



SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

**(DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE
SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE HOLY MASS)**

**QUARTERLY (FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)
JANUARY 1, MARCH 5, JUNE 4, AND SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

**AFTER THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
DURING THE 10:00 A.M. MASS**

**(PLEASE READ THE INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE ON THE REVERSE SIDE
REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE SACRAMENT AND WHO MAY RECEIVE IT.)**





Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

General Information:

The Rite of the Anointing of the Sick is surely among the most successful of the liturgical reforms following the Second Vatican Council (SVC). The rite was revised to bring out more clearly its original purpose as a Sacrament for the Sick (the living) and not for the dying. In a Christian context, we can see how the sacrament is centered around the sickness and the sick person, as a symbol of Christ and of the passage through weakness and death to life. The healing, which is offered by Christ, is the capacity to share suffering in the hope of resurrection.

Who May be Anointed?

The Church's norms of Pastoral Care of the Sick (PCS) denote that this sacrament may be administered only to those who are *seriously ill*, especially those who begin to be in danger due to sickness or old age (e.g., not for a common cold or "just in case"). This includes, for example, those about to undergo surgery when a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; a serious change in one's illness or health status; etc. The illness can be from any cause (e.g., physical, psychological, or spiritual) including substance abuse.

The Sacrament of Anointing (like the other remaining 6 Sacraments of the Church) are *designed to be communal celebrations and for the living*. Consequently, in that a principal aspect of the rite is prayer for recovery from illness, the anointing is not meant to be administered to those who are actively dying; near death or have already died.

Are there Requirements of a Person to Receive the Sacrament of Anointing?

Yes. Those who desire to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick must:

1. By the Canon Law of the Church, have attained the age of reason (Canon 1004).
The law presumes the use of reason is attained by age 7.
2. Be baptized (the basic requirement for the valid reception of any sacrament).
3. In ordinary circumstances (as well as Reconciliation and Eucharist) be administered only to Catholics.
4. Be administered by an ordained priest, possessing such faculty from their bishop.

Conclusion: Seriously ill persons, as well as other sick and elderly persons, who are unable to participate in the Sabbath gathered Eucharistic assembly, should also seek more frequent spiritual nourishment through the Sacrament of Holy Communion brought to them by ministers of pastoral care.

(Source Reference: Disputed Questions in the Liturgy, by J. Hueis, "Today", Chicago Liturgy Training Publications, @1998 and Worship, Culture, and Theology, by David Power, OMI, Washington Pastoral Press, @1990)