

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Can Only The Dying Be Anointed?

Know This...

Perhaps by human standards, God is merciful and forgiving to a "fault". He forgives anyone who truly asks for His forgiveness. He shows mercy to anyone who truly desires His mercy. Jesus has given Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians seven gifts that span a believer's life and fill him with God's grace. It is this grace that brings the believer to eternal glory in heaven. Faithful Catholics who are ill, preparing for an operation, or dying can receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.



John: Only God can bring us physical and spiritual healing. In most cases, we want physical healing; but, it's spiritual healing that brings us eternal health.

James: Catholics in danger of death from serious illness or old age should receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick from a priest as soon as possible.



John: Catholics who are sick or preparing for an operation, should first confess their sins to a priest, then receive Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion.

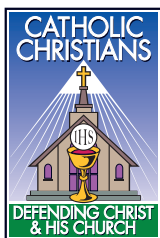
James: Just as Jesus healed many believers during His earthly ministry, He comes to the sick and dying in this Sacrament to heal them physically and spiritually.

John: In this Sacrament the Holy Spirit brings the believer the graces necessary to patiently bear the pain and suffering of illness.

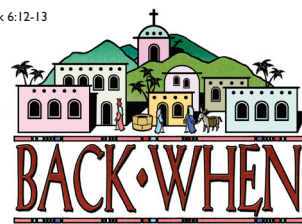
James: Unlike Confession, this Sacrament does not by itself cleanse the soul of mortal sin, but it provides sufficient grace for the sick and dying to have deep contrition for sin.

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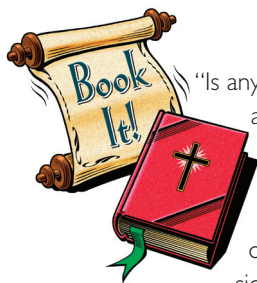
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"And [Jesus] came down with [the Twelve] and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all." Lk 6:17-19 "And [Jesus] called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay." Mt 10:1, 7-8 "So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them." Mk 6:12-13



"Like all the sacraments the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family home, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a whole group of sick persons. It is very fitting to celebrate it within the Eucharist, the memorial of the Lord's Passover. If circumstances suggest it, the celebration of the sacrament can be preceded by the sacrament of Penance and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist. As the sacrament of Christ's Passover the Eucharist should always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the 'viaticum' for 'passing over' to eternal life." CCC 1517



"Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful." Jas 5:13-16

Almighty Father, You are merciful and forgiving beyond human belief. You are the source of both physical and spiritual health; and those who believe in You will experience eternal health and glory in heaven. I pray that, along with my brothers and sisters in Christ, I will faithfully turn during times of serious illness or pending death to Your healing power in the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Anointing of the Sick. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

