

Every year infants and adults are baptized to be sons and daughters of Christ. Adults and Confirmation candidates are initiated into the Church, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who are ill experience the healing presence of Christ through the Sacrament of Anointing. New altars are consecrated by the Bishop. Deacons and priests are ordained for sacred service in our diocese. In all these special moments, it is the holy oils that are used to reveal God's almighty healing touch, love and strength.

The oil that is used for sacramental purposes comes from olives and other plant substances. It is consecrated at the annual Chrism Mass. Following the Mass, the oils are then distributed to individuals who are chosen by the pastoral leader to transport the oils to the parishes. These same oils are then received by the pastor at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper or at another appropriate time. They are then placed in the *ambry*, a special cabinet that keeps them safe throughout the year. If there is holy oil left over from the previous year it is burned.

All are invited to attend the Chrism Mass which will be held on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. Those who will participate in the sacraments in which the holy oils are used are especially encouraged to attend. A reception will follow the celebration.