

Pastor's note  
14th week of Ordinary Time

As was mentioned recently, on July 25th we will be offering the Anointing of the Sick within mass at 6:30 at St. John's. This week I am going to briefly explain the graces received from this sacrament as well as those who are able to receive it. All quotes come for the Rite of Anointing of the Sick book.

We'll start with those who should seek the Anointing. "The sacrament of anointing is the proper sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age", on the other side of life, "sick children...sufficiently mature to be comforted by the sacrament." The Rite also specifies that the illnesses or impairment to health be serious in nature, in other words, a common cold is not a reason to seek an anointing, but some condition that significantly alters one's day-to-day living or comes with a chance or risk of death is. In my experience, unless I believe there is a substantial lacking, I offer the sacrament to those who seek it.

Now, why do we anointing. In short, the Scriptures tell us to. In the book of James we are told, "Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick persons, and the Lord will raise them up; and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them."

Note, James refers to someone who cannot travel, so they are very ill. One thing I would like to point out, that is why the direct mention of forgiveness of sins is there. If one can't confess their sins, the sacrament offers them forgiveness, **HOWEVER**, if they are capable of doing so, they must confess in the usual manner. Also, "through the sacrament of anointing the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ's messianic work of healing.... When the priest anoints the sick, he is anointing in the name and with the power of Christ himself. On behalf of the whole community, he is ministering to those members who are suffering." When we celebrate the sacrament, we are praying for the healing of the person if it be in accord with God's will. More importantly, we are praying for spiritual healing to endure what is before them and that if they are nearing death, to be ready to go home to Heaven. Please join us in our prayer in a couple of weeks and if appropriate for yourself or a loved one, receive this gift of grace.

God bless,  
Fr. Adam