

WHO SHOULD BE ANOINTED?

- + Any person who is seriously ill
- + People who are about to undergo surgery.
- + Anyone recovering from an accident
- + Anyone with a serious chronic disease
- + Elderly people may be anointed if they are in weak condition even though no serious illness is present.
- + A person suffering from a serious mental disorder
- + Sick children may be anointed if they have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by the sacrament.
- + “The faithful should be encouraged to ask for the anointing, and, as soon as the time for the anointing comes, to receive it with faith and devotion, not misusing the sacrament by putting it off.” (Rite of Anointing, nos. 10, 11, 12, 13)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN SOMEONE IS ILL?

When someone in your family or a friend is seriously ill or confined to the home for a period of time, contact your parish immediately. Let your parish know of the person's illness. Depending on the circumstances, a priest, deacon, or lay minister may be available to visit, pray with the sick person, or perhaps bring Communion. A priest may also celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing) with the sick person. In every case, the parish community can support the sick person with prayer.

When someone is in the hospital or a nursing home, it is important that you contact your parish or the Patient Relations Representative at the facility and ask for a visit from Catholic clergy. The representative will reach out to the Chaplain for you.

For more information:
Office of Hospital Chaplaincy
Diocese of Camden
(856) 583-6130
sanjai.devis@camdendiocese.org

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK



VITALity
Catholic Healthcare Services

A HEALTHCARE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN



*We care for the sick because
we see them as children of God
and part of our human family.
When one part of the
Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer.*

*- USCCB: Anointing of the Sick:
Joined to Christ, Witnesses of Hope and Healing*

ANOINTING CONFERS STRENGTH, PEACE, & COURAGE

Anointing of the Sick is not just for the dying! It is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] nos. 1520-23*).

Through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the Church carries out Jesus' mission of compassion and healing for the sick (*Pope John Paul II, Christifideles Laici, no. 54*).

WHEN SHOULD A CATHOLIC BE ANOINTED?

Receiving the Sacrament of the Sick helps in healing and provides strength. The Rite of Anointing tells us that there is no need to wait till the person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.

The Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after the anointing but becomes ill once again, or if, during the same illness, the person's condition becomes more serious. A person should be anointed before surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the intervention. (*Rite of Anointing, Introduction, nos. 8-10*)

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO DEPART: ANOINTING AND VIATICUM

For those who are about to depart from this life, the Church offers the person the Sacraments of Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and the Eucharist as Viaticum (food for the journey) given at the end of life. These are "the sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland" (*cf. CCC, no. 1525*). These rites are highly valued by Catholics as powerful aides to a good death. Since Holy Communion is the effective sign of Christ's Paschal Mystery, it becomes for the recipient the opportunity to unite one's own suffering and dying to that of Christ with the hope of life eternal with him (*USCCB, Anointing of the Sick*).

Are there people 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. The prayer of faith will save the sick.... (James 5: 14-15)