

The anointing of the sick is a sacrament we used to call Extreme Unction, the last anointing. It was administered to those whose death was imminent. Ironically we waited till the moment of death to pray for health. At the second Vatican council the Church decided that was too late, so Pope Paul VI invited to receive this sacrament those who were seriously ill.

When Lazarus fell seriously ill, Jesus told his disciples that this illness would show forth God's glory. This sacrament achieves the same end.

Who should come forward today to be anointed? Those whose physical, mental, and emotional health has been impaired. This sacrament is not to be administered indiscriminately to those who enjoy reasonable health; rather, it is judiciously shared with those whose condition has become seriously weakened.

It is the prayer of our parish family that you be strengthened so that, as with Lazarus, so in your illness may the glory of God be shown.

Regis Lent 5.87