

St. Basil the Great Catholic Church

Meaning of the Mass

2018-12-30

The Ambry

The **ambry** is the compartment set in the wall of our sanctuary containing the holy oils. The word “ambry” has similar origins to “armory”. Whereas an armory contains physical weapons, the ambry contains spiritual weapons to fight sickness and sin. The 3 oils in the ambry are the **the Oil of Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, and Oil of Chrism**. These oils are used variously in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. At Mass, you can look at these Holy Oils in the ambry and bring to mind loved ones who received these sacraments, such as a deceased loved one or maybe a child who no longer practices the faith. In this way you can find a connection to them and lift them up in prayer. Check out these Scripture passages on the importance of oils: Mark 6:13 - *“[The Twelve Apostles] cast out many demons, and **anointed with oil** many that were sick and healed them.”* (James 5:14-15) - *“Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”*