

## **Why I Am Catholic**

Another reason is the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. A couple weeks ago we celebrated the sacrament, but wanted to mention again the teaching and the times when one can ask for this sacrament.

In his letter, James asks: "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." (James 5:14-15)

Who can and should receive this sacrament?

1) Baptized Catholics who are sick AND suffering from illness or injury and are in a hospital, other healthcare facility, or their own home (ex. flu, pneumonia, Alzheimer's, a stroke or heart attack, injuries from a fall, etc.); 2) those who are dealing with the effects of ongoing or long-term illnesses or injuries, such as cancer, broken bones, etc.; 3) those preparing for serious surgery, especially any surgery involving anesthesia; 4) those who are dealing with the extra aches and pains of the aging process (i.e. senior citizens); and 5) those dealing with depression or other mental, emotional, and spiritual health issues that have gone on for more than a few weeks;

The sacrament is also given as part of what is traditionally called "Last Rites" to those who are near death. The sacrament of the sick can be received more than once, and, in some cases, frequently. It is for physical, emotional, mental, psychological, and spiritual healing.