The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
The Sacraments of Healing
ANOINTING of the SICK
Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(Mark 6:7,13)
Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the presbyters of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. (James 5:14,15)
Some History

- This Sacrament of Healing has also been referred to as ‘Extreme Unction’ or ‘Last Rites.’
- Over the Centuries it evolved into a Sacrament only reserved for times when it appeared that death was imminent.
- It was a ‘One Time’ sacrament.
Second Vatican Council (1963) Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

73. "Extreme unction," which may also and more fittingly be called "anointing of the sick," is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.

74. In addition to the separate rites for anointing of the sick and for viaticum, a continuous rite shall be prepared according to which the sick man is anointed after he has made his confession and before he receives viaticum.

75. The number of the anointings is to be adapted to the occasion, and the prayers which belong to the rite of anointing are to be revised so as to correspond with the varying conditions of the sick who receive the sacrament.
And Furthermore....

- **THOSE ON WHOM THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK IS TO BE CONFERRED**
- Can. 1004 §1. The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age.
- §2. This sacrament can be repeated if the sick person, having recovered, again becomes gravely ill or if the condition becomes more grave during the same illness.
- Can. 1005 This sacrament is to be administered in a case of doubt whether the sick person has attained the use of reason, is dangerously ill, or is dead.
- Can. 1006 This sacrament is to be conferred on the sick who at least implicitly requested it when they were in control of their faculties.
- Can. 1007 The anointing of the sick is not to be conferred upon those who persevere obstinately in manifest grave sin.
Some Special Considerations

- Anointing of the Sick is also frequently used prior to Major Surgery.
- Although it is not a substitute for the Sacrament of Reconciliation it does have the power to forgive sins, including mortal sins, if the person is deemed to be penitent but unable to participate in Reconciliation.
Who May Administer?

- In all cases only a Priest or Bishop may administer this sacrament.
- What if there is no Priest available when a person is near death?
There are Actually Two Ways

- Anointing Outside Mass
- Anointing Within Mass
Mass of the Sick

- At a Mass of the Sick, the Sacramental Rite is conducted by the Priest or Priests following the Liturgy of the Word and before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
Anointing Outside of Mass

- The Priest visits the sick person.
- Usually takes place at a Hospital, Care Institution or Home
- Done by request of the ill person or his family.
Conducting the Rite

- Introductory Rites consist of a greeting to all and Adoration if Eucharist is present
- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Penitential Rite
- Reading
- Litany
- Laying on of Hands
- Anointing
- Prayers after Anointing
- Concluding Rite including Blessing
Oil of the Sick

- Primary symbol of Anointing
- Blessed by a Bishop
- The essence of the sacrament lies in the actual anointing and the short prayer which accompanies the anointing.
- Oleom Infirmorum, Sanctum Chrisma, Oleum Sanctum
- Why oil?
Does Anointing Heal Sickness?

- No doubt there have been many cases of ‘miraculous’ recovery however this is a secondary effect of the sacrament "When it is expedient for the soul's salvation."

- In other words, if it will be spiritually good for the sick person to recover, then his recovery can with certainty be expected.
Graces of the Sacrament

- The primary purpose of the special grace of Anointing of the Sick is to comfort and to strengthen the soul of the sick person.
- This is the grace that quiets anxiety and dissipates fear.
- It is the grace which enables the sick person to embrace God's will and to face the possibility of death without apprehension.
- It is the grace which gives the soul the strength to face and conquer whatever temptations to doubt, despondency, or even despair may mark Satan's last effort to seize this soul for himself.
RECONCILIATION
Reconciliation is also referred to as ‘Penance’ or ‘Confession.’
Why Reconciliation?

- It was initiated by Jesus, in fact, it was the 1st thing he did after the Resurrection.

- Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

  (John 20:23) (Matt 18:18)
Why was that so Important?

- The whole POINT of His Crucifixion was so that we *COULD GET FORGIVENESS*!
- He couldn’t have given the Apostles the power to forgive sins BEFORE He died, because His mission wasn’t completed!
His Message was Clear

- He Commissioned or ‘Ordained’ His Apostles to act ‘in Persona Christi’ to act in His stead to grant forgiveness of sins, thus providing a path to Eternal Salvation.
There was one slight problem

- He never really gave them any instructions on how they might go about it.
So what do you think Step #1 Might be?
You would have to know what those sins are.

St. James had the first approach.
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (5:16)
The History of Reconciliation
Things Were Tougher In the 4th Century; Nicaea 325

- Confessed their sins to the whole community.
- Were temporarily excommunicated from the community worship for the length of their penance.
- Ate plain food and wore “squalid” clothes.
- Participated in almsgiving and contrite prayer.
And Penance was harsh!

- “As many as were communicants, if they heartily repent, shall pass three years among the hearers; for seven years they shall be prostrators; and for two years they shall communicate with the people in prayers, but without oblation.”

- Not surprisingly, in these day Reconciliation was a ‘one time’ sacrament.
Irish Monks in the 6th Century

- Because of their separation started observing the practice of "Private Confession"
- Confessed their Sins to another person
- There was a Handbook for Penance
- There was an unlimited allowance for repetition.
Council of Florence 1439

- The acts of the penitent should be:
  - Contrition of heart including sorrow for committing the sin and resolve not to sin again.
  - Oral confession of all sins that are remembered.
  - Satisfaction for sins assigned by the priest ordinarily done by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
Which Pretty Much Brings us to Today

- The Confessing of your Sins
- The Absolution of your Sins
- Penance
- Contrition and Amendment
There are Actually Three Ways

- Reconciliation of Individual Penitents
- Reconciliation of groups of Penitents with individual absolution
- General Absolution
And Two Ways of Individual Confession
And Two Ways of Confessing

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Special Instructions:

Your list must accompany your package. If incorrect, our count to be accepted as correct. We cannot be responsible for values left in clothing. In case of any claim against this order, you must notify the office/front desk within 72 hours. No claims to exceed ten times the laundry or cleaning charges.
What is a Sin?

- A sin is an offense against God and a rejection of His perfect love and sacrifice.

- **Venial Sin:** Not of a grave matter. It does not cut us off from Christ but weakens our soul and damages our relationship with God. And, as part of our Church Community, damages the condition of Grace throughout the Church.
Mortal Sins are a different matter

- They completely sever our relationship with our Creator.
- They completely destroy the Grace of God in the soul of the sinner.
- A person who dies in the state of mortal sin is damned for eternity.
So, How do I keep from doing that?

There are 3 Conditions Required to Commit a Mortal Sin

1. It has to be a *Grave Matter*
2. The person has to *know* it is a sin
3. The person commits the sin *deliberately* with his own consent
Preparing for Reconciliation

- Step 1: EXAMINE YOUR CONSCIENCE
- Step 2: EXAMINE YOUR CONSCIENCE
- Step 3: SEE STEPS 1&2
Matthew 22:37-40

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
The Best Way is “Listen to Your Heart”
My Swiss Army Knife
Jeremiah 31:31-35

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”
Be Honest, Be sincere.....but

- Martin Luther’s misplaced sense of guilt contributed greatly to the Great Schism (1521) which fractionalized the Christian World.
On the other hand……..

- Pope Emeritus Benedict goes to Reconciliation every week.
- Its called “an informed conscience”
The Seal of Confession

- The Priest may never, ever, ever, under any circumstance disclose to anyone what was said. Priests have given their lives protecting this. He may not even mention it YOU!
Why Do We Need It?

- Self-Knowledge is Increased.
- Bad Habits are Corrected.
- Conscience is Purified.
- The Will is Strengthened.
- Self-Control is Attained.
- We Become More Submissive to the Holy Spirit.
- We are infused with Grace
No Need to be ashamed

“The Church is a Hospital for sinners”
Not a Museum for Saints
Our God is a kind and loving God

- He loves us very much
- He’s the one who absolves us from sin
He’s all about Forgiveness

- You only have to ask
“Your Sins are Forgiven”