

SPIRITUAL CARE IN HOSPICE

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14

Anointing of the Sick, also known as the Sacrament of the Sick, is a rite for Catholics and Anglicans who are facing serious illness. This can be requested from one's own faith community. A priest is necessary to bestow this Sacrament, through the power of the Holy Spirit. A person need not be in danger of dying to request Anointing of the Sick. It is for the living, and there is no absolute requirement for it.

The purpose of Anointing of the Sick is to unite the person who is ill more closely with the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that they may know the healing presence and love of the Lord, be strengthened in faith, and experience the support of the church.

If a priest is not available in any serious moment, please remember Anointing of the Sick is not required, nor absolutely necessary, for a peaceful death. The church does not permit this sacrament to be given once someone has already died.

VIATICUM

Viaticum, also known as Last Rites, refers to Holy Communion and proper prayers offered to those who are about to leave this life.

Parish appointees and trained members of spiritual care departments are able to provide the prayers and non-sacramental rites for the sick and dying.

While it is understandable that the presence of a priest as one actually dies can be very comforting, there should be no dismay if a priest is not at one's bedside. God loves you and the word "viaticum" actually means "with you on the journey."

In the Rites book, Pastoral Care of the Sick, the term "minister" is used to indicate that lay persons may celebrate the Rite of Viaticum. Any baptized Catholic

may bring Eucharist to another Christian when death is approaching.

CELEBRATING FAITH TRADITIONS

Modern practice suggests having a gathering with one's local pastor at home, at a facility, or at a hospice center, to help bring family members together to celebrate the life of the person entering a hospice plan of care. This helps to restore relationships and solidifies those that are already close, while giving everyone a chance to honor and celebrate the person who is dying, at a last special event. Including a minister or clergy member from the patient's own church can help facilitate their faith traditions, such as favorite prayers, music, and blessings.



ANGELA HOSPICE CHAPEL



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO
REQUEST SERVICES, CONTACT OUR
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