**HOME PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK, FOR THE DYING & AT DEATH**

Here are some of the things that you can and should do.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Please note that nursing homes and hospitals are limiting or forbidding visitors at this time so you must exercise your priestly ministry given you at your baptism and be creative. We have already had a FaceTime call with one person in the last stages of life so that we could at least pray with them.

**HOSPITALS**

It is important to register in a hospital as a Catholic.

Find out if a priest is allowed to visit and if so, who is allowed to visit. Some hospitals that still allow a priest to come to administer the Anointing of the Sick will only allow the priest assigned to the hospital, others only the parish priest.

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

From the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers:

When a child is ill, parents and others may bless him/her. You may place your hand on the child’s head and say one of the following prayers:

A God of love,

 ever caring, ever strong

 watch over N., who is sick

 look after h/h in every danger

 and grant h/h your healing peace.

 We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen

B N., when you were baptized,

 you were marked with the Cross of Jesus.

 I/We make this cross + on your forehead

 and ask the Lord to bless you

 and restore you to health. Amen.

C May the Lord Jesus watch over you

 and keep you in peace. Amen.

For those who are older and sick there are many traditional prayers to do including the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Here is one prayer for a sick person:

Almighty and Eternal God,

You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You.

Hear us for Your sick servant (N...)

for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy,

that being restored to bodily health,

he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

Many more prayers may be found on “Catholic Online” [catholic.org](http://catholic.org). Type “sick” in the search bar.

Encourage a sick person to unite their prayers to the suffering of Jesus and to offer their pains up for the poor souls and for the redemption of the world.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE DYING**

Dying is one of the most important things we do in this life and often there is some amount of misunderstanding concerning what a Catholic should do at the hour of death.

Most importantly, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is just that, for those who are ill. One of the desired effects of anointing is healing. Therefore, when possible, ***anointing should never be put off until the hour of death*** especially in this age when getting hold of a priest is becoming more and more difﬁcult.

“But **if a priest cannot be present**, holy mother Church lovingly grants such a person who is rightly disposed a plenary indulgence to be obtained *in articulo mortis* (at the approach of death) provided they regularly prayed in some way during their life-time. The use of a cruciﬁx or a cross is recommended in obtaining this plenary indulgence.” from the Book of Indulgences.

PRAYER BEFORE A CRUCIFIX

Behold, O Kind and most sweet Jesus, before Thy face I humbly kneel, and with the most fervent desire of soul, I pray and beseech Thee to impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, true contrition for my sins and a firm purpose of amendment. With deep affection and grief of soul, I ponder within myself, mentally contemplating Thy five wounds, having before my eyes the words which David the Prophet spoke concerning Thee: "They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have numbered all my bones.”

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God cast into hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits, who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

ST. JOSEPH, PATRON SAINT OF A HAPPY DEATH

I

O, St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus Christ and true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for the dying of today.

II

O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour - to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

III

Everlasting Father, for the sake of the love which Thou did bear to St Joseph, whom Thou didst choose above all to occupy Thy place on earth, have mercy on us and on those who are dying. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to The Father, etc.)

IV

Everlasting Son of God, for the sake of Thy love toward St Joseph, who did protect Thee so faithfully on earth, have mercy on us and on those who are dying. *(*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to The Father, etc.)

V

Everlasting Divine Spirit, for the sake of Thy love toward St Joseph, who so carefully protected Mary, Thy most holy and beloved spouse, have mercy on us and on those who are dying. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to The Father, etc.)

LITANY FOR THE DYING

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Holy Mary, (after each say, “pray for H/H”) All ye holy Angels and Archangels, Holy Abel, All ye Choirs of the Just, Holy Abraham, St John the Baptist, St Joseph,

All ye holy Patriarchs and Prophets, St Peter, St Paul, St Andrew**,** St John, All ye holy Apostles and Evangelists, All ye holy Disciples of the Lord, All ye holy Innocents, St Stephen, St Lawrence,

St. Sebastian, All ye holy Martyrs,

St Sylvester,

St Gregory,

St Augustine,

All ye holy Bishops and Confessors,

St Benedict,

St Francis,

St Camillus,

St John of God,

All ye holy Monks and Hermits,

St Mary Magdalen,

St Lucy,

All ye holy Virgins and Widows,

All ye holy Saints of God,

 (Make intercession for them)

Be merciful,

 (Spare them, O Lord)

Be merciful,

 (O Lord deliver them)

From Thy wrath,

 (“O Lord, deliver them,” after each)

From the peril of death,

From an evil death,

From the pains of hell,

From the evil,

From the power of the devil,

Through Thy birth,

Through Thy cross and passion,

Through Thy death and burial,

Through Thy glorious resurrection,

Through Thine admirable ascension,

Through the grace of the Holy Ghost,

The Comforter,

In the Day of Judgment,

We sinners,

Beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou spare them,

We beseech Thee, hear us.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Many more prayers may be found online.

**AT DEATH**

PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION

Go forth, Christian soul, from this world

in the name of God the Almighty Father Who created you.

in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living Father, Who suffered for you,

in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you,

go forth, faithful Christian!

May you live in peace this day,

may your home be with God in Zion,

with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,

with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.

Saints of God, come to h/h aid!

Come to meet h/h angels of the Lord!

R. Receive h/h soul and present h/h to God the Most High.

May Christ, Who called you, talk you to Himself;

may angels lead you to Abraham’s side. R.

Give h/h eternal rest, O Lord,

and may perpetual light shine upon h/h. R.

All-powerful and merciful God,

we commend to you N., Your servant.

In your mercy and love,

blot out the sins h/s has committed

 though human weakness.

In this world h/s has died:

In Your sight, may h/s live forever. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto h/h O Lord

 and may perpetual light shine upon h/h

May h/s rest in peace.

 Amen.

And may h/h soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

THANK YOU

These prayers were put together with the assistance of the Disciples of the Dying, a ministry of the Parish of St. Sebastian. It is their mission to help Catholics know what to do when facing death and to pray with those who are dying. If you would like to join this ministry, please send a note to or call our office.

Thank you to the St. Sebastian Staff for typing, editing, and getting out to you.

Thank you to everybody praying for the ill.

Thank you to those who use their pains for the spiritual benefit of others.

God bless you.