

## **The Holy Oils**

- **Consecrated oils that are used to anoint people and things at special times.**
- **In the Old Testament, oil was used for the consecration of priests and kings and also in all the great worship functions such as sacrifice and consecration of altars.**
- **Only priests or deacons use the Holy Oils.**
- **Chrism Oil was used when you were baptized and you will be anointed again with the Chrism when you are confirmed. It is also used when a priest is ordained or when an altar in a new church is consecrated.**
- **The Oil of the Catechumens (Catechumens are those who are waiting to be baptized.) is also for baptism. It wards off evil. It brings wisdom and strength.**
- **We usually use of the oil of catechumens during the baptism of infants.**

- **Near the beginning of the baptism, we pray an "exorcism" for the children, a prayer that they be freed from original sin.**
- **Adults getting ready for baptism are anointed with this oil. We pray that they will have strength and wisdom to understand the Gospel and to accept the way of Christ.**
- **This anointing leads them toward baptism.**
  
- **The Oil of the Sick is for people who are sick or dying.**
- **St. James directed the apostles to pray for the sick and anoint them in Jesus' name.**
- **The Oil of the Sick is not a medical prescription; it is not magic oil. If you are sick it strengthens you and lets you know Jesus is near.**
- **If you are dying, the oil strengthens you for your journey home to heaven and also lets you know that Jesus is with you.**