

OUR LADY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

Catholic Parish



April 26, 2026 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jesus, the Gate for the Sheepfold

In the Gospel, Jesus offers one of His most tender and protective images: “I am the gate for the sheep.” At first glance, it seems simple, even rustic. But for the early listeners, this image carried deep meaning. In ancient sheepfolds, the shepherd himself would lie across the opening at night. His body became the gate—nothing harmful could enter, and no sheep could wander off without passing over him. The shepherd’s very presence was the protection.

When Jesus calls Himself the gate, He is telling us that He is the way into safety, belonging, and abundant life. He is not a barrier but an opening—an invitation into the Father’s love. Through Him we enter a place where we are known, cherished, and guarded. In a world filled with competing voices, false promises, and spiritual noise, Jesus stands as the one true entrance into peace.

But Jesus is also the gate that leads us outward. Once we have entered His love, He sends us forth to pasture—to live, serve, and bear witness. The Christian life is not meant to be lived behind walls of fear. It is a life of movement, guided by the Shepherd’s voice, nourished by His grace, and strengthened by His Spirit.

This image is especially meaningful as we approach Confirmation on the 29th. Our young people are preparing to step more fully into the sheepfold of Christ and to walk confidently through the gate into their mission. The Holy Spirit will seal them, strengthen them, and guide them. They are not alone. Christ stands at the gate of their lives—protecting, calling, and sending. May they learn to recognize His voice above all others. May they trust that wherever He leads, life in abundance awaits.

May First is the First Friday of the Month – Adoration at 11am, Holy Mass / Anointing of the Sick at 12noon, and following is the lunch served by the St. Andrew’s Table group. May 2nd is First Saturday, which is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother – 7.30 am Adoration/ Rosary and 8am Mass.

Let us Pray: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd and the Gate of the sheepfold, draw us into the safety of Your love. Guard our hearts from all that harms, and lead us into the fullness of life You promise. We lift up all those preparing for Confirmation on the 29th. Fill them with Your Spirit, strengthen their faith, and guide their steps. May they always hear Your voice and follow You with courage and joy. Amen.

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

Weekly Readings can be found in the USCCB
bible@usccb.org

Chapel Chairs: We have 25 new chairs for the Chapel. If you would like to sponsor a chair they are \$500.00 each and you can make payments if you wish.

Mass Intentions

We have daily 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.

New to our parish? If you are visiting our parish and are interested in joining our Catholic Family, registration forms are available in the gathering area or at the parish office (office hours are Tues.- Fri. 9am -3pm). Fill one out and drop it into a collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

Altar Flowers may be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one, to mark a special occasion or simply to donate. Please contact the parish office at 256-852-0788 to schedule a date. The donation is \$150.



High School & College Graduates 2026

If you are or have a graduate in your family please call or email the parish office by Sunday, May 10th. We want to acknowledge all graduates at all Mass on Sunday May 17th.

Wedding Anniversary

Michael & Christian Gunner, Jeffrey & Sandra Holmes,
Steven & Mary Potts, Rafael & Dorothy Sosa,
Fausto & Violet Vidaurri



Let us Pray for the Living and the Deceased

For the living:

Patricia Thomas, Mary Lou Zurowski, Bill Andre, Paul Shea, Helen Bill-Cash, Fred & Margaret Dorsey, Arthur Nussberger, Lisa Connor, Lucy Sinopole, Bill Andre, Betty Lemley, Ferdinand Manglona, Patrick Buckley, Jeff Carr, Krysta Harmsen, Judy Stockton, and Lori Shafer 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.	Apr. 25	5:00PM	The Vu Family † Cyndy Ysasi †
Sun.	Apr. 26	8:00AM	Amara Hammer † Albert Rich †
		10:00AM	Alex & Heidi Miller † Bill Whalen †
Tues.	Apr. 28	12:00PM	Regina & Mathan †
Wed.	Apr. 29	12:00PM	Robby Alookaran †
Thurs.	Apr. 30	12:00PM	The Souls in Purgatory †
Fri.	May 1	12:00PM	Paul Lamont †
Sat.	May 2	5:00PM	Chris Wright † Joe Miller †
Sun.	May 3	8:00AM	Aaron Berryman † Peter Tran †
		10:00AM	Bill Whalen † Charles Dixon †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Apr. 26	Pizza & Ice Cream Social	5:00—7:00 pm
Wed. Apr. 29	Confirmation	6:00 pm
Fri. May 1	First Friday /Healing Mass Adoration & Rosary St. Andrew's Table to follow	12:00 pm 11:00 am
Sat. May 2	B V M Mass Adoration & Rosary Altar Server Training	8:00 am 7:00 am 10:00am
Sun. May 3	May Crowning	10:00am

St. Andrew's Table is on Friday, May 2nd after the Mass and Healing Service. All are invited. These luncheons are free but donations are accepted.

New Members April 2026

Please welcome Richard Willey, James Tate, Scevvis Hunter-Carroll and son Jonah, Doriscela Santiago Lopez and family Brandon Garcia, Greidy Garcia, Kaileb Garcia and Eudyis Garcia to our OLQU family.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION



Bishop Steven Raica will celebrate the sacrament of confirmation this Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00 PM. Please pray for our candidates as they ready themselves to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in this 3rd sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. They are: Alexis Andre, Sirena Downing, Vicente Downing, Jean Etse, Robson Etse, Scarlett Folk, Isabella Homan, Liseth Neri, Jeremiah Ngwsese, & Briana Wilkinson.

The OCIA Group will also be confirmed by Bishop Raica along with the high school students on this evening. They also appreciate your prayers:

Austin Benson, Dale Ballesteros, Vivian Bradley, Brandon Garcia, Edith Perez & Doris Santiago.

"I came so that they might have life"

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a parable about sheep, a shepherd, and a gate. A parable is a story that helps explain something that is difficult to understand. Jesus wants us to understand that **he** is the one who brings us to the Father. He leads us toward a life of grace that comes from God. It is the true life that never ends. Jesus is the gate. He is the shepherd and we must always follow him. *MagnifiKid! Vol. 23; April 26, 2026; Pg. 3* 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.

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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Saint John Paul II High School

Registration for 2026 JP2II Summer Camps is now open! Whether your student is looking for athletic development, academic enrichment, or creative fun, there are a variety of camps available throughout June and July this summer. Join the fun, it is open to the community. Visit www.jp2falcons.org/camps today for details or camps@jp2falcons.org for any questions.

JP2II High School is seeking applicants for the following position, Head Middle School Volleyball Coach. Applicants who have the qualifications and expertise are encouraged to apply by sending a cover letter, resume/CV, and supporting employment information to Diane Olszewski at dolszewski@jp2falcons.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY * LITURGY MINISTRY * MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Ministry

Sunday, April 26th is the Youth Group and Youth Choir from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm. Please join us for a fun time.

Building Fundraiser

We are continuing our Queens Walkway Fundraiser. This Memorial Walkway will provide a place of prayer and reflection. The handsomely engraved bricks on the walkway will be inscribed with your name or a family name as a permanent, everlasting tribute.

You may dedicate a brick, "In honor of...", "In memory of..." or just have a name engraved.

Through your participation, you will become a permanent part of our parish family's history and future. Each brick costs \$75.00

Please contact the office for more information on this opportunity, 256-852-0788.

MINISTRIES * NEWS * EVENTS

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

During this weekend of April 25th and 26th, the bishops are inviting Catholics across the country to contribute to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Your participation in this annual appeal supports dioceses throughout the United States and its current and former territories that need financial help to continue pastoral services and missions of mercy to all they serve.

Please pray and support this appeal to the best of your

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.

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: Almareta 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 needs: canned meats, complete meals (Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc) spaghetti, pasta sauce with meat, canned or mashed potatoes, sugar, flour, oatmeal, cake mix, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, Jello, pudding, cereal, canned peas, dried beans. Paper goods, toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste). We extend our gratitude to those who so graciously keep our pantry stocked weekly.

Contact email address help@olqusvdp.org.

General Information

Widows & Widowers Luncheon will meet for lunch at 1:00 pm on Thursday, May 14th, at West End Grill, 6610 Old Madison Pike, Huntsville. Please call or text Michael at 256-289-3841 by Monday, May 11th for information or reservations. Newcomers are always welcome. This is an informal group who gather for fellowship and to enjoy a meal at different restaurants.

AL Catholic Center of Concern is in need of:

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6)
- New underwear for men, women, and children (all sizes)
- New socks for all ages

Center of Concern office phone number 205-963-9355

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 26	Catholic Home Missions
	Building Fund
May 3	Religious Education
May 10	Building & Maintenance
May 17	Seminarian Education Fund
	St. Vincent de Paul

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Weekly Estimated Expenses	\$	10,595.19
Weekly Collection April 18/19	\$	7,520.00
Religious Education	\$	17.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	907.00
Building Fund	\$	175.00
Building & Renovations	\$	247.00
Seminarian Education Fund	\$	824.00
Disaster Relief	\$	117.00
Catholic Home Services	\$	222.00
Easter	\$	72.00