



THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

As the number of persons becoming seriously ill with the Coronavirus increases, priests may be called upon with greater frequency to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The following guidelines for administering this Sacrament are to be universally observed in the Archdiocese.

Guidelines for Administering the Anointing of the Sick to Persons Who are Carriers of COVID-19

- When reasonably possible, the Anointing of the Sick for those who are carriers of COVID-19 should be performed by priests who are NOT in high risk groups. (High risk groups include those over 65, and/or those with comorbidity, for example, when two or more chronic illnesses are present, such as, Hypertension, diabetes, Crohn's disease, any cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, COPD, and/or heart disease).
 - Also, priests with symptoms of infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath) should not risk exposing others to the illness.
- If the Anointing of the Sick is performed in a hospital or healthcare facility, their guidelines for protective measures, including garments, prevail.
- If the Anointing of the Sick is not performed in a hospital or healthcare facility:
 - If available, latex gloves should be worn unless the patient or priest has an allergic sensitivity to latex.
 - Additionally, if available, protective eye wear (a pair of glasses will suffice) should be worn. Eyeglasses or goggles or eye protectors can be re-used BUT MUST be cleaned immediately after each visit with Lysol/Clorox wipes or washed with soap and water.
- Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer both before and after the visit.
- The anointing may be done with a cotton-tipped swab or a cotton ball, which is to be burned or buried after use.
- If the priest uses his gloved hand, the glove is to be burned or buried after the visit.
- ***It is NOT permitted to delegate someone else (such as a deacon, doctor, nurse or family member) to perform the anointing.***
- If necessary, a single anointing on the forehead or even some other part of the body is sufficient, while the entire formula is prayed.
- If Holy Communion is given, it is strongly encouraged that the host be received in the hand.
- Maintain social distance (six feet) with everyone in the room, except the patient.
- Do not offer comfort with any physical contact.