

Parish Photo & Permission Policy

Purpose

This policy provides guidance for parishes on the respectful, appropriate, and safe use of photographs and videos for parish communications, including social media, websites, bulletins, and promotional materials.

General Guidelines

- Photographs and videos should reflect the dignity of the Church, the sacraments, and parish life.
- Images should be reverent, welcoming, and appropriate for all audiences.
- Special care must be taken during sacramental celebrations and sensitive moments.
- No photos or videos may be taken during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Permission & Consent

- Permission must be obtained before posting identifiable images of individuals.
- Written parental or guardian consent is required for minors (under 18).
- When permission is uncertain, use wide-angle photos, group shots, or images that do not clearly identify individuals.
- Parishes are encouraged to include photo release language in registration and ministry forms.

Best Practices for Parish Photos

- Focus on moments of prayer, service, community, and celebration.
- Avoid sharing personal or sensitive details in captions.
- Highlight the sacrament or parish event rather than individuals by name.
- Use natural light and avoid disruptive photography during liturgy.

Event Signage

Parishes may post signage at events stating that photographs may be taken for parish use. Individuals who do not wish to be photographed should be encouraged to notify parish staff.

Sample Photo Release Language (Copy & Use)

General Photo Release:

I hereby grant permission to [Parish Name] and the Diocese of Dodge City to use photographs and/or video recordings of me (or my child) taken during parish events for use in parish and diocesan communications, including but not limited to social media, websites, bulletins, and promotional materials. I understand that no compensation will be provided.

Minor Photo Release:

As the parent or legal guardian of the minor named below, I grant permission to [Parish Name] and the Diocese of Dodge City to photograph and/or record my child for parish and diocesan communication purposes. I understand these images may be used in print and digital formats.

This policy is intended to support safe, respectful, and effective parish communications while honoring the dignity and privacy of all individuals.