

Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
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## OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 1, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to join me and the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in the celebration of the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis at 5:30 p.m. followed by a light reception in Crispin Hall after the Mass. The doors will open at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. No tickets are needed to attend this Mass as in previous years. Priests, Deacons, and the Deacon's wives will have reserved seats in the south transept of the Cathedral. Abbots, Deans, and the Vicars will be seated in the sanctuary. Deacons will not vest or process in during the Mass unless part of the liturgy.

During the Chrism Mass, I will gather with the priests of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe for the blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism. The priests will also renew their promises to their priestly ministry during this liturgy. The three oils will then be blessed that will be used throughout the next year 2024 -25 for the celebration of sacraments and sacramentals. The Oil of the Sick (designated with the letters OI; *Oleum Infirmorum*), is used for the anointing of the sick and the dying. The Oil of Catechumens (designated with the letters OC or OS; *Oleum Catechumenorum*) is used to anoint those welcomed into the Order of Catechumens prior to baptism. The Sacred Chrism (designated with the letters SC; *Sacrum Chrisma*) is used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests/bishops, and in the dedication of a church and/or altar.

I invite and welcome you to join in this special liturgy as we enter the holiest week of the year. This Mass will be live streamed if you are not able to attend in person. You may visit the Archdiocese of Santa Fe or Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi website for the live stream link.

Please be assured of my prayers for you in this Lenten season as I ask for your prayers for me, your priests, and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. May your Lenten season be blessed with abundant graces.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'John C. Wester'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John C. Wester  
Archbishop of Santa Fe