

Dear Parishioners,

One of the great charisms of the Roman Catholic Priesthood is the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick. Over the years I have been given the great honor of visiting the sick, praying with them, and anointing them with the consecrated oil of the sick. The celebration of this sacrament is always an intimate and powerful moment in which we ask God's healing grace to be given to those who suffer.

This sacrament, which used to be called "The Last Rites" because the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion (or Viaticum) can also be administered when a person is near death, is now simply called "The Anointing of the Sick," and we are encouraged to celebrate this sacrament before the final hours of life.

Like the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick can be done in a communal setting. I have heard that in the past the celebration of this sacrament has been carried out within a communal, Eucharistic celebration. This is a practice I would love to restore here in our parish. On Saturday, October 28, at 11:00 in the morning, we will have a special celebration of the Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. Fr. William Budden will be here to assist in the Mass.

If you are ill in any way; if you are concerned about your health, or the health of someone you love, please consider coming to this special Mass in which we will ask God to bring healing and peace to all who suffer.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel