



HOLY THURSDAY IN THE *YEAR OF THE PRIEST*

On Holy Thursday, parishes across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will begin the solemn observances with the Liturgy of the Hours. Then, Cardinal Justin Rigali will concelebrate with all of his priests the Holy Thursday Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. On Holy Thursday, the Church recalls the institution of the holy priesthood by Christ Himself. During this *Year of the Priest*, all are invited to attend, view or listen to this Chrism Mass.

The Chrism Mass will be streamed live on the Archdiocesan web site www.archphila.org beginning with the Procession at 9:40 a.m. Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. and will also be broadcast live on *Holy Spirit Radio* 1570 AM (WISP) and 1420 AM (WCOJ) and on *The Catholic Channel* on Sirius 159 and XM 117.

During this Mass, Cardinal Rigali will consecrate the Oil of Chrism and bless the Oil of Catechumens and Oil of the Sick. These holy oils will be used throughout the Archdiocese during the coming year in the celebration of the Sacraments.

This Mass is a clear expression of the unity of the priesthood and the sacrifice of Christ, which continues to be present in the Church.

Later in the day on Holy Thursday, parishes will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Cardinal Rigali will celebrate this Mass at 5:00 p.m. After the homily, following the example of Christ who washed the feet of the apostles at the Last Supper, the Cardinal will wash the feet of twelve seminarians from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. This Mass commemorates the Last Supper, during which Christ instituted the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of Holy Orders and gave us His commandment to love one another.

Please pray that our continued observance of this Year of the Priest truly provide the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with holy priests for a holy people!

