

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a celebration in which those who are seriously ill or infirm are supported by the Christian community, whether at home or in the house of the church (for those who can leave their beds and come here). In song and in silence, with scriptures and prayers, we strengthen the bonds of love and faith that are stronger than the most lethal disease and more powerful even than death. The sacrament may be celebrated in the context of a Mass, or on its own, depending on the needs of the person who is sick.

We will celebrate this sacrament on April 23 during both the 8:30am and 11:30am Mass to remind us that God is with us and that we are the Body of Christ.

The Rite of Anointing follows the homily. The gathered church supports the person who is sick with the prayer of faith. The priest lays his hands on all to be anointed, an ancient sign of the moving of the Holy Spirit to heal and save. This is done in silence. Then a prayer is said over the oil of the sick. Finally, the priest anoints the head and the hands of the one who is sick. While anointing the sick person's head, the priest says *"Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit."* And all answer *"Amen!"* While anointing the hands, the priest says, *"May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."* And again, all answer *"Amen!"* A final prayer is then said.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows and Mass continues as usual.

Please call Joy Middleton at 513-271-0920, ext. 16 if you or someone you know is in need of anointing.