

The Sacrament of Matrimony

The Bible begins with Adam and Eve being created in God's likeness. God tells them to be fruitful and multiply. Their love for each other is the image of the love God has for us. Whenever the authors of the Old Testament wanted to show the beauty of the relationship between the Israelites and their God, they would often compare it with marriage. We see one example of this in Isaiah 62: 4-5

4 No more shall men call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," But you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you, and makes your land his spouse. 5 As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you. (Isaiah 62: 4-5)



In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and a woman are united in such a way that they become one flesh, each belonging to one another. Matrimony is a celebration of a lifelong commitment of faithful love. Living together in marriage is not the only way in which people love one another, but marriage is certainly the supreme example of human love. In the exchange of promises during the marriage ceremony, the couple administers the sacrament to each other. There must be an official Church witness present, either a priest or a deacon, because Matrimony is an act of public worship, a community prayer, bringing God's blessing to the couple. Once the couple is married, their home becomes a domestic church, for the Church is whole and entire in a family built on the foundation of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Matrimony often takes place during the celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy. The couple exchanges promises. One example is

I, [name], take you, [name] to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.


While Matrimony is part of the sacramental life that makes it possible for Christians to attain eternal salvation, the purpose of the sacrament is to help the partners in this life as they work to live in faithfulness to God. Their love for each other is a reflection of the enduring love between Christ and his Church, and it provides them with a foretaste of the divine love that awaits them in paradise.

God's Wedding Gift

Name _____




God gives a special gift to the husband and wife as they join in the sacrament of Matrimony. Solve the rebus to see what God gives to the newlyweds to bless their lives together. This gift gives the couple the courage, guidance, wisdom, and special love they will need for their life together.

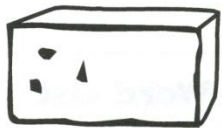


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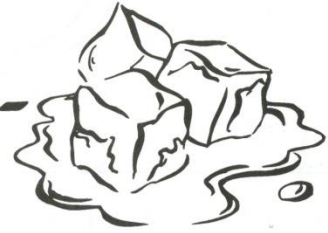
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Sacrament of Holy Orders

Jesus chose 12 men to be apostles. One of them, Judas, betrayed Jesus, and then hanged himself. After Jesus' ascension, the apostles had the important mission of spreading the news about Jesus, but they were lacking one member. At a gathering of Jesus' disciples, Peter told the group that a replacement for Judas was needed. The man to be chosen needed to have been a witness to Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Two men were proposed, Justus and Matthias. Peter and the apostles prayed for the Lord to show them whom to choose. Matthias was chosen and became the new apostle (Acts 1:15-26).

The apostles chose a new Church leader to be a witness to Jesus Christ and continue his work. Today the pope and bishops have been called and chosen to continue Jesus' work; they are successors to the apostles.

All members of the Church participate in the priesthood of all believers through Baptism. However, some men are called to serve Jesus and the Church today through the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Through their leadership in the Church, they help continue Jesus' presence on earth in the tradition of the apostles.

Those who are called to be priests are ordained through the Rite of Ordination. In celebrating this Rite, men receive a permanent spiritual mark, called a *character*, signifying that they represent Jesus' presence in the Church.

There are three levels of participation in the Sacrament of Holy Orders: as bishop, as priest (from *presbyter*, which is Greek for "elder"), and as deacon.

A bishop receives the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. He is the head or Ordinary of the local church. The local area entrusted to him is called a diocese. A bishop is also a member of the episcopal college: this is all the bishops who, with the pope, guide the Church.



Priests serve the community in various ways. They may be called to serve in their dioceses or as religious order priests, carrying out the mission of a particular religious community. They preside at liturgies, preach, administer the sacraments, counsel people, serve as pastors, and teach.

Deacons help and serve bishops by serving the needs of the Church, proclaiming the gospel, teaching and preaching, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and assisting the priest celebrant at liturgies.

Deacons are ordained for service in the Church. There are deacons who are studying to become priests. There are deacons that include married men who are called to remain deacons for life and to serve the Church in this capacity.

Priests receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Rite of Ordination. The bishop lays his hands on the head of the candidate and says a prayer asking for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In one part of the rite, the candidate lies in front of the altar while the Litany of the Saints is sung or recited. In another part of the rite, a priest's hands are anointed with chrism. In the rite for a bishop, the new bishop's head is anointed.

Shepherds for God's People

Name _____

When people receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, they promise to spend their lives leading, teaching, and serving God's people. They are called shepherds because they follow the example set by Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Using the Word List, can you identify each of the following shepherds?

Word List

PRIESTS
DEACONS
BISHOPS



These shepherds lead all the people who live and work in an area we call a diocese or archdiocese. They are the usual presiders at confirmations and they can perform ordinations.

These shepherds are called _____.

These shepherds are called to teach God's people about Jesus and lead them in worship. They are pastors, missionaries, teachers, and preachers.

They are called _____.



These shepherds can celebrate the sacraments of baptism and matrimony. They also help the priest, proclaim the Gospel, preach, and officiate at funerals. They are often married with families of their own.

These shepherds are called _____.



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The name *Jesus* means “God saves.” The name emphasizes that Jesus is the one who has come to save all. *Christ* means “anointed.” The name shows that God the Father has given Jesus a mission and endowed him with power to save and the power to heal. Jesus' whole life was aimed at saving people. His words and actions are the foundation of the saving grace we now received in the sacraments.

The sacrament that helps unite those who are suffering with Jesus' saving and healing power is the Anointing of the Sick. Through this sacrament people receive forgiveness for their sins and comfort in their suffering; they are restored in spirit; and sometimes they even experience the return of physical health. Suffering is a part of life, but Jesus unites our suffering with his passion and death so that through our suffering we can participate in his saving and healing work. The sacrament also reminds us that God wants to give comfort to the suffering and wants us to relieve suffering where we can.

In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the seriously ill, injured, or the elderly with the oil of the sick. The oil of the sick is a special oil used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week.

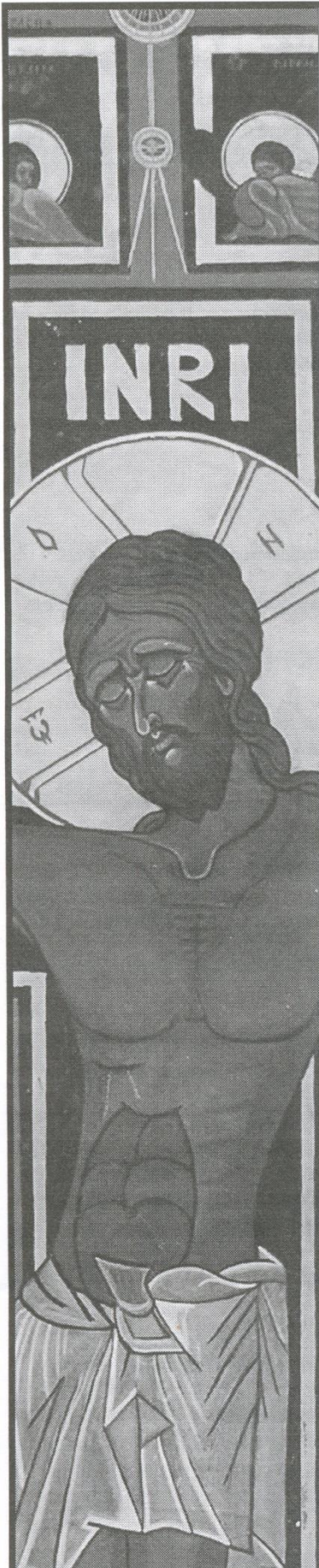
In addition to anointing, the person is often offered Holy Communion. When a person is dying, the Communion is called viaticum (on the way with you). For a dying person, the sacrament is preparation for passing over to eternal life.

Anointing sometimes occurs in a church and is given to the sick or elderly in a community setting. It often takes place in homes, nursing homes, and hospitals. For example, a person who is going to have surgery may be anointed. The sacrament may be received more than once, such as when a sick person's condition worsens.

In the Rites of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the sick person on the forehead, saying, “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” He also anoints the sick person on the hands, saying, “May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. Amen.” The “raising” refers to spiritual healing, as well as any physical healing that may take place.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, once referred to as Extreme Unction and ministered only to those in danger of death, is a prayer of healing and may be celebrated individually and communally.





The Anointing of the Sick

What is the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Like the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), it is a sacrament of healing. The Anointing of the Sick has its roots in the healing mission of Christ, who “came to heal the whole person, body and soul” (*US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p. 251). Jesus’ word and his very touch brought healing and life to the sick and afflicted. From its very beginnings, the Church has continued Christ’s ministry of healing. “Is anyone among you sick?” the apostle James asked in the first century. “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.” (James 5: 14-15) Our understanding of this sacrament has changed with time. In the early Church it was seen as a sacrament of healing, but later it came to be known as “Extreme Unction” – literally, “last anointing” – and was not administered until death was imminent. With the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has returned to the more ancient practice with regard to this sacrament.

Who can receive this sacrament?

Catholics, both children and adults, who are *seriously ill, facing surgery, or experiencing the weakness that comes with old age* should seek this sacrament.

What happens during the Rite of Anointing?

Those gathered pray for the healing and forgiveness of the sick person, as well as for doctors, nurses, and caregivers. Then, in silence, the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person, an ancient gesture of prayer that is used in connection with many of the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Orders.

After the laying on of hands, the sick person is anointed with the Oil of the Sick (pure olive oil, blessed each year by the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass). The sick person is anointed on the forehead and then on the hands. A concluding prayer follows, and if the sacrament takes place in the context of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as usual.

What are the effects of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults explains: “When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God’s will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is not physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit’s gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.”

Create a Poem

Name _____

A cinquain is a kind of poem with five lines.

1. The first line is a noun—the subject of the poem.
2. The second line is two adjectives that describe the subject.
3. The third line is three verbs that relate to the subject.
4. The fourth line is a descriptive phrase four words long about the subject.
5. The fifth line is another noun that is a synonym for the subject.

Here is one example:

Cub
 Furry, fat
 Eats, sleeps, plays
 A youngster having fun
 Ursa

Here is an example of a cinquain associated with the sacrament of the Sick.

Anointing
 Soft, Smooth
 Soothes, softens, comforts
 A gift of Jesus
 Healing

Now try constructing your own cinquain that expresses ideas and feelings associated with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Here are a few suggestions for starter words, but try to think up one of your own: healing, spirit, comfort, compassion, touch, health, oil, strength.

Two Kinds of Healing

Name _____

Usually when we think about healing and health, we think of physical healing—making the body well. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, however, focuses on spiritual healing.

What is spiritual healing? It means that our spirits become stronger and more faith-filled. We accept God's actions in our lives and prepare ourselves to be with God forever.

Priests administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, but anyone can help someone else who is sick or unhappy. At the bottom of the page are actions that can help a sick person's spirit. Find which word fits in each line of blanks.

_____	_____	_____	_____	S	_____	_____	_____
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				L	_____		

- | | | |
|--------|----------|-------|
| listen | hug | care |
| pray | comfort | calm |
| soothe | reassure | visit |

GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

Find it in the Bible

Unscramble words in the Bible verses below to discover truths about God's amazing love. If you need help, look up the verses!

I am sure that your agodisens and vole will

lowfol me all the days of my flie.

And I will live in the house of the

Lord everfor. Psalm 23:6

[The Lord said,] "I have aloev you with a love that lasts

eevfvio." Jeremiah 31:3

God loved the alrov so much that

he agve his one and only nos.

Anyone who sevbleie in him will not ied

but will have eternal feil. John 3:16

[Jesus said,] "Just as the athfev has loved me, I have loved oyn. Now remain in my love." John 15:9

[Jesus said,] "I do ton lalc you servants anymore... Instead, I have called you friends." John 15:15

Dear friends, let us love eon otheran, because love comes form God. 1 John 4:7

The mercy of our Lord sujes tsivhC will bring you lanrete life. As you wait for his mercy, remain in God's vole. Jude 1:2

