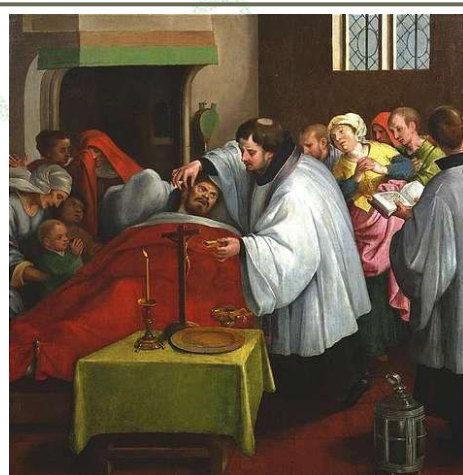




Anointing of the Sick

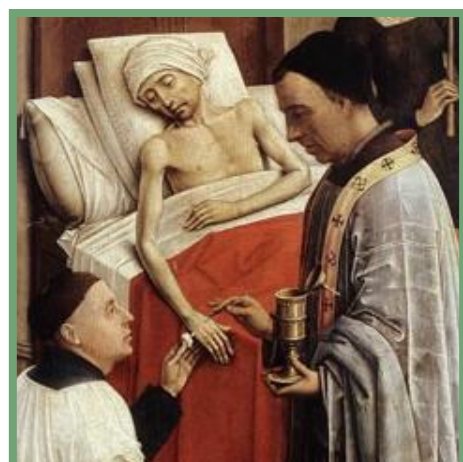
THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the Sick is not just a prayerful blessing, it is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ Himself; it is an encounter with Christ, administered through the priest, whereby the spiritual, emotional, and physical aspects of one's life are touched by the gentle healing hands of Christ.



"Last Rites ca 1600" by Source: <http://www.nagel-auctions.de/>. Licensed under Public Domain

Whether it is physical or emotional problems, whether needed by the young, at middle age or for the frailty of the elderly, Christ in His compassion foresaw the need for us to seek His healing touch. It is usual for Catholics to call the priest for the Last Rites. Please, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is not the Last Rites. The Last Rites is called "viaticum"; it is the Eucharist the dying receives as food for their journey into eternity. It is therefore important that the person is still conscious and able to swallow. For



Rogier Van der Weyden

FOR SICK OR FOR THE DYING CALL (321) 725-3066

the Anointing of the Sick, the priest should be called as soon as one is sick and he can be called as many times as necessary during an extended illness. It is the Sacrament of healing, physically or spiritually or both.

Parishioners are encouraged to request the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick from the priest at Mass every Tuesday, or after church services, or to call 321-725-3066 before a hospital stay or during a serious illness.

Biblical References:

And he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits... And they cast out many demons, and *anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them* (James 6:7, 13).

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 (James 5:14-15).

Teaching of the Church

Only priests (bishops and presbyters) are ministers of the Anointing of the Sick. It is the duty of pastors to instruct the faithful on the benefits of this sacrament. The faithful should encourage the sick to call for a priest to receive this sacrament. The sick should prepare themselves to receive it with good dispositions, assisted by their pastor and the whole ecclesial community, which is invited to surround the sick in a special way through their prayers and fraternal attention. Like all the sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family home, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a whole group of sick persons. It is very fitting to celebrate it within the Eucharist, the memorial of the Lord's Passover. If circumstances suggest it, the celebration of the sacrament can be preceded by the sacrament of Penance and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist. As the sacrament of Christ's Passover, the Eucharist should always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the "viaticum" for "passing over" to eternal life (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1516-1517).

