

Did you know?

Each year during Holy Week, the Bishop presides at a special Mass called the Chrism Mass. It is concelebrated by the Bishop with priests from throughout the Diocese, and is the largest gathering of clergy for Mass for the entire year. At this most Holy Mass, something very sacred happens, of great importance to the manifestation of the Church in the Diocese. It is here that the Bishop consecrates and/or blesses three sacred oils to be used for the administration of the Sacraments throughout the year. It is with these oils that priests are ordained, those entering the Church are confirmed, the newly baptized are anointed, and the ill are comforted. This most Holy Mass is one of the principal manifestations of the fullness of the Bishop's Priesthood and is a sign of the close bond he shares with his brother priests, reinforcing their shared commitment to the pastoral mission, the faithful, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



Where and When? Can I attend?

All are encouraged to attend in support of our clergy and to participate in this important Holy Week celebration!

Tuesday, March 31 | 10:30 a.m.

**St. Leo the Great Parish
28290 Beaumont Road
Bonita Springs, FL**

What is the Chrism Mass?

The Sacred Chrism

The Chrism Mass takes its name from the Sacred Chrism Oil, the most eminent of the three holy oils. All three oils are blessed by the Bishop, the sacred Chrism oil is blessed and consecrated. During the blessing and consecration of the Sacred Chrism Oil, the Bishop will pour and mix balsam into the oil. The balsam is added so that it gives the oil a sweet scent intended to remind those who encounter it of the odor of sanctity. Next, the Bishop breathes on the Sacred Chrism to symbolize the Holy Spirit coming down. At one point in the consecratory prayer for the Sacred Chrism, all the priests join the Bishop in extending their right hand toward the Chrism, as the Bishop concludes the prayer.

The Three Sacred Oils

Sacred Chrism Oil | Oil of Catechumens | Oil of the Sick

The three oils are the Sacred Chrism Oil, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick. It is with the Sacred Chrism Oil that the priests are ordained, the newly baptized are anointed, and those to be confirmed are signed. The Oil of Catechumens is imposed on those preparing for baptism and the Oil of the Sick provides comfort to those who are ill. The Sacred Chrism Oil is both blessed and consecrated by the Bishop, and the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick are both blessed by him.



What happens to last year's Sacred Oils?

Pastors dispose of the oils from the previous year properly by burning or burying them prior to the Chrism Mass. Any leftover oils from the previous year may be used as fuel for the lamp which burns before the reserved Blessed Sacrament or burned in the pre-Easter Vigil fire.

What happens after Mass?

After Mass, the oils are given to each Pastor to use in their Parish throughout the Liturgical Year for the administration of the Sacraments.



In Persona Christi

Having all the priests of the Diocese come together, united with their Bishop, on the eve of the Easter Triduum, reminds priests of their calling to act in the person of Christ – in persona Christi. At one point during the Mass, the gathered priests stand as one, and speak with one voice responding “I am” three times to a series of questions asked by the Bishop for the annual solemn Renewal of Priestly Promises. These same questions were asked of them at their Ordination to the Priesthood. Priests and Deacons celebrating 25 and 50 years of Ordination are also recognized at this Mass.

The Chrism Mass is typically held at the Epiphany Cathedral but this year will be held in a new location due to construction.