

# CHRISM MASS

Because of its meaning and pastoral importance in the life of the diocese, the Chrism Mass is celebrated in the cathedral church on Holy Thursday morning or moved to another day as close to Easter as possible so that a greater number of priests and people might attend.

At this liturgy, priests are brought together to celebrate Mass as witnesses and cooperators with their Bishop as he consecrates the holy chrism which is used to anoint the newly baptized, to seal the candidates for confirmation, and to anoint the hands of candidates for priesthood at the time of their priestly ordination. At this Mass the Bishop also blesses the oil of the catechumens which is used in the preparation of the catechumens for their baptism. He also blesses the oil of the sick which is used to bring comfort and support to the sick in their infirmity.

Unlike the bread and the wine which are offerings brought forth by members of the baptized faithful, the holy chrism, the oil of catechumens, and the oil of the sick are gifts from the Bishop to the local Churches. Therefore, they are carried in procession by ministers, usually deacons.

The Chrism Mass is a clear expression of the unity of the priesthood and sacrifice of Christ, which continue to be present in the Church.

*(adapted from the Ceremonial of Bishops, nos. 274-276)*

## *Blessing of the Oils and Consecration of the Sacred Chrism*



### *Oil of the Sick*

Oil for our healing, oil of blessing and salvation,  
Holy anointing in time of sickness to save us and raise us up.  
You are the healer of soul and body, the forgiveness of sins,  
Christ, full of mercy:



### *Oil of the Catechumens*

Oil for anointing those whom Christ is calling:  
Oil for disciples to grow strong in believing, oil for courage to  
fight the spirit of evil  
You are the source of all faith and faith's fulfillment,  
Christ, full of mercy:



### *Oil of the Chrism*

Christ, the anointed of the Father,  
Upon whose head the Holy Spirit came to rest,  
Has given his people the mystical anointing,  
Making them a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

With the holy Chrism of salvation  
Christ sets upon the Church the seal of the Spirit  
And in the outpouring of the sevenfold gift  
Confirms his people in the service of the Gospel

Within the Church, the priestly people,  
Christ sets apart for sacred duties  
those whom he calls and anoints with the Spirit  
To break and share the Word, the Bread of Life.

Christ builds the Church as a Spiritual house,  
Of living stones, himself the cornerstone;  
And with holy Chrism hallows the place  
Where his people offer through him the sacrifice of praise.