



ANOINTING OF THE SICK IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

In cases NOT involving a person who has been diagnosed with covid 19, precautions during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick still need to be taken. Please observe the following protocol:

- Priests aged 65 or older, with an underlying condition, or a compromised immune system should not be offering this sacrament without prior consultation with your doctor.
- Canon 1000 § 2 permits a priest to anoint by means of an “instrument,” for a grave cause. This time of heightened need for protection from a viral infection constitutes such a need.
- The integrity of the sacrament can be preserved by using the ritual in this way:
 - The opening and concluding prayers are offered from a safe distance, and instead of placing the hands on the person’s head to pray silently before anointing, extend the hand toward the recipient. For the anointing itself, dip a cotton swab only once in the oil and step forward and anoint the forehead and hands with it while saying the sacramental formula. Place the cotton swab in a sealable bag, preferably one that is biodegradable, which is later to be buried or burned.
- Maintain social distance with everyone in the room so as to offer comfort without making physical contact.
- Wash or sanitize your hands with soap and warm water before you enter the home and then the room.
- If Holy Communion is given, it is to be distributed in the hand.
- Sanitize your hands with soap and warm water after the visit.
- After administering the sacrament, use bleach wipes or soap and water for the sanitizing of all supplies.
- After leaving the place of anointing, immediately return to your residence. Consecutive visits from home to home are not permitted.
- All clothing should be laundered upon return to home.