

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**This Monday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick**  
**February 12, 2019**

One of the most awesome experiences in life is that of being healed. Especially if it is from a very serious injury or disease. Even if it is after a bad cold or even a lacerated hand, it is like resurrection, new life and energy. It is easy to take good health for granted. Bad health or injury is usually looked at as a glitch in life. The fact is, that we are dependent on God for every beat of our heart.

Because healing usually takes place very slowly we are often unaware of the re-creation process going on in our life or in the life of one we love. It is easy to be oblivious to the redemptive act of God in our lives. Every moment of every day we are showered by the abundant grace of God. This is true even with the most seriously ill among us.

Four years ago I was diagnosed with lymphoma stage IV. I had only 10% of my bone marrow and I had a lesion on my left femur. If it were not for \$150,000 worth of chemo I most likely would not be here. But I feel good. Shortly after I started chemo I felt a sizzling in my leg. It felt like bacon frying.

Healing is very dynamic. Even the people that Jesus healed eventually died. After we are healed we need healing again. Today we are offering the sacrament of the anointing of the sick here at Mass for our most senior citizens and for those who are seriously injured or very ill. For those of us who are reasonably in good health, you are not left out, this is not a waste of time for you. For the majority of us thankfully we don't qualify for this sacrament at this time. But we all share the same human condition of vulnerability. To those not receiving the sacrament of healing I invite you to close your eyes, open your heart to God and give thanks for the healing work of God going on in your body and in your soul.

For those receiving the anointing, I will anoint you on your forehead and in the palms of your hands. Let God's grace sizzle not only in the marrow of your bones but in the deepest part of your soul.