

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday A

This Sunday we are gathering as a parish for the communal celebration of the Anointing of the Sick. In the past, it was known as “Extreme Unction” or the Last Anointing. When I was a chaplain at United Hospital, and would be called to a room to anoint someone, they would be afraid that they were dying. That was the old idea. But I would reassure them that this is for the sick and brings healing, comfort and peace.

Healing comes in many ways. It may be a physical healing or it may be a spiritual healing. We are given the grace in this sacrament to accept whatever healing may come.

One of the effects of illness is that it isolates us. One of the effects of the sacrament is that we know we are not alone. The community of the church surrounds with care. God is with us.

The Second reading from St. Paul sums it all up.

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”