

Chrism Mass - In addition to the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil Liturgies, another Holy Week Liturgy that you may be less familiar with is the Chrism Mass. In Rome and in every (arch)diocese throughout the world, the local bishop, will celebrate the Chrism Mass. Traditionally the Chrism Mass was held in the morning on Holy Thursday. While that is still the case in some places, more often it is held earlier during Holy Week for practical reasons. In the Archdiocese of Hartford, Archbishop Leonard Blair will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 4th at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. All are welcome to attend. Our St. Paul middle school students will be in attendance.



The Chrism Mass gathers the faithful of the diocese at their mother church with their shepherd at which time the three oils used during the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders are blessed or consecrated, in the case of the Chrism, and then distributed to all of the parishes in the diocese. Since the bishop is the only minister in the diocese who may consecrate chrism, this Mass highlights his ministry and our union with him. While he will not be able to baptize and confirm every person in the diocese, nonetheless he will be symbolically present in the Chrism which the priests and deacons will use. When the oils are brought back to the parish they are placed in dignified containers and stored near the baptismal font in an ambry. At St. Paul the ambry is on the pillar near the statue of Mary.

In recent years, the Chrism Mass has also acknowledged the ministry of priests since it was at the Last Supper that Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The priests renew their commitment of service at the Chrism Mass. Please pray for your priests currently assigned here and all those who have served at Sacred Heart and St. Paul in the past