



DIocese OF AUSTIN

WORSHIP OFFICE

TO: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, ad Liturgy Teams
CC:
FROM: David Wood
SUBJECT: Holy Thursday Parish Reception of Holy Oils
DATE: March 21, 2019

As we approach the celebration of the annual Chrism Mass, I bring to your attention the Reception of the Holy Oils by the parish. The Roman Missal provides a rubric at the conclusion of the propers for the Chrism Mass which states: *The reception of the Holy Oils may take place in individual parishes either before the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper or at another time that seems more appropriate.* The Roman Missal does not specify how the oils are to be received within the parishes. Pastors have some latitude in determining the best way this may be carried out in their parish. The ceremony should be simple and sober while emphasizing the grace of the sacraments and unity with the bishop.

As no current *Order for the Reception of the Holy Oils* exists, the USCCB offers the 1989 version which was confirmed by the Holy See which follows as Option – I. A slightly edited version is also offered as Option – II. Both options have been posted to the Worship Office webpage at <https://www.austindiocese.org/reception-of-the-holy-oils>.

Please remember that the old Holy Oils should be either burned or buried once the new oils have been received. Parishes are not to add additional oil to the blessed oils. The Worship Office maintains a reserve supply of the Holy Oils should a parish need additional oil.