

Anointing of the Sick

When a Catholic is very sick, the Church anoints the person with oil in a special ritual of healing called Anointing of the Sick. You might remember it as Extreme Unction or Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength. It is a ritual of healing appropriate not only for physical but also for mental and spiritual sickness.

"Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the "priests" of the church, and let them pray over him." – James 5:14

This sacrament is a true sacrament instituted by Christ and proclaimed by the apostle James. It is administered by anointing with blessed oil accompanied by prayer. Only a priest can validly administer this sacrament. Anointing of the sick, can be received by any baptized person who has reached the age of reason and is on account of sickness or age in danger of death. Its effect is the strengthening of the soul, often of the body as well, and in the necessary conditions remission of sins.

In the past, this sacrament was often kept strictly for those close to death. In more recent years the Church has encouraged greater use of this sacrament for illnesses which are not necessarily life-threatening. As with all the sacraments, this anointing has significance for the whole Church. It reminds us of our call to wholeness and our call to be a sign of salvation to the world. Wherever there is brokenness, we are to be instruments of Christ's healing touch.

Our Priests are more than happy to anoint you or your family member following any of our weekday or weekend Masses, at the hospital or you can make a special appointment.

Please call the Parish Office or see Diane Schafer to schedule an appointment to receive this sacrament.

Don't forget to also contact the office if you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to Hippa laws hospitals are not allowed to notify Churches that their parishioners are a patient in their hospital.

From The catechism of the Catholic Church

"II. WHO RECEIVES AND WHO ADMINISTERS THIS SACRAMENT? In case of grave illness . . .

1514 The Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived."¹³⁰

1515 If a sick person who received this anointing recovers his health, he can in the case of another grave illness receive this sacrament again. If during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated. It is fitting to receive the Anointing of the Sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced.