

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

One of the major ministries of Jesus was healing of the sick, even raising the dead to new life.... In the Anointing of the Sick, as we continue the ministry of Jesus, we also recall the scripture passage on anointing that comes from St. James, chapter 5, I quote from his very words, "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of the faithful will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." ~James 5:14-15.

These words of St. James are basically the structure and format that we follow in the Rite of Anointing of the sick and as St. James says, it is our firm faith and conviction that this sacrament can bring healing of body and certainly of spirit. This sacrament then involves the community and allows the sick person to know that he or she is not alone in their pain. Anointing of the Sick involves two gestures, one is the imposition of hands and the other is the anointing with oil. Throughout our reflections on the sacraments, we've been emphasizing the hands, for many reasons, first of all again, the hands remind us of the power of God. They also remind us of the extension of the prayer of the Church, that reaches out to touch the person. The priest imposes hands on the person about to be anointed and prays for that person to receive the spirit of the healing power of Jesus. And then the priest anoints the person on the forehead and also on the hands.

The anointing is of course done with sacred oil, oil blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday at the Chrism Mass. And that same oil is used throughout the year in every hospital or nursing home or for house calls as we try to bring the healing power and presence of the Lord. One of the important things about the Sacrament of the Sick is that it involves the whole community and links the sick person with the rest of the church so that no one ever should feel alone. For that reason, many parishes encourage a communal rite of anointing once a year at one of the regular weekend liturgies. This helps everyone remember that we all have some need of healing, no matter what our age or circumstances, although the sacrament is primarily intended for those with chronic problems or urgent need.

And so, at the time of anointing, many opportunities are presented for bringing the Holy Eucharist. If it's in the hospital, maybe the priest will anoint and then give the Holy Eucharist or if it's administered in a communal setting, it will truly have the celebration of the Holy Eucharist right there. And too is appropriate, because the Holy Eucharist is the primary sacrament which builds up the body of Christ, the Church. Anointing of the Sick is yet one more expression of the beautiful and powerful way the Lord Jesus wants to be with each Christian and with the whole Church as He promised until the end of time. Yes, indeed, the sacraments are a way that God constantly claims us and reclaims us, as His own Holy people.

~Monsignor John Zenz



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ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Christ himself showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and commanded his followers to do likewise.

Those who are seriously ill need the special help of God's grace in this time of anxiety, lest they be broken in spirit, and under the pressure of temptation, perhaps weakened in their faith.

That is why, through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, Christ strengthens the faithful who are afflicted by illness, providing them with the strongest means of support.

(Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum #8, p. 21)

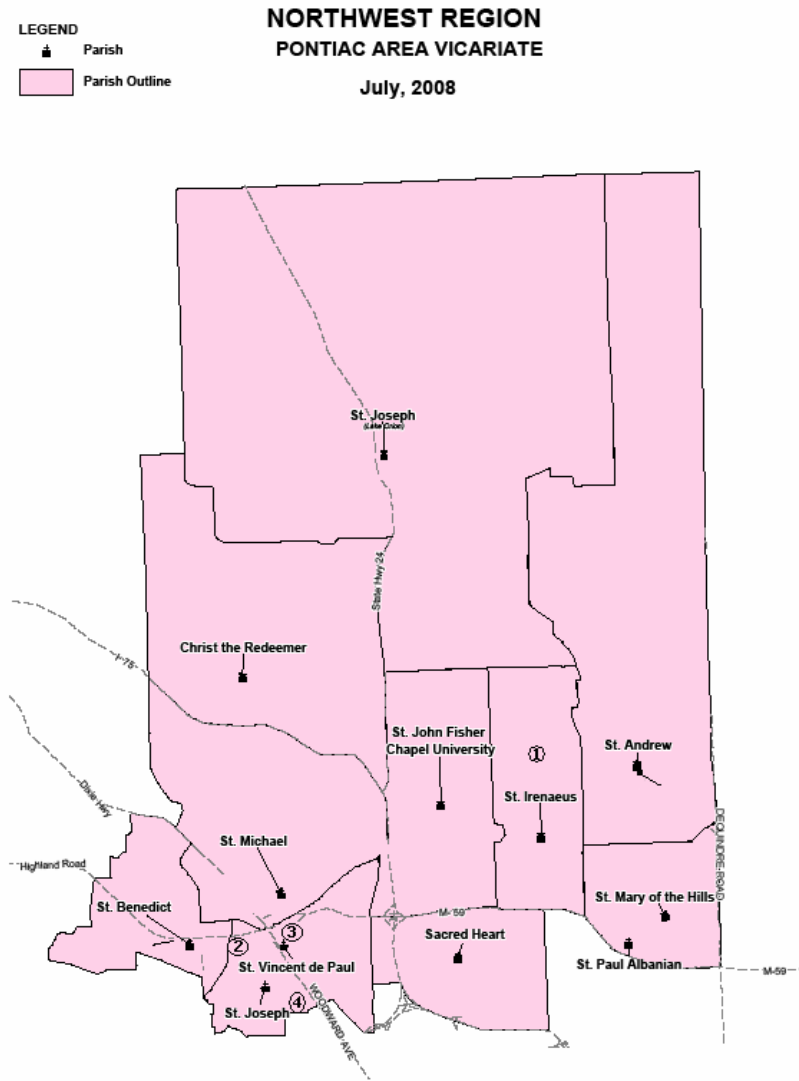
Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is for all persons who are suffering from serious illness, facing serious surgery, or experiencing weakness and frailty due to advanced age. The sacrament imparts grace, strength, and healing. It forgives sins and helps one to bear illness and to prepare for eternal life. Formerly, this sacrament was known as "Extreme Unction" or "Last Rites" and was ordinarily administered only when a person was dying. Now the sacrament is meant for all those facing serious illness or surgery, and should be requested early in the course of an illness whenever possible, or in advance of a planned surgery.

During sacramental anointing, the person is offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and anointed with oil on the hands and forehead as prayers are offered on their behalf. Often Holy Communion is offered as well. This sacrament can be administered in churches, hospitals, nursing homes, or private homes. It is ideally celebrated with family members gathered around the one being anointed, or with the larger faith community during a Communal Anointing service.

Viaticum - Eucharist as "food for the journey" - may be requested for dying persons who have already been anointed. Health care facilities and parishes also provide Holy Communion regularly to all sick persons upon request.

For more info, please visit our website:
<http://pontiacarevicariate.org/pastoralcare/>



Hospitals

1. Rochester, MI
Crittenton Hospital
2. Pontiac, MI
Doctors' Hospital of Michigan
3. Pontiac, MI
Pontiac Osteopathic
Regional Medical Center
4. Pontiac, MI
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Oakland

Parish	City	Phone Number
Christ the Redeemer	Orion	(248) 391-1621
Sacred Heart	Auburn Hills	(248) 852-4170
St. Andrew	Rochester	(248) 651-7486
St. Benedict	Waterford	(248) 681-1534
St. Irenaeus	Rochester Hills	(248) 651-9595
St. John Fisher Chapel University	Auburn Hills	(248) 373-6457
St. Joseph	Lake Orion	(248) 693-0440
St. Joseph Shrine	Pontiac	(248) 332-9872
St. Mary of the Hills	Rochester Hills	(248) 853-5390
St. Michael	Pontiac	(248) 332-9167
St. Paul Albanian	Rochester Hills	(248) 844-8201
St. Vincent de Paul	Pontiac	(248) 332-0283