

Diocese of Southern Ohio Policy on Use of Alcohol at Church Functions

1. Any beverage which contains alcohol must be clearly labeled as such. This applies to any food where alcohol has not been volatilized.
2. Whenever alcohol is served in any form, non-alcoholic beverages, including sugarfree beverages, must always be offered and served with the same attractiveness and accessibility as those containing alcohol.
3. The offering of alcoholic beverages at an event should not be advertised and should never be a primary purpose of the event.
4. All applicable Federal, State and local laws and ordinances, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors, must be observed.
5. Although these guidelines recognize the positive social value of the use of alcoholic beverages, they also recognize that drunkenness is always unacceptable Christian behavior; care must be taken to ensure that responsible persons are in control of the serving of alcoholic beverages.
6. The group or organization sponsoring the event at which alcoholic beverages are served must assume moral and legal responsibility for those who might become intoxicated, including the provision of transportation for anyone whose driving might be impaired.
7. It is the duty of the Priest in charge of the congregation, or in his or her absence, the Senior Warden and the vestry, to assume responsibility for the dissemination of and the observance of these guidelines.
8. Non-church organizations using church facilities are expected to observe the above guidelines.

UNLESS YOUR PARISH ADOPTS A PARISH POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF ALCOHOL ON CHURCH PREMISES (an alternative approach which also has the support of Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Committee on Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency).