

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

February 21, 2016

Chrism Mass

Msgr. David Baumgartner

I have administered the Sacrament of the Sick to hundreds of people. All of the sacraments are rooted in Sacred Scripture. As we read in the New Testament book of James, *Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask for the presbyters of the church They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his.* (5:14-15)

The Church uses Holy Oil in the celebration of a baptism, confirmation, and ordination. In addition, when a new church building is dedicated, its walls and altar are anointed with Holy Oil.

The Holy Oils are blessed and consecrated annually at the Chrism Mass. In the Diocese of Crookston, our Chrism Mass is always on the Monday of Holy Week at our Cathedral in Crookston. (This year it is March 21, 2016, 7:00 PM) This Mass is wonderfully celebrated, usually with a brass quartet and often with other musical instruments. There is an ad hoc diocesan choir formed just for this Mass. Would you like to join the 50 voices that usually lead the music? Look in the bulletin for announcements regarding regional choir practices.

The use of Holy Oils is accompanied by some measure of stewardship of time, talent or treasure. Think of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Catechists have offered countless hours of their time in service to the candidates. Others have offered a tithe of time as prayer partners and sponsors. Parents, who are the first to teach the faith to their children, have sacrificed time, talent and treasure for their children, and happily so.

Imagine the stewardship that backs every man who is ordained a priest. This stewardship begins in the heart of the parents, who consider their support for religious life long before their children can actively discern their vocations. The boy is taught religious education by volunteer catechists. He is encouraged by organizations like the Knights of Columbus and the Christian Mothers. It takes diocesan time and staff to receive an application for seminary and to scrutinize the candidate. Once the candidate has a Bachelor's degree, he faces four to six years of seminary at a Master's Degree level of education. This is paid for, in part, by your tithe to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. When the time comes for his ordination, he is anointed with Chrism that is consecrated at our annual Chrism Mass! Imagine the years of stewardship that contributes to that moment coming into existence.

The Chrism Mass comprises not only the blessing and of the Holy Oils, but Renewal of Priestly Promises by all of the priests serving in the Diocese of Crookston. During this renewal, the bishop turns to all of the members of the assembly and says, *As for you, dearest sons and daughters, pray for your Priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to him, who is the source of salvation.*

Your pastor needs the promise of your prayers and the bishop's blessing to sustain him in his ministry.

The Chrism Mass ends with the distribution of the Holy Oils. Representatives from all 66 of our parishes, and other institutions, form a line filling every square inch of the center isle of the Cathedral Church as the roll call is read aloud. The oils newly blessed are sent to the parishes to be consumed by every anointing in the year to come.

Circle Life of Sacred Heart Parish

Angie Jacobson

Have you ever wondered?

What is a Circle?

What do Circles do?

Am I a member of a Circle?

Well, you are about to find out.

Yes, you are a member of a circle. We are all members. Sacred Heart Parish currently has seven circles. There are approximately 40 families per circle, and they are a vital part of our parish community. You become a member of a circle when you join our parish community. Each circle has a chair person, and maybe even a co-chair. The chair or co-chair persons call upon the rest of us as needed. We usually work on a rotation of some sort.

The circles are numbered 1 – 7 and they also have Saints names.

Circle #1 is St. Mary and St. Joseph

Circle #2 is St. Margaret and St. Matthew

Circle #3 is St. Maria and St. George

Circle #4 is St. Elizabeth and St. Zachariah

Circle #5 is St. Theresa and St. Anthony

Circle #6 is St. Monica and St. Augustine

Circle #7 is St. Martha and St. Michael

Some of the ways we benefit our parish family are:

We serve coffee and donuts, currently after Sunday Liturgies only. This is a monthly circle rotation.

We work funerals. By that, I mean we set up for the funeral luncheon, we bake desserts, we help serve the luncheon, and we clean up. This is also on a rotation basis. Depending on the size of the funeral maybe one circle is needed, or maybe two or more. This is a vital role and so very much appreciated by the families we serve. All of our families will benefit from this hospitality at some point in our lives.

We also work special parish events. Some examples of these events are: parish fundraisers, parish auctions, parish dinners etc. This list goes on. Maybe a couple of circles will work on different aspects of the event. Some events may include the work of all seven circles in one way or another.

This is not currently being done, but Circles could also be a small group of some sort. We are somewhat put into a circle by where we live geographically. This would make it easier to get together for a bible study, support each other, and other forms of faith formation.

I don't know how or if circle life as we know it will change in the future, but I do know that we are all needed and can do our part, whatever that might be. If not physically active, you can still serve in other ways, such as prayer.

There you have it. I hope you can agree that we are all part of one big family journeying together and helping each other to reach our final destination.