

Reception of the Holy Oils at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

It is appropriate that the oils blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass be presented to and received by the local parish community at the Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The oils should then be reserved in a suitable repository.

The following is a sample which you may use in your parishes for the reception of the oils:

Introductory Rites

Entrance Song and Procession

The presenters bearing the vessels of the holy oils carry them in procession. When they arrive at the front of the assembly, they stand where they can be seen by all. A gathering hymn is sung by the assembly during the procession. The presiding priest then gives the customary greeting.

Greeting

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reception of the Oils

The presiding priest, facing the people, introduces the liturgy in these or similar words:

Dear Friends, we are gathered together on this holy night to begin the Easter Triduum. United with the Church throughout the world, we commemorate the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We begin as he did: at the Passover table of the Last Supper.

Several days ago, united with the priests and people of the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop McRaith consecrated the holy chrism and blessed the oils for use in the anointing of the sick and in the preparation of catechumens for Baptism.

Tonight we receive the chrism and the holy oils which we will use in the celebration of the sacraments. By means of these powerful symbols, the crucified and risen Savior will continue in our midst the

work he began at his death and resurrection: forgiveness, healing, new life.

As each oil is presented, the cantor (in simple, solemn chant) or another minister (in recitation) makes the following proclamations. The vessels containing the oil should be held high by each presenter. Assembly responses such as “Blessed be God forever!” or “Thanks be to God!” are most appropriate.

Oil of the Sick

Behold the oil of the sick that has been blessed by our bishop for the healing of body, mind and soul. May those touched by this oil experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love.

Oil of the Catechumens

Behold the oil of the catechumens that has been blessed by our bishop for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism. May those anointed with this oil be strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms, as they prepare for the saving waters of Baptism.

Holy Chrism

Behold the holy chrism, a mixture of olive oil and perfume, which has been consecrated by our bishop. It will be used to anoint infants after baptism, those who are to be confirmed, bishops and priests at their ordination, and altars and churches at the time of their dedication. May all people and churches touched with this oil be signs and witnesses of God’s love and faithfulness.

The oils are carried by the presenters and placed on a specially prepared table near the baptismal font or placed in the repository.

The Mass continues with the singing of the “Gloria.”