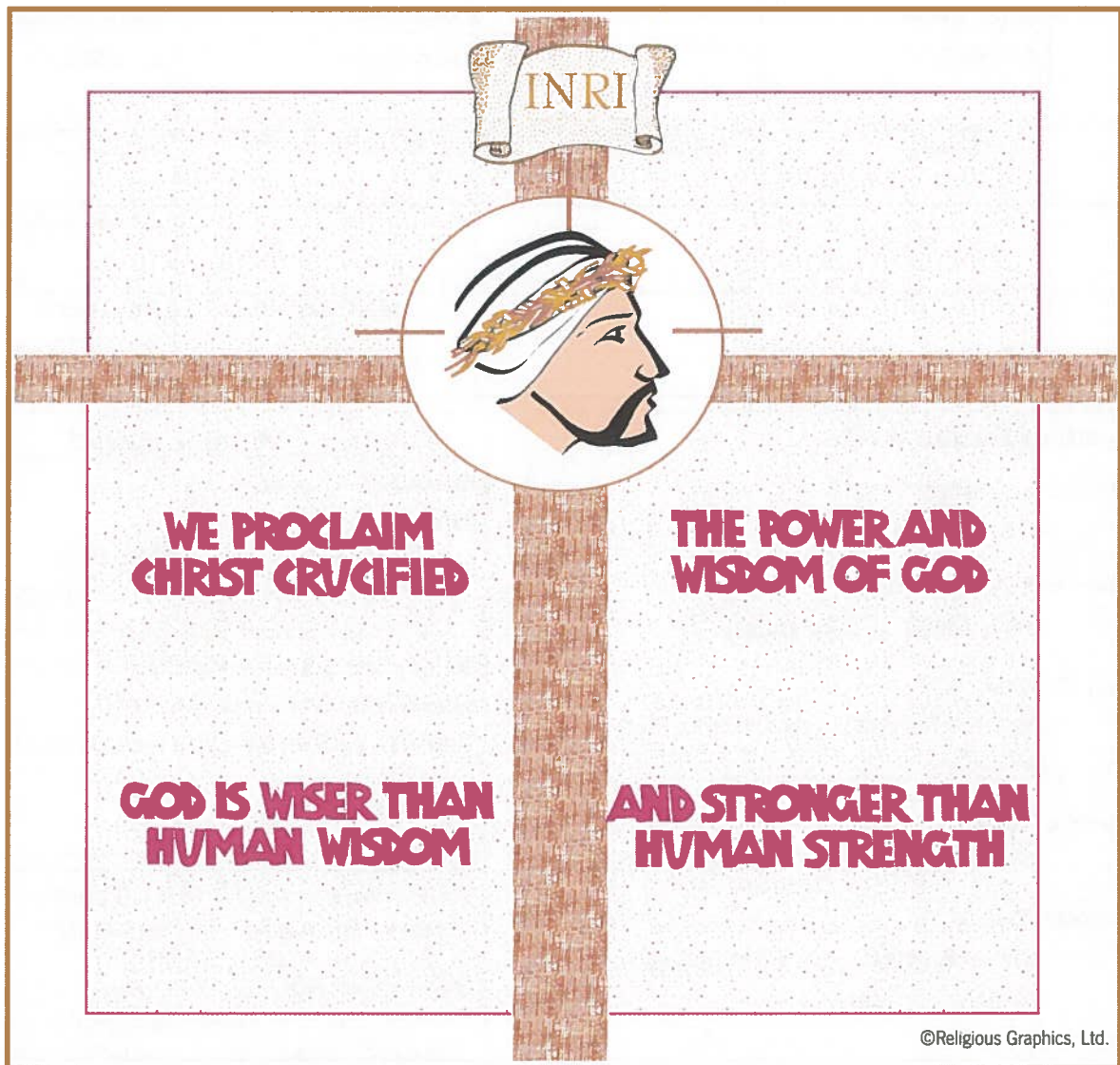


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 2-3, 2024



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotes: "Jesus knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."
—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

March 9-10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, March 9 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, March 10 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, March 10 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, March 10 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Bob Schultz	Kyle Ferris Dennis Pankey	Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Jeff Martin Jerry Ogrentz	Darren Lovell Kim Smicker Jeremy Wolles Larry Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Cindy Gagnon	Carrie Abrassart	Julie Splear
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, March 4 (SMM)

8:00 am +Connie Dionne (Her Family)

Tuesday, March 5 (SH)

8:00 am +Jerry Monk (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, March 6 (SJ)

8:00 am +Richard & Edna Legris (Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

Friday, March 8 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Webber (Cathy / Bruce Jensen)

Saturday, March 9 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Lionel & Loretta Schneider (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Sunday, March 10

7:30 am (SH) +Francis Riley (Jackie Cross)

9:00 am (SJ) +Karen Bardorf (The Hertz Family)

+Marge Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

March 2-3—K of C Food Drive

Saturday, March 9—

1st Reconciliation at SMM 10 am

Confirmation Retreat 11 am at SMM

Youth Mass at SMM followed by Family Night

Sunday, March 10—Spring ForwardEvent at SJ 11:30

Sunday, March 17—Youth Mass at SJ

Thursday, April 4—Spring Luncheon at SH 11:30 am

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman–602-670-8888 (call or text)

Question of the week:

Who can I invite to reconcile with? How can I view my relationships based more on love than on reciprocation? How does that affect how I act?

Collections Week of Feb. 24-25, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,414

St. James—\$2,217

Sacred Heart—\$1,121

Thank you for your generosity!

DO YOU HAVE concerns about falling?



**A MATTER OF
BALANCE**

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- view falls as controllable
- set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the past
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

Wednesdays 3/13/24 – 4/24/24

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

St. Margaret Mary Parish Hall
207 E. 5th St, Herscher

To register, please call Jan or Brooke
815-933-7791 ext: 9910/ext. 9954

Program is FREE and for individuals 60+.



We are a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same

Attendance at this event indicates consent for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc., to use my photo to promote and increase awareness of programs and services offered by the Agency. Photos may be used in Catholic Charities' printed materials, online, media, or by grantors.

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls Volunteer Lay Leader Model ©2006
This program is based on Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance Copyright ©1995 Trustees of Boston University All rights reserved. Used and adapted by permission of Boston University
A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model
Recognized for Innovation and Quality in Healthcare and Aging, 2006, American Society on Aging
A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model was developed by a grant from the Administration on Aging #90AM2780

REFLECTIONS

ANSWERS....

Answers to prayer come in various ways; sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayer come in various forms; sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early and some blossom late, but each one will flower ... Have faith and



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is March 2-3 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
"Matthew 25:35

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ SMM ladies interested in helping organize the made from scratch Spaghetti dinner for Night in Italy, we are having a meeting March 11, at 7PM in the hall.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of February 25th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- ◆ Raffle tickets will be available to pick at the entrance to the church on Sunday, March 3. Our CCW appreciates your help in selling them. There will also be tickets available to purchase then. The drawing will be at our annual luncheon on April 4 at 11:30 am.

St. James—

- ◆ Please join us for our Spring Forward event on Sunday, March 10th. We'll be doing a soup/chili lunch in the St. James hall at 11:30 am. Free will donations will be accepted. If you would like to bring a dish the sign-up is on the bulletin board in the foyer. We'll see you there!
- ◆ See pg. 6 for the illustration of the new landscaping project for the front of the church. We appreciate your help with this project.

All Parishes—

- ◆ We are preparing for a security audit and need an accounting of keys to parish buildings. If you have a key to any of the parish buildings, please let us know. We will also need to know the purpose for you having keys.
- ◆ There will not be the sacrament of reconciliation on Saturday, March 9 as this time will be reserved for those preparing for Confirmation.
- ◆ Adult Ed will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 at St. Margaret Mary.



Old eyeglasses sitting around? This agency collects old eyeglasses, makes the necessary repairs, then sends them

overseas to people in need. The Knights of Columbus will be placing collection boxes in the back of each church. Please consider helping with this project by donating your unused glasses. Prescription and reading glasses are needed. Please do not include glass cases.





Saint of the week: St. Katharine Drexel (March 3) was the daughter of the extremely wealthy railroad entrepreneurs and philanthropists Francis Anthony and Emma (Bouvier) Drexel. She was taught from an early age to use her wealth for the benefit of others; her parents even opened their home to the poor several days each week. Katharine's older sister Elizabeth founded a Pennsylvania trade school for orphans; her younger sister founded a liberal arts and vocational school for poor blacks in Virginia. Katharine nursed her mother through a fatal three-year illness before setting out on her own.



Interested in the condition of Native Americans, Katharine asked Pope Leo XIII during an audience in 1887, to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend, [Bishop](#) James O'Connor. The pope replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?"

She visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux chief, and began her systematic aid to Indian missions, eventually spending millions of the family fortune. Katharine entered the novitiate of the *Sisters of Mercy*. Later she founded the *Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored*, now known simply as the *Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament* in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1891. Advised by Mother Frances Cabrini on getting the Order's rule approved in Rome, she received the approval in 1913.

By 1942 she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, 40 mission centers, 23 rural schools, 50 Indian missions, and Xavier University in New Orleans, the first American university for blacks. Segregationists harassed her work. Following a heart attack, she spent her last twenty years in prayer and meditation. Her shrine at the mother-house was declared a National Shrine in 2008.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Cunegundes was the daughter of Sigfrid, Count of Luxembourg. She received a religious education and took a private vow of virginity. Cunegundes married Saint Henry II, Duke of Bavaria, who agreed to honor her vow. On the death of Emperor Otho III, Henry was chosen King of the Romans, and Cunegundes was crowned queen at Paderborn, Germany in 1002. As the Holy Roman Empress she received the crown from Pope Benedict VIII.

At one point, gossips accused her of adultery, but she proved her innocence by asking for God's help, then walked over pieces of flaming iron without injury.

During his time as emperor, Henry gave away the bulk of his wealth in charity; when he died in 1024, Cunegundes was left relatively poor. On the anniversary of Henry's death in 1025, Cunegundes dedicated a monastery she had built for Benedictine nuns at Kaffungen (Kaufingen). Cunegundes took the veil and entered that monastery, spending her remaining 15 years praying, reading, and working beside her sisters.



DESTROY THIS TEMPLE AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP
JN. 2:19

Humor

Love Our Neighbors

The reason Christ told us to love our neighbors and to love our enemies was undoubtedly because they are often the same people.

Parking Lot

Church parking lot sign: "Reserved for pastor. Unauthorized cars will be struck by lightning."



Lord, you have the words of everlasting life

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Jesus was only speaking figuratively

What Bible passages can we use to defend the Real Presence?"

I don't know if I can believe that the Eucharist is really Jesus' Body and Blood," says a Protestant friend. "Can you show me where He says that in the Bible?"

"Why *yes*," you say with confidence. "Please open to..."

Even though we as Catholics do not rely solely on the Bible for our doctrines, it is important to know the supporting Scripture passages when discussing things with our not-yet-Catholic brethren.

Though it might seem like a "hard saying," the Real Presence is, in fact, a simple doctrine to explain Scripturally. Here are just a couple of the passages that address the Real Presence:

John 6. This one is the classic Real Presence passage, and for good reason. It contains the Bread of Life discourse, wherein Jesus says that His Flesh is meat indeed, and His Blood is drink indeed. He speaks in clear and unambiguous terms, and offers no retraction of His statements when some of His disciples leave Him over this "hard saying." There are also two miracles—the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, and Jesus' walking on water—that Jesus performs shortly before this teaching, demonstrating His absolute power to do what He wills with His body and the elements of creation. These offer additional support for the literal interpretation of Jesus' words.

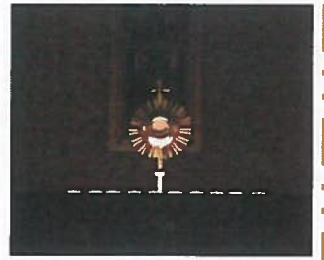
The Institution narratives. The institution of the Eucharist is found in all three Synoptic Gospels and in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. The words of institution are essentially the same in all four, indicating that the wording is very important.

Furthermore, the Old Testament parallels are profoundly informative here: the Last Supper takes place during the feast of Passover, when the Jews were saved from destruction through the **eating** of the Paschal lamb and the sprinkling of its **blood**.

Covenants in the Old Testament were always ratified with a **real sacrifice** and **real blood**, so it makes sense that the new and everlasting covenant—as it is named by Jesus in the words of institution—should be sealed with a sacrifice of real flesh and blood, too.

Pope John Paul II referred to the Holy Eucharist as "the greatest treasure of the Church," and yet even many devoted Catholics have a very limited understanding of this powerful sacrament. The powerful book, [7 Secrets of the Eucharist](#), will change all that. The reader will come away with a completely new awareness that the Eucharist is not just about receiving Communion.

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The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

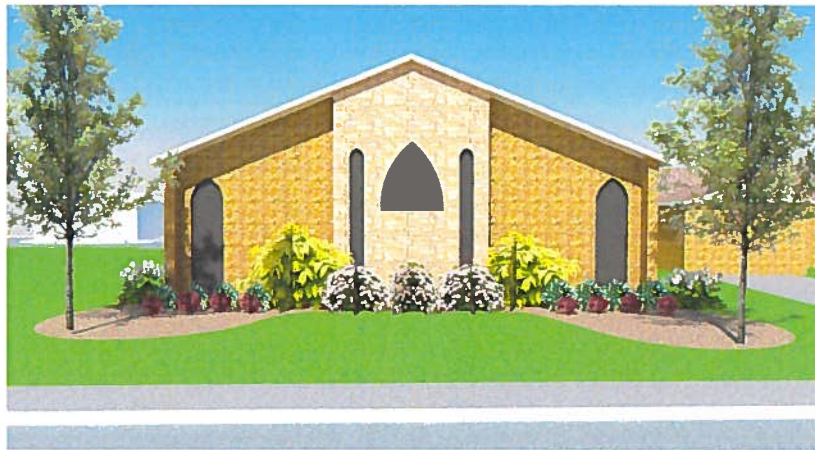
When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping mall!" That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

But the Jews were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

During the time he was in Jerusalem, those days of the Passover Feast, many people noticed the signs he was displaying and, seeing they pointed straight to God, entrusted their lives to him. But Jesus didn't entrust his life to them. He knew them inside and out, knew how untrustworthy they were. He didn't need any help in seeing right through them (*from John 2*).



St. James Landscaping Project

There will be a second collection on the following Sundays:

March 3

April 7

to help cover costs for the landscaping project. We would appreciate your generosity!

Questions Catholics Ask

Is a long or short discernment process better?

If we take as our example the lives of the saints who were ordained and/or members of religious orders, there's no cookie-cutter approach to vocations. Some exhibited great piety as children and entered consecrated life in their youth. Others were dissolute until a late conversion propelled them directly into their mission. The road you and I take to fulfilling our baptismal call will follow its own rhythms. However long it takes and whatever we bring to it, we trust God will use us for divine purposes.

With that in mind, here are some practical criteria to consider in your discernment. If you're a lifelong practicing Catholic who "presided" at Necco-wafer Masses in childhood or wore rosary beads dangling from your skirt button in imitation of the sisters at school, the seeds of vocation may have been expressing themselves in you playfully for a long time. After a few decades of absorbing sacraments and deepening virtuous practices, it may seem that the call to consecrated or ordained life is new when it's really as old as your baptism.

I generally caution new Catholics, however, not to leap directly from the Easter Rites of Initiation into a deeper form of commitment for at least a year, and certainly not without a dedicated spiritual director to walk them through the discernment process.

Which brings us to the next point: Discernment is never a solitary pursuit. The church is the umpire when it comes to vocations. Until a church official deems it a strike or a foul, so to speak, it's not on the board. Along with spiritual direction, periods of retreat and pastoral counsel accompany the average journey into a church vocation.

Both seminaries and religious communities require a period of testing and evaluation before they admit candidates. The ensuing process of academic study and/or community formation are themselves additional phases of discernment on both sides, properly understood. Even short discernment processes, therefore, are technically long ones. And there are no losers in this process, because whatever the verdict, what you learn about the nature of your call is not wasted.

Scripture

- Discernment of gifts and spirits: [1 Corinthians 12:4-31](#); [13:1-13](#); [Galatians 5:16-26](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-22](#)

St. Patrick's and the Dwight Knights of Columbus host Lenten Fish Fries



Mark your calendars! St. Patrick's and the Knights of Columbus will again be having their Annual Lenten Fish Fries at St. Patrick's Hall in Dwight. This year they have scheduled 6 Fish Fries, all the Fridays during Lent except Good Friday, March 29th. Fish Fries will held on Fridays February 16th, 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd from 5 to 7 PM. The price includes your choice of baked cod, fried pollock, breaded shrimp or grilled cheese sandwich, baked potato or french fries, cole slaw or apple sauce, rolls, beverage and a dessert, while they last.

Adults/High School—\$13.00 Grade School—\$6.00

Preschool—free



March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 | 1 Cor 1:22-25 | Jn 2:13-25

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

When I was a kid, my older siblings used to tell me what to do (no surprise there!) and often backed up their, ahem, “commands,” by saying, “Mom and Dad said so.” Interestingly, sometimes that statement was not true (!), and I would get the right information - what to do and the correct way to do it - directly from my parents. My experience is not unlike that of the Israelites in today’s first reading. As they escaped from bondage in Egypt and followed the Lord through the guidance of Moses, they developed their own ways of doing things, listened to the wrong people and acted as if they were indeed conveying truth. But the Lord steps in to correct them, and in “a direct, unmediated communication” of truth to them, gives them commandments to follow. (USCCB commentary) These instructions for how to live a moral life in relationship with God and with one another are the basis of the covenant they made there with the Lord. They are the foundation of the new covenant in which we partake through Jesus Christ, who came into our history as the perfect, unmediated communication of God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do you envision Jesus? It’s easy to think of him as kind and easy-going - the type of person who never lets his feathers get ruffled, no matter how many times the Pharisees question and challenge him. However, we see a different side of Jesus today - one in which he is flipping over tables and brandishing a whip. He is driving out those who are using his Father’s house as a place to make money rather than as a place to worship. In the drama of that scene, let’s not overlook what comes next in the reading. The people there at the temple, obviously taken aback by what they have seen, ask for a sign to justify what authority Jesus has to drive people out of the temple. Jesus says, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” That confused people then, but we know today that the true temple is Jesus and that his rising from the dead would be the sign they sought. Just as the commandments of God have authority, so does Jesus who came as perfect obedience to those commandments to help us follow them ourselves.

PRAY It’s easy for us to think we’re doing a good job keeping the Lord’s commandments, but at the same time the line between right and wrong can seem blurred at times and we may relax a bit on some of their finer points. Try this week to dig deep within ourselves and turn to prayer for the strength to do what is right, seeking the wisdom of God rather than relying on human wisdom.



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

03 March 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Anointing of the Sick

ˈæːˈnoɪnt-tɪŋ ˈæv ˈθə ˈsɪk

A sacrament for the recovery and salvation of a critically ill or injured person formerly called Extreme Unction ("last anointing"). No longer reserved for those near death, one may be **anointed** before surgery, in extreme age or illness, after losing consciousness, or when no longer coherent.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-anointing-the-sick>

CONTEXT

Anointing of the Sick permits us to touch with our hands God's compassion for humanity.
—Pope Francis

When the church **anoints** a sick person, it **anoints** a member of its own body.
—Sister Susan Wood, S.C.L.

By the grace of the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick**, the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting more closely to Christ's Passion.
—Catechism of the Catholic Church

WHY IT MATTERS

The mercy of God extends to the body as well as soul of each person. Jesus ministered to the sick and suffering both physically and spiritually. The church continues this ministry in its care for the whole person.

From *Rites of the Catholic Church as revised by Decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council*: The Church obeys Jesus' command to care for the sick by visiting those in poor health but also by raising them up through the **sacrament of Anointing** and by nourishing them with the Eucharist during their illness. The church offers prayers for the sick to commend them to God, especially in the last crisis of life.

RELATED WORDS

Extreme Unction | Consecration | Holy Oils | Chrism

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is the Anointing of the Sick?

One of the seven sacraments of the church, **Anointing of the Sick** recalls the healing presence and power of Jesus when we touch our mortality most vulnerably. From ancient times oil was valued for its healing and beautifying properties and in preparing bodies for burial.

The ordinary minister of the sacrament is the priest. However, it's presumed that others share the event: family, friends, caregivers. Elements of the ritual include prayers, scripture, laying hands on the recipient, and **anointing** of the head and hands. A water sprinkling rite may be included, and affected areas of the sick person's body may also be **anointed**. When in danger of death, additional sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion (*viaticum*, or "on the way with you") are also administered.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-anointing-the-sick>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS (MARCH 8)

Power players in prayer

When it comes to your health, you can always turn to the saints for help. Feeling sick? Ask Saint John of God, patron of the sick and hospitals, to intercede on your behalf. Suffering from arthritis? Invoke Saint Alphonsus Ligouri. Have a headache? Entreat Saint Teresa of Ávila. Catholics also have the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick**, to bring further healing.

READINGS: 1 John 3:14-18; Matthew 25:31-40 (539 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/0308-memorial-john-god.cfm>). "Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

FAITH IN ACTION

No matter the physical outcome, remember that the primary purpose of our petitionary prayer is to draw us closer to God, which will truly and wholly heal us.