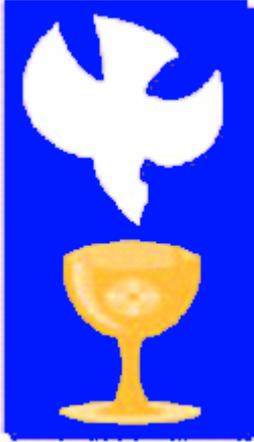


*The Elijah Cup:  
Praying for Vocations*



*You are my beloved,  
in whom I am well-  
pleased*



SS. John and Paul Parish  
Washington, Michigan

**Thank you for hosting the Elijah Cup in your home this week!**

The inside front and back covers of the journal included in this box describe in more detail a suggested way to use this chalice. Feel free to adapt it for your household. But let this week be one where you pray often that you and your family and all the people of the parish see and live their lives as called by God. Thank you.



**Step One:** Put the chalice in a place of honor at the table.

**Step Two:** Pray for Vocations in three ways:

- To live our own lives right now as a vocation from God
- For young people to find the proper vocation in their life.
- For an increase of vocations to priesthood and Church ministry.
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**Step Three:** Do some thinking and discussing about what a vocation is.

**Step Four:** Add a vocational activity to your week's schedule, if possible.

**Step Five:** Write a few thoughts in the journal included with the cup.

**Step Six:** Return the cup and journal in the box at one of the upcoming weekend Masses so it can be passed on.

**Thank you for hosting the Elijah Cup in your home this week!**

**1) Put the chalice in a place of honor where it will be seen.** *You might want to light a candle nearby when you pray with the cup. Please note: this is a chalice consecrated for use at the Eucharist only.*

**2) Each day of the week—or as often as you are able this week—pray for vocations.** *Focus on the three areas below in one prayer time or pick one focus per day. We invite you to read one of the gospel stories on the baptism of Jesus as a beginning to the prayer, since it reminds us that, like Jesus, we are beloved by God: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 1: 32-34.*

- ◆ **The grace to live your own life right now as a vocation from God.**  
*Suggested prayer options:*

**Option One** *(prayed together or individually):*

God, I know you love me and are calling me to choose life. Help me to listen to your call in all the ways you speak to me.

Through prayer and the Scriptures, through the Church and the world, through those who love and care for me, and through my own hopes and desires.

Guide me to search openly and learn about life's choices, that I may respond faithfully to your call each day, and see my life and career, my roles and responsibilities, as a vocation from you. Help me to love wholeheartedly and serve others with the gifts you have given me.

God, today I thank you for your love and for all that life holds for me. Amen.

**Option Two** *(prayed together or individually):*

Loving God, You have called me to life and gifted me in so many ways, especially with the gift of being you beloved son or daughter.

Help me to become the person you desire me to be. Lead me to choose paths of life that you have opened for me.

Open my heart to listen to your call each day and guide me with Your Holy Spirit that I may have the courage to respond to you this day and always.

Enkindle in my heart the desire to make the world a better place. Amen.

- ◆ **The grace for young people in your family and in this parish to find their proper vocations in life.** *Again there are a couple of prayer suggestions*

**Option One:**

**All Respond:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

- ◆ For teachers and educators, professors and teaching assistants, for school secretaries and all the many needs in the education profession, we pray:
- ◆ For doctors and nurses, nurses aides and nurse practitioners, lab techni-

cians, counselors and all in medical professions, we pray:

- ◆ For police and fire personnel, government workers and politicians, military persons, judges and lawyers and all who serve communities, we pray:
- ◆ For mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and all vocations within a family, we pray:
- ◆ For priests and deacons, Church workers, religious sisters and brothers and all who serve the Church we pray:
- ◆ For business leaders, managers, and workers, engineers and scientists, farmers and food service people, and all who make our living possible, we pray:
- ◆ For artists and musicians, dancers, and entertainers and all who bring beauty into this world, we pray:
- ◆ For all vocations of life, that our young people might find the way for each of them to glorify God by using the gifts God has given them, we pray:

**Option Two** (*prayed together or individually*):

Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have made me to know you, to love, to serve you, and thereby to find and fulfill myself.

I know that you are in all things, that you can be served in all walks of life, and that every path can lead me closer to you. But of them all, I know that there are ones especially suited for me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me, I pray that you send the Holy Spirit into my mind, to show me what you want of me; and into my heart, to give me the determination to do it.

Help me to respond to your invitations in life with all my love, all my mind, and all my strength. Amen.

- ◆ **The grace for men and women to be open to a Church vocation as priest, deacon, member of a religious community or lay ministry.**

*Suggested prayer:*

**Option One:** *Cardinal Maida's Prayer for Vocations*

Gracious God, You have showered us with many blessings. We are grateful for all that you have given us. Bless our Archdiocese with many who are eager to serve as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and lay ministers in the Church.

Show our young people the way of life to which you are calling them. Remind them that they will find greatest fulfillment by pursuing the path you lay before them. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Option Two:**

**All Respond: Give us hearts to hear your call, O Lord.**

**Leader:**

- ◆ For an increase of vocations to priesthood and diaconate in the Church of Detroit, we pray:
- ◆ For the zeal to embrace poverty, chastity and obedience in the service of the Church as a member of a religious order we pray:
- ◆ For pastoral ministers, catechists, directors of religious formation, coordinators of Christian service and other ministries in the Church we pray:
- ◆ For a desire to live a life formed by gospel values we pray:
- ◆ For lives that are willing to put at the service of peace, overcoming poverty, witnessing for justice, we pray:

**3) Sometime during the week reflect on one or more of these questions and perhaps have a discussion about them.**

- ◆ *What have I/we done today to answer God's call?*
- ◆ *What is my main vocation in life at this time?*
- ◆ *How can I/we encourage vocations in others?*
- ◆ *How is God inviting me to see my life as a vocation from God?*

**4) If you have the time, you might want to do one of the following as a way to focus your thoughts on vocations:**

- ◆ *Take family on a 'neighborhood walk' to see what kind of 'vocations' are at work in the neighborhood (construction, lawn care, various kinds of work trucks, the work different neighbors do, etc.)*
- ◆ *Take son or daughter to work with you and discuss how your profession is a vocation that serves others*
- ◆ *Visit a hospital or other place of business/activity and notice/discuss all the various roles and how people are being served.*
- ◆ *Visit the Capuchin Monastery on Mt. Elliot in Detroit - there's lots to see – or take an outing to the Washington Retreat house to discover how a religious community lives and what they do.*
- ◆ *Pray a rosary for the intention of vocations.*

**5) Before packing the cup up to return it, write a few thoughts in the enclosed journal. You can sign them or not. But please write something that would encourage other households as they use the cup.**

**6) Bring the box with cup and journal to any of the weekend Masses this coming weekend. Be sure to let the sacristan or priest know you are there. This cup will then be used as the main chalice at that Eucharist.**

**Thank you. SS. John and Paul Vocations Awareness Committee**