



**Deanery 11 Roman Catholic Parishes:**  
 Annunciation + Epiphany + Holy Angels + Immaculate Conception + Nativity + Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe +  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe + Sacred Heart + St. Christopher + St. Dorothy + St. Frances of Rome +  
 St. John the Baptist + St. Louis of France + St. Louise de Marillac

**Serving the Communities of:**  
 Arcadia + Azusa + Baldwin Park + Covina + Duarte + El Monte + Glendora + Irwindale + La Puente + Monrovia +  
 San Dimas + South El Monte + West Covina

*To the Hospitals and Faithful of our parishes:*

(Adopted: Dec. 19, 2014)

## ***The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick + NOT: Last Rites***

**This Sacrament is not about death ---**

**It is about LIFE**

**It is about HEALING, about getting WELL**

This sacrament prays for HEALING: for the patient to get well, to be healthy. It also prays for all those who care for the sick: family, medical staff plus clergy and church volunteers. It prays for you in taking care of your ill family member! It prays for the doctors and nurses to do their best, cooperating with the healing power of Jesus Christ.

No such thing as "Last Rites" but there is Viaticum

The term "last rites" is a misunderstanding, although used by some people, it cannot be found in the subject index of official Catechism of the Catholic Church. There is something much more exciting and very positive: VIATICUM, which is the celebration of Eucharist (Communion) immediately following Confession & Anointing of the Sick. This is celebrated when a terminally ill patient requests these three sacraments together in preparation for a happy and peaceful death. In this sense it prepares the person for the ultimate healing, that is going home to God our Father and Creator. The celebration of VIATICUM is for the LIVING, for those awake and able to participate!

### **ANOINTING TO THE SICK....**

...is a sacrament for health, a prayer to be healed by God through his Son Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, it: 1) Should be celebrated as soon as a person becomes seriously ill – do not wait; it prays for their recovery! 2) Should be received by anyone with a chronic illness at least once a year, usually at their parish church! We need it as soon as we become seriously ill or immediately after a critical change in our health. If we have a chronic condition we should visit our priest at church or check with our parish for a regular public celebration of this beautiful sacrament. Remember this Sacrament prays for HEALING

**PLEASE for your sake DO NOT WAIT:** It is always best for the patient, if you call as soon as they enter the hospital and better for the priests if you call during the day. Our priests are human too, and like all of us they have health conditions, sometimes very serious medical issues. Our priests need their rest to better serve us. Because of their human needs they may not always be available to us every day and especially at night.

**The best way to help your patient recover is to call before they are actively dying!**

**AFTER PASSING / AFTER DEATH:** The sacraments are for the living; however the priest can celebrate with you a special prayer and blessing honoring your loss. Next our priests are honored to help you with a beautiful funeral Mass.