



Why a Chalice?

Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper. On that same night He began His Passion on the Mount of Olives, falling into an agony as His Sacred Humanity pondered the sufferings He would take on to redeem the whole world. To assist Him in this spiritual battle, an angel was sent to offer Him a chalice. This chalice symbolizes the strength, which Christ received from the Heart of the Father in order to accomplish the sacrifice of Redemption. This night of agony in the garden is intrinsically related to the priesthood. Every priest is an "alter Christus" (another Christ), likewise called to carry on this same sacrificial mission of Redemption in the Church today. By our prayers and sacrifices we too—like the angel—wish to offer our priests a chalice of strength, so that they may persevere in their daily trials and faithfully accomplish the unique mission entrusted to them by the Father.



*Chalice of Strength;
"Prayers for Priests"*

*Praying for priest is not an obligation;
it is a holy duty and divine mandate.*

Contact Information

Maggie Beckham
Coordinator

beckham22@cox.net 405-826-7296

Jonah Beckham
Youth Coordinator

RE, Edge, Confirmation and Life Teen

jonah.beckham@gmail.com 405-641-8638

Assistant Coordinators

Sandy Widman Cindy Suenram
F_S_U_1@cox.net ccsuenram@aol.com

Nan McCabe

SEAS School Mass Coordinator

nmccabe@stjohn-catholic.org



St John the Baptist Catholic Church
900 S. Littler Ave.
Edmond, OK
stjohn-catholic.org

Family Chalice Ministry

*Our Parish's Family Prayer for an Increase in
Vocations to the Priesthood*



Each week a family in our Parish steps forward to receive a chalice to take home with them for the week to pray in a specific way for the increase in vocations to the priesthood. There is no greater gift we can lend but to pray that our young men will hear the voice of God in discerning the path to which they are called.

"The pastoral care of vocation needs to involve the entire Christian community in every area of life. Obviously, this pastoral work on all levels also includes exploring the matter with families, which are often indifferent or even opposed to the idea of a priestly vocation. Families should generously embrace the gift of life and bring up their children to be open to doing God's will. In a word, they must have the courage to set before young people the radical decision to follow Christ, showing them how deeply rewarding it is."

—Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI

Sacramentum Caritatis, 25



"Out of hundreds of possible ways of fostering vocations, prayer was the single one Our Lord specified".

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen,
The Priest Is Not His Own, 79



Participate in the Ministry

If you wish to participate in the Family Chalice Ministry, follow these simple steps:

1. Sign up
 - Fill out form in the Gathering Space located near the main entrance
 - Visit the Parish Website under "Highlights"
2. A Coordinator will notify you
 - You will be scheduled at the Mass you specified
 - You will receive the notification at least 45 days prior to scheduled date and Mass time
3. On the date you are assigned
 - Arrive **20 minutes** before Mass
 - Check in at the Ministry Desk and with the Celebrant
 - Find seating in the front center aisle pews
 - The Celebrant will call you forward for commissioning
 - You will receive the chalice and return to your pew
4. After your week of prayer
 - You will return the chalice the following week **30 minutes** before Mass to the lower sacristy.

Vocations in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City*



| | 2013 | 2015 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Catholics | 113,800 | 115,581 |
| Total Population | 2,634,000 | 2,318,874 |
| Percent of Catholics | 4.3% | 4.95% |
| Diocesan Priests | 102 | 75 |
| Religious Priests | 32 | 30 |
| Total Priests | 132 | 105 |
| Catholics per Priest | 862 | 1100 |
| Permanent Deacons | 95 | 99 |
| Female Religious | 74 | 74 |

Parishes

There are currently 110 Parishes and Mission Parishes in the Archdiocese serving the faithful that need to be Pastored.

*Archdiocese of OKC Archives 2013 and the Kennedy Directory 2015

Imagine this ...

What if one High School graduate from each parish in our diocese entered the vocational discernment process every 3 years?

We would add 21 new priests each year!

*Let's nurture this possibility
with our prayers.*

Once we know, we commit.
The success of this program is based on
your commitment to participate.

The Time for Prayer is NOW

35 years ago there were more than 780 million Catholics in the world; three years ago, there were almost 1.23 billion.

The number of Catholic priests is down 17% since 1980. In the past 32 years, in the Americas there is significant stagnation with an increase of 2% or about 2,000 priests. This number is well behind its 56% increase in overall Catholic population.

*Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)
June 2015 study at Georgetown.*

Join Us in Your Daily Prayer

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God, help the men of our Archdiocese to hear the call to serve the people of God. Our needs are great and our people thirst for Your presence. Open the hearts of many; raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, devout holy priests who will dedicate themselves for Your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.