



The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

(updated 11/29/09)

At Christ the King Parish, we always keep our sick and homebound in our thoughts and prayers. We urge those soon to face hospitalization or dealing with long-term physical and emotional illness to receive the Lord's healing through the Sacrament of Anointing before a critical or emergency situation arises.

Some common questions...

- **When does Christ the King Parish offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?** Christ the King Parish offers anointing as follows:
 - Upon request,
 - As part of the frequent Brockton Hospital sacramental coverage,
 - Once a month at a parish Mass (at which Mass rotates each month; check the bulletin for the next scheduled Mass of Anointing.)

- **Who can be anointed?** The Sacrament of Anointing is typically reserved for those in our community – young or old – who soon will face surgery, expect to be hospitalized, await test results regarding a serious malady, or continue to fight long-term disease or emotional illnesses. Needless to say, anyone who seeks anointing will not be refused, but generally it is for those listed in the above categories.

- **Is Anointing of the Sick the same as “last rites (Viaticum)”?** In decades past, the *Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick* was less used and typically was utilized only at times of extreme illness or in danger of death. Thus, it was understood only to be a “last rites” situation. Now, as our theology continues to lead us and our appreciation for this sacrament grows, we understand the benefits of offering this sacrament more broadly and more often.
 - **But what about “last rites (Viaticum)”?** Viaticum is still offered and is actually part of the anointing ritual. Families can still request a Priest in situations of extreme illness or danger of death. However, given the declining number of available priests, it is a good practice to seek anointing before such a critical and emotional time. Obviously emergencies arise and will be dealt with pastorally and sacramentally, but it is best to be proactive if possible.

- **How often can one be anointed?** Once every few months is acceptable.

Feel free to contact the Parish Office at 508/586-1575 if you have other questions.