

Anointing



Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

There are sick people and their families in our parish who may feel abandoned, isolated, and neglected. As one body of Christ we are called to care for one another no matter the difficulties we face. We are called to support, pray for and visit the sick often, bringing Christ's compassion and strength to all those in need.

The sick person and their family celebrate the Anointing because their health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age and/ or will be having surgery soon. The sick person comes to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for the effects of healing the body, mind and spirit (physical healing if beneficial to salvation), strengthening, forgiveness of sins, the preparation for eternal life and conjoining their illness and suffering to the Paschal Mystery. The community celebrates with the sick by participating in prayer, presence and in the three main parts of the sacrament:

- ***PRAYER of FAITH*** - asking God's help for the sick, the faith community makes its prayer of faith in response to God's word and in spirit of trust. (Pastoral Care of the Sick -PCS 105)
- ***The LAYING on of HANDS*** – is a blessing by the priest to the sick person who is the object of the Church's Prayer of Faith that by the power of God's healing grace the sick may be restored to health or at least be strengthened in time of illness. The Church also prays for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the sick person. The laying on of hands calls for the response of the faith of the sick person and all who are gathered around them. (see the Letter of St. James, chapter 5, verses 14-15)
- ***ANOINTING WITH OIL*** – signifies healing, strengthening in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We who are gathered as community are called to witness this sacramental sign by the priest of healing, both physical and spiritual, and the special ministry of the sick person in our midst. The role of the sick person is to remind us of essential or higher things. By their witness, sick persons show that our mortal life must be redeemed through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

The church's Sacramental ministry to the sick is important and necessary in order to support the body of Christ in healing of body, mind and spirit. The sick people and their families are filled with hope and renewed in strength because they are loved and valued in our community.

“...the Church (we are the church) supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ's messianic work of healing.” (PCS 98)

Peace and blessings be with you

