

## COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

*Takes place after Masses.*

*The Bulletin will announce when Communal Celebrations are planned*



*"If anyone among you is suffering hardship, they must pray. Is there anyone sick among you? They should ask for the Presbyters (Priests) of the Church who will pray for them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord."*

*James 5: 13-15*

### WHO CAN BE ANOINTED?

**The elderly, because of the aging process**

**Those who have a serious illness (physical or mental)**

**Those who will undergo surgery soon**

A person does not have to be near death to be anointed. We are called to be ready when our Lord calls us. Those people who fit any of the three categories above are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of the Sick when it is offered by the Church. Anyone who requests to be anointed does so with complete faith in God not waiting until such time that they do not know that the anointing is taking place. Such was the way many years ago: the Sacrament was called *Extreme Unction*, and the person anointed was dying before the Sacrament was given, or relatives called for the priest to come to the deathbed of the person.

**THIS SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK IS FOR THE LIVING.**

Second Vatican Council revised this Sacrament in December 1972 in view of the words of James: *"If anyone among you is suffering hardship, they must pray. Is there anyone sick among you? They should ask for the Presbyters (Priests) of the Church who will pray for them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord."* Since all the other Sacraments are celebrated within the community of the faithful, it is fitting that this Sacrament be celebrated the same way. The presence of the other members of the Church, as well as relatives and friends, remind those anointed that they are not alone and forgotten; rather, they are very much a part of the whole community with prayers and assistance available to them.

### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THIS SACRAMENT?

This Sacrament, like the others, was instituted by Christ to give spiritual aid and strength to the sick. The Sacrament may sometimes restore physical health, if that be the will of God; but most of all, the Sacrament gives spiritual healing, restoring the soul and preparing it for the final journey to the Lord. We must remember that suffering, or "carrying our cross" (whatever that cross may be), is part of the Christian way of life. With God's help, and with the reception of the Sacraments, we can carry our cross with patience and dignity as followers of Jesus. We believe that this life is only temporary—a preparation for the life that is eternal with our Lord.

### HOW DOES THE ANOINTING TAKE PLACE?

You will come forward to the priest who will anoint your forehead and hands with oil. Your response is *Amen*. You may then return to your seat or exit the Church.

**"Support us, Lord, all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done;  
then Lord, in your mercy, give us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen"**