



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

Memorandum

TO: All Hosting Parishes & Pastors

FROM: Rev. Alfred Omar Guerrero, Director

DATE: March 14, 2025

RE: **Instructions for the 2025 Chrism Mass on All Islands**

On Oahu, parishes will bring their vessels to the Chrism Mass filled with new **extra virgin olive oil** –any brand. They are to be placed securely in a basket to avoid spillage and labeled with your parish name. Please remove the 2024 Chrism Mass labels.

On Kauai and Maui, parishes will bring their vessels to the Chrism Mass empty. The host parish/vicariate will provide the oil. They are to be placed securely in a basket to avoid spillage and labeled with your parish name.

On Hawai'i, the host parish will provide the oils and containers.

Preparations at the church:

- a) A table with a white cloth should be placed in or near the sanctuary.
- b) There should be a committee to receive the basket of oils/empty vessels.
- c) On Oahu, the cruet marked with SC (Sacred Chrism) – with the exception of the Co-Cathedral will be poured into a common bowl or vat.
- d) On the Neighbor Islands, the oils will be prepared ahead into a common bowl or vat.

The Blessing of the Oils will take place after the Renewal of Commitment of Priestly Service.

- a) On Oahu, the empty Sacred Chrism cruets will then be placed on a separate table. The cruets will be filled with the Sacred Chrism after the consecration of the Chrism oil.
- b) The common bowl or vat of oils will be processed in. On Oahu, the Oil cruets of the Co-Cathedral will be processed in by a Deacon.
 - i. The **Oil of the Sick** will be brought in procession first with an introduction. The deacon will stand with the cruet or place the cruet on a table in front of the Bishop for the blessing. After the blessing, the cruet will be given to the MC and placed on a stand or table in the sanctuary.
 - ii. The **Oil of Catechumens** will be brought in procession and the deacon will do the same as indicated above in letter “i”.
 - iii. The **Sacred Chrism** of the host parish will be brought in procession last. The oil of this cruet will be poured into the common bowl or vat with the Chrism oil from the other parishes. The deacon will stand to the side with the empty cruet.

- c) Preparation of the Balsam – You will need to have a glass bowl for the Balsam and a utensil to stir the oil and balsam together.
- d) Once the Sacred Chrism is consecrated, you will need to pour the Chrism into the empty cruet that the Deacon is holding and place it with the other cruets of oil on a separate stand or table in the sanctuary. This will be part of the environment for the rest of the Mass. On Oahu, this cruet is carried in procession with the other blessed Oils and placed on stands.

Filling of the parish cruets or provided containers with Sacred Chrism and other blessed Oils will take place by a deacon (or volunteers) during the Preparation of Gifts. The cruets filled with Sacred Chrism and other blessed Oils will then be returned to each parish's basket and will be placed on a table during the Communion procession, after the volunteers preparing the vessels have themselves received Holy Communion.

After the Prayer after Communion and Announcements, on the Neighbor Islands, the bishop will distribute the Holy Oils to parish representatives as they are called forward.

On Oahu, the Distribution of Oils will take place after the Mass. Parish representatives will be asked to stand for a special blessing. Parish representatives will pick up their baskets with the cruets of oil after Mass.

PLEASE use the proper wording in your Order of Worship for *the Renewal of Commitment of Priestly Service* (see Roman Missal, 3rd edition).

Feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship, (808) 585-3342 should you have any questions.