an Adult Only event. To purchase a horse for \$25 each contact Mark Wiegmann at 256-683-5462.

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY at UAH The Catholic Chapel is located at 4310 Holmes Avenue. The Catholic Student Center is next to the chapel. Join in a small group bible study for spring semester. All are welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY * LITURGY MINISTRY * MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets on Sunday, February 22nd at 12:15 pm in the Youth Room.

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

Music

Why Your Child Should Participate in Church Music

Catholic children's choirs fulfill both personal and spiritual development. Children learn to worship through music, learning about their faith, and developing musical skills. They grow in confidence and the important skill of teamwork. The choir's primary gift is liturgical, adding to the worship of God by performing sacred music. This helps the congregation in its prayer. In addition, participation creates a sense of community, teaches discipline, and grows social skills.

Act of Worship: Children offer their voices in worship, glorifying God through sacred music during the Mass and other liturgies.

Learning about Faith: Songs and hymns help children learn & internalize key truths about their faith.

Enhanced worship experience: Singing in the choir can help children feel a deeper connection to the presence of God during worship.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

March 5th: 10:00-10:30 AM	Almaretta Brislin
6:00-6:30 PM	Wendy Templeton Padilla
March 6th: 10:00-10:30 AM	Almaretta Brislin
6:30-7:00 PM	Wendy Templeton Padilla

All are invited to come hear inspiring talks on how you can renew your relationship with God. The speakers will help us prepare for our Lenten confession ... moving from repentance to healing. Almaretta Brislin is a retired Catholic Educator and former Benedictine Sister. Wendy Templeton Padilla is a Certified Catholic Life Coach, author and veteran speaker.

Monday Masses Fr. Charley will celebrate Mass on Mondays at 5:00pm during Lent along with Stations of the Cross and Rosary. Please come and participate in these extra Lenten Masses.

POT LUCK DINNER Please join Father Charley after the Saturday evening Mass on Feb. 28th at 6 PM, in Joy Hall. He will tell us about his recent visit to India and narrate a slide show of the beautiful photographs he took on his trip. Please bring a dish to share.

40DAYS/40 PSALMS...PRAY the PSALMS with FATHER CHARLEY this Lent via videos 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. Pray, Pray, Pray!

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: Rafael 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: Jay Hammer	256-337-1016
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

"Our work is to enlarge the tent and let everyone know they are welcome in the Church."
Pope Leo XIV

SOCIAL CONCERNS & FOOD PANTRY

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Pantry

Needs: peanut butter, canned corn, beans, complete meals, (Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Pasta mixes) canned meat, mashed potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, cake mix, icing, oatmeal cookies, crackers, corn meal mix, flour, sugar, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, Jello, pudding, cereal, coffee, tea, toiletries (soap, shapoo, conditioner, etc)

We need additional help in the SVdP office on Tuesdays. if you can help one or two days a month, please contact us at 256-852-2899 or email us at help@olqusvdp.org.

PLEASE HELP US HELP THE POOR

General Information

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Married Couples and Priests

Enrich and renew your Sacramental relationship by attending a Marriage Encounter Experience, a retreat where you will learn the tools to restore communication, renew your commitment, and rekindle the Joy of your Sacrament! It is the perfect Easter gift for your spouse to begin this new year.

Join us on April 24-26, 2026 at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama. For more info: **wwme.org** or call Frank & Kathryn at 205-530-3607.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 22	Black & Indian Missions
	Building Fund
March 1	Religious Education

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,595.19
Weekly Collection Feb 14/15	\$	6,083.00
Religious Education	\$	10.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	912.00
Building Fund	\$	265.00
Building & Renovations	\$	105.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	607.00
Pocket Change	\$	1,380.95
Disaster Relief	\$	10.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$	10.00
Nite at the Races	\$	4,063.25
Confirmation Fundraiser	\$	705.50