



Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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NEWS RELEASE

Archbishop John C. Wester to Celebrate the Chrism Mass

**Thursday, March 30, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
All Are Welcome**

ALBUQUERQUE – Wednesday, March 29, 2023– IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, 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 priestly ministry before Archbishop Wester at this liturgy. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and there will be open seating; no tickets are required.

The three oils will be used throughout the year for the celebration of sacraments and sacramentals. The Oil of the Sick (designated with the letters OI) is used for the anointing of the sick and the dying. The Oil of Catechumens (designated with the letters OC or OS) is used to anoint those welcomed into the Order of Catechumens prior to baptism. The Sacred Chrism (designated with the letters SC) is used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests/bishops, and in the dedication of a church and/or altar.

The holy chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, an aromatic resin. Archbishop Wester will breathe over the vessel of chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used.

[Click here](#) for Archbishop Wester's invitation to the Chrism Mass, [click here](#) for the worship aid, and [click here](#) to live stream.--END