

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS

INTRODUCTION

The reception of the Holy Oils may take place in individual parishes either before the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper or at another time that seems more appropriate. (*Roman Missal*, Chrism Mass, no. 15)

In 1989, the Holy See confirmed a ritual text for the reception of the holy oils for optional use in the dioceses of the United States, allowing for the reception to take place during the procession of the gifts at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper or on another suitable day. The *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, implemented in 2011, introduces a new rubric at the conclusion of the Chrism Mass. The first option for the reception of the holy oils is before the Mass begins, but according to pastoral necessity and any guidelines of the diocesan Bishop, "another time that seems more appropriate" could also include the offertory procession (as in the original ritual) or perhaps before the Penitential Act.

The original text of the *Reception of the Holy Oils* is still in force as an optional rite in the United States. As indicated in its introduction, the text may be adapted as needed. Whether or not a formal reception of the oils is celebrated, the pastor may wish to acknowledge the presence of the newly received holy oils as a sign of unity with the Bishop and the diocesan Church.

RUBRICS

1. It is appropriate that the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the holy Chrism, which are blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass, be presented to and received by the local parish community.
2. The reception of the holy oils may take place at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday or on another day after the celebration of the Chrism Mass.
3. The oils should be reserved in a suitable repository in the sanctuary or near the baptismal font.
4. The oils, in suitable vessels, are carried in the Entrance Procession by ministers or other persons. The vessels of oil are placed on a table which has been prepared for them in the sanctuary. The Priest may incense the Oils after he has incensed the altar.
5. After the Greeting of the Mass the Priest may briefly explain the significance of the blessing of the Oils and their use. The oils are then placed in the repository where they are to be reserved and the Mass continues in the usual manner.
6. The following, or other words, may be used to explain the significance of the Oils:

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Oil of the Sick

This Oil of the Sick has been blessed by our Bishop for the healing of body, mind, and soul. May the sick who are anointed with it, experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love.

The people may respond:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Oil of Catechumens

This Oil of Catechumens has been blessed by our Bishop for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism. Through this anointing they are 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.

The people may respond:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Holy Chrism

This holy Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and perfume, has been consecrated by our Bishop and the Priests of our Diocese. 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.

The people may respond:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

*From the USCCB + Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship
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