

**BURNING OF THE HOLY OILS BY A PRIEST OR DEACON
and RITE OF COMMISSIONING OF SPECIAL MINISTERS WHO WILL RECEIVE
THE HOLY OILS AT THE CHRISM MASS**

I: Introduction to the Burning of the Oils

Priest: Dear Friends in Christ,
last year the Bishop gathered with the presbyterate,
diaconate and laity of the Diocese for the Blessing of
the Holy Oils and the Consecration of Chrism.

Since that time, the Oil of the Sick has been used to
anoint those in sickness and near death. The
natural element of oil becomes transformed into the
sacrament of God's healing and consoling presence.
Through this holy oil, many received freedom from
pain and illness and were restored to health in
body, mind, soul and spirit.

The Oil of Catechumens was used to anoint
candidates for baptism, asking God's wisdom and
strength. Through this anointing, baptismal
candidates received the saturating presence of the
Lord to bring them to a deeper understanding of the
Gospel, to accept the challenge of Christian living,
and to grow in the joy of a new birth in the family of
the Church.

By consecration of Chrism, the Church sets apart
this fragrant perfumed oil for those to be anointed
at Confirmation and those to receive priestly
ordination. This oil signifies the outward sign of the
Holy Spirit, so that all who are anointed with it may
be inwardly transformed and come to share in
eternal salvation.

Prayer

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us pray. *(Pause)*

We thank you, Lord, for the gift of oil and for your blessing upon it.

In the beginning, at your command, the earth produced fruit bearing trees. From the fruit of the olive tree, you have provided us with oil for Holy Chrism. The prophet David sang of the life and joy oil would bring us in the sacraments of your love. After the avenging flood, the dove returned to Noah with an olive branch announcing your gift of peace. This was a sign of a greater gift to come. Now, the waters of Baptism wash away the sins of people, and by anointing with olive oil you make us radiant with your joy. At your command, Aaron was washed with water, and your servant Moses, his brother, anointed him priest. This too fore-shadowed greater things to come. After your Son Jesus asked John for baptism in the waters of the Jordan, you sent the Spirit upon him in the form of a dove and by the witness of your own voice, you declared him to be your only, well-beloved Son. In this you clearly fulfilled the prophecy of David, that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness beyond his fellow men.

And so, Father, with gratefulness we return these oils to you as an offering of praise and thanksgiving. While this fire consumes the oils, we look forward to the new life-giving oils which will be blessed and consecrated in your Name.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Burning of the Holy Oils

(The celebrant burns the Holy Oils in silence.)

II: Rite of Commissioning

The priest-celebrant (or deacon) then calls those who will represent the parish at the Chrism Mass to come forward.

Priest: Dear Friends in Christ,

[Name(s)] have been chosen to represent this parish community at the Chrism Mass.

You are being entrusted with the duty to receive the blessed and consecrated oils from the hands of the Bishop, so that they may be returned to this community and Christ's sacramental life may continue to be celebrated.

Therefore, I ask you:

Are you resolved to carry out this responsibility with reverence and devotion?

Delegate: I am.

Priest: Are you resolved to safeguard this precious treasure for the sacramental life of God's people?

Delegate: I am.

Priest: Let us pray with confidence to the Father, asking him to bestow his blessing on our brothers and sisters, chosen to be special ministers of the Holy Oils.

Merciful Father, creator and guide of your family,
bless + our brothers and sisters.

May they be faithful recipients and bearers of the Holy Oils for this community.

May they be strengthened by your love, peace and joy in this holy task.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(The celebrant hands the empty, cleaned Holy Oil Containers to the representatives.)