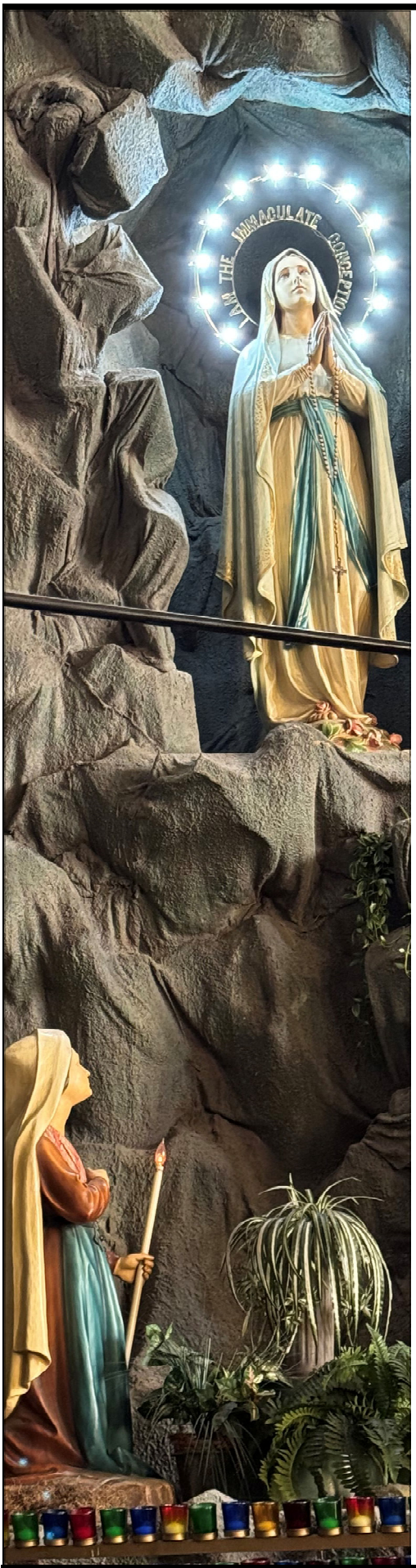


Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, February 8, 2025 | 10:30am
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

Immaculate Conception Church
820 18th Avenue, Seattle

In observance of the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, we gather as a family of parishes for the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We will conclude our Mass with a procession to Immaculate Conception's Lourdes Grotto, which has been a place of prayer and hope for generations.

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. 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. Those with serious, chronic mental or physical illness may also receive the anointing of the sick.

What happens during the Rite of Anointing?
The Rite of Anointing will be celebrated in the context of a special Mass on Saturday, February 8 at 10:30am. After the homily, the Liturgy of Anointing begins. The priest leads a litany in which all 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, each 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, and simple words accompany the anointing: "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." A concluding prayer follows, and then the Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as usual.

No RSVP is required.
Information, Corinna Laughlin, claughlin@stjames-cathedral.org.