WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DOES ONE CELEBRATE THIS SACRAMENT? Part 2
CCC 1532 – “The special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: – the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church; – the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; – the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance; – the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul.”

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should be celebrated at the beginning of a serious illness. It is very important that the one who is sick is able to hear and participate in the celebration. If during the same illness the person’s condition becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated. If a person who has been anointed recovers from sickness, that person may celebrate the sacrament again in the face of another grave illness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of the Eucharist, celebrated together, provide spiritual strength and nourishment for the passage from death to eternal life. Communion for the dying, called Viaticum, needs to be celebrated while the person is still conscious. **Families should contact the priest before the final hours of death while a loved one is still able to participate.** When a person has just died, there is a different rite called “Commendation”, which is a short prayer service.