

Vocations Chalice Program

“Praying for Vocations to Religious Life and our Priest”

In 2015, the Knights of Columbus Council 13713 initiated the Vocations Chalice Program, the purpose of which is to celebrate consecrated religious life and to offer a program of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Since the program’s inception (Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 10:30am Mass) and as it continues to grow, we anticipate and encourage more and more families being interested and signing up for a week to share the chalice and pray together. To learn more about the Vocations Chalice Program, please contact Bob Wagner, 803-629-2978, or Russ Foss, 404-518-0323. You may also visit the Knight’s website, <http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/CouncilNews.asp?CNO=13713> or contact the parish office at 803-735-0512.

You may sign up on the Vocations Chalice clipboard (found in the gathering space of the church) with your name and email address. You will then be sent an email invitation to our Vocations Chalice website where you may choose your week of prayer. Or you may contact:

Bob Wagner, 803-629-2978 or rswag1971@gmail.com, or
Kathy Cunningham, 847-691-5899 or kathleenleighbunningham@gmail.com.

The chalice is exchanged each weekend. The current rotation is as follows:

Sunday, 10:30am Mass

Sunday, 8am Mass

Sunday, 10:30am Mass

Saturday, 4:00pm Mass

Repeat

Also, if inclined, please add comments regarding your experience in the journal housed in the case with the chalice. We believe your comments will help those experiencing the program in their homes and will help those monitoring and improving the program to better serve the community and vocations.

Thank you.

**Prayer Book for Transfiguration Catholic Church
Vocations Chalice Program**



“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
Matthew 9:37-38

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for sharing in our parish-wide efforts to promote consecrated life and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Your prayers are essential to achieve results for our Catholic faith in our Church and throughout the world. Remember the words of our Lord:

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

You will find some simple instructions for the Vocations Chalice Program, together with short daily prayers. Please read through the instructions before you get started. I thank you for your commitment to praying for religious life and strength this week and in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Monsignor Jim LeBlanc

**Prayer offered 'just prior to Final Blessing' at distribution of
Vocations Chalice to family at Mass.**

“Thank you for participating and for your prayers for vocations into religious life. Receive this Chalice and prayer program and may this week be one of prayer and gratitude for all we have received and encourage others to consider a vocation into religious life.

May the peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.”

Transfiguration Catholic Church “Vocations Chalice Program”

The purpose of the Vocations Chalice Program is to encourage people to pray for vocations and to promote vocations within their own parish family. The chalice was presented by the Knights of Columbus Council 13713 to the Transfiguration parish in 2015. Father Andrew Trapp blessed the chalice to share with the Transfiguration Catholic Church community. Monsignor Jim LeBlanc continues this program.

The chalice is offered to help serve as a visible reminder of your commitment to pray for vocations during this week, and also as a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer. Rather, we take home with us from the Mass, the joy, the gratitude, and the mission to share the love of Christ with others in our families and our workplaces.

We suggest that you place the chalice in a highly visible place in your home. For example, place it on the mantel of your fireplace or in the center of your dining room table.

We ask that you pray once each day for vocations, if only it be the Lord’s Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, or the Glory Be. Enclosed is a recommended prayer and intention for each day, but please feel free to adapt these prayers. An especially good time to pray might be just before meals, or you might pray a rosary first thing in the morning before going off to work or school.

If you have children or grandchildren, we encourage you to talk to them about vocations, about God’s plan for them to grow in holiness, and answer any questions they might have. You should feel free to let them see and hold the plastic case, even young children, if supervised, making sure they treat it respectfully, like all sacred objects.

In addition, if inclined, please add comments in the journal included in the case. Others who are experiencing this program may appreciate your perspective and your comments may also help those responsible for coordinating and improving this program. Thank you.

Upon completion of your week with the chalice in your home, please return the chalice, case, program materials, and journal to church the following weekend at the Mass that is scheduled for the Vocations Chalice to be received by the next family. Please check in with the coordinator 15 minutes prior to Mass so he can coordinate with the receiving family and Father Jim. You will transfer the chalice to the next family with Father’s blessing during the final blessing of the Mass.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office or one of the coordinators listed in this program.

Thank you.

Chalice Directions

- 1) Put the chalice in a prominent place in your home such as: kitchen table, coffee table, fireplace, or bookshelf.
- 2) You may touch the plastic case during your daily prayers.
- 3) Say the provided prayers along with your regular family prayers.
- 4) When your week is complete, please place the chalice carefully in the case along with the program materials and journal.
- 5) Please bring the chalice, case, program materials, and journal to the church the following weekend at the Mass that is scheduled for the Vocations Chalice to be received by the next family. Please check in with the coordinator 15 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass. You will transfer the chalice to the next family during the final blessing of the Mass.

Thank you for participating and hopefully you have a rewarding and refreshing, spiritual experience.

PRAYERS

Sunday: Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations and Consecrated Life of the Religious

Intention: With the Holy Father, we pray for an increase in consecrated life and the priestly and religious vocations throughout the universal Church.

O Father, raise up among Christians numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, to keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of your Son, Jesus, through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which you continually renew your faithful. Give us holy ministers of your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world. Call ministers of your mercy, who, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of your forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life. Sustain the Bishops, priests, and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission in the service of the Gospel. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday: Prayer to Know One's Vocation

(See also Vocations Prayer printed in the case)

Intention: We pray for all of those who might not know their vocation in life.

Through prayer and with God's help, may they come to know His will for their lives. Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You, and thereby to find and fulfill myself. I know that every path can lead me to You, but of them all, there is one especially by which You want me to come to You.

Since I will do what You want of me, I pray, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what You want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all my strength right to the end. Amen.

Tuesday: Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church

Intention: We pray that we might grow in our love and devotion to Mary.

We turn to you, Mary, Mother of the Church. Through your “yes,” you have opened the door that makes Christ present in the world, in history, and in individual lives. In humble silence and in total availability, you welcomed the call of the Most High.

May there be many men and women in our day who respond to your Son’s invitation: “Follow me!” Grant them courage to leave family, work, and earthly desires to follow Christ along the road that He walked. Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us and for an increase of priestly and religious vocations. Amen.

Wednesday: Litany for Vocations

Intention: We pray for an increase in vocations and religious life within the Diocese of Charleston

[*Prayer Leader*] Lord, have mercy. [*Response*] **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, hear us; **Christ, graciously hear us.**

God the Father of heaven; **Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world; **Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit; **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary; **Pray for us.**

St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church; **Pray for us.**

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus; **Pray for us.**

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests; **Pray for us.**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; **Pray for us.**

St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians; **Pray for us.**

St. Katherine Drexel; **Pray for us.**

St. Stephen, patron of deacons; **Pray for us.**

St. John Berchmans, patron of altar servers; **Pray for us.**

Blessed Junipero Serra; **Pray for us.**

All you holy men and women; **Pray for us.**

All participating in this vocations and religious life program, **Pray for us.**

Through your mercy; **send workers into Your harvest, Lord.**

Through our prayers and sacrifices; **send workers into your harvest, Lord.**

Through the power of the Mass; **workers into your harvest, Lord.**

Through the holiness of families; **workers into your harvest, Lord.**

[*Prayer Leader*] Let us pray: O God, who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, we earnestly implore You to choose among us many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved. **Amen.**

Thursday: Prayer for Families

Intention: We pray that if it be God's will, there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own family and that they will be supported through our encouragement.

Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocation of their children and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Friday: Prayer for Pastor Monsignor Jim LeBlanc

Intention: We pray for our pastor, Monsignor Jim LeBlanc, that he may grow in holiness and we pray for our parish of Transfiguration that from among its members there may be priests and religious to serve the Church.

“Everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts,” St. John Vianney affirmed. “If we had not the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we should not have Our Lord”.

“Who placed him there, in that tabernacle? *It was the priest.*
Who was it that received your soul, on its entrance into life? *The priest.*
Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? *The priest.*
Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? *The priest – always the priest.*”

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. To those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, give the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday: Prayer for Perseverance of Vocations

Intention: We pray for all of the bishops, priests, deacons and religious that they may have the strength to remain faithful to their vocations.

We pray in particular for all those in religious vocations who have served us. O God, you have consecrated your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind. Grant that those whom he has chosen as ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

Prayer for Seminarians:

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd of the Church, Grant these Seminarians the necessary wisdom, guided by the Holy Spirit, to succeed and the grace to persevere. Enlighten them in their studies, help them in their difficulties, and sustain them in their struggles to be faithful. O Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, intercede on their behalf. Help them to imitate you in saying their own generous and unconditional “yes” to the ministry of love and divine election to which the Lord calls them. We ask this in the name of our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Reflection:

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.” When you see a priest, you should say, “There is he who made me a child of God, and opened heaven to me by holy baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul.” St. John Vianney

Reflections, Comments, Prayers, Intentions

(Optional) Please add any prayers, comments, intentions, or reflections you as a result of your family prayer time in the enclosed journal. All comments are appreciated! Thank you.

Vocations Chalice Program Coordinators

Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

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