

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK NEXT SUNDAY

Normally we offer the Sacrament of the Sick at mass twice a year—in the fall and during Eastertime. But since the memorial of St. Blase, February 3, falls on a Sunday this year, the parish Liturgy Committee suggested that we offer this sacrament of healing and strength at mass next Sunday.

So, if wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, plan to attend the **10:00a.m. mass** on Sunday, February 3. This sacrament is for those with serious or chronic health issues; it is NOT just for the dying! If you're living with diabetes, heart disease Parkinson's disease, arthritis, skin cancer or other chronic ailments, if you've had surgery recently or are facing surgery in the near future, you should be anointed at least once a year. And if you are facing severe emotional challenges such as unemployment, the death of a loved one, the care of a sick family member or some other circumstance that affects your mental health, you should receive this sacrament.

We've found in recent years that it's no longer necessary to reserve the front pews for those who wish to be anointed, so we've simply asked those who wish to receive the sacrament to come forward as you would for communion. However, if you are unable to walk up to the sanctuary to be anointed, we invite you to sit in any of the front pews, and we would ask anyone who usually sits there but who does not plan to receive the Sacrament of the Sick to sit a bit farther back so that those first pews will be available.

At all the other masses next weekend, the blessing prayer of St. Blase will be incorporated into the final, solemn blessing at the end of mass, but there will not be individual throat blessings at any of the masses on February 3.