Holy Oils

Once a religious object is blessed and dedicated for divine worship or veneration, it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or profane way (cf. Code of Canon Law, no. 1171).

Each year when the bishop blesses the oils and consecrates the chrism, the pastor should see that the old oils are properly disposed of by burning and that they are replaced by the newly blessed oils. (The Book of Blessings, Chapter 32, Order for the Blessing of a Repository for the Holy Oils, Introduction, paragraph 1127).

Cleaning Holy Oil bottles for reuse

1. Dump any remaining oil to be burned into a container.
2. Wipe out the oil bottle and bottle lid with a paper towel to soak up as much oil as possible.
3. Wash the oil bottle and bottle cover in soapy water and dump the water directly into the ground.
4. Properly dispose of remaining oil, and paper towel used by burning or burial.

5. To remove the label: Soak the label with another oil - canola, olive or vegetable
6. With your finger, put the oil on the label so that it is completely soaked with oil.
7. Let sit for a day or two.
8. After letting it sit, try removing the label, if it is still difficult to remove, add more oil to the label and let sit another day.

9. After another day, try removing the label. If it comes off but leaves some glue residue, put more oil on the residue to help remove it. Wipe off with a paper towel.
10. If the label comes off clean, wipe the bottle with a paper towel to get as much oil off as possible.
11. Wash with soapy water to remove remaining oil.
12. Your bottle is now ready to be reused.

Please return all bottles to the Diocese before or during the Chrism Mass to be reused for next year’s oils.