

Chrism

"Christening" is a wonderful old word for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. These are the three Sacraments that initiate us into the church. To be christened is to be made a Christianos, a new Christ."

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, God anointed him with the Holy Spirit. The word "Christ" means "anointed." The Church anoints the Baptized with Chrism, which is oil mixed with perfume, as a Sacramental Sign of the outpouring of the Spirit.

St. Paul tells us that "we are the aroma of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15). It is no wonder then that the Church uses the sense of smell in the worship of God. Fragrance can be invisible evidence.

In spring we often are surrounded with christening aromas wafting through the window: of sweet lilacs and crab apples, of iris and peonies, of all the grace-filled scents and sights of the awakening land. Perhaps each morning in the shower, with simple water and scented soap, you can renew your christening.

In whatever you do, uncover evidence of Easter. Search for the signs of the Spirit, who has been sent to renew the face of the earth.

