



### **Sacraments 32/35: Essentials of the Rite of the Anointing of the Sick**

The minimum necessary for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the Oil of the Sick and a sick person as the matter, and the words of the ritual of anointing for the form. The Oil of the Sick is one of the three oils (along with Chrism and Catechumen) to be blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. In cases of emergency, a priest can bless new oil.

The priest dips his thumb into an oil container and anoints with a Sign of the Cross on the forehead and the palms of the hands of the sick person while saying:

- Forehead: “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
- Hands: “May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”

There are additional readings and blessings to explain and extend the ritual. Fun side note: as a priest had the palms of his hands consecrated with Chrism at his ordination, he should have the backs of his hands anointed when sick.

Who can perform? A priest or bishop is the only one who can perform this Sacrament. Someone else blessing with oil and saying the words may bring some temporary comfort for a grieving family, but this is not a true sacrament and so should not be done. A deacon cannot anoint as the ritual includes the forgiveness of venial sins and the consecration of this person with this illness.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Tri-Partite Theology of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick