

**HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
A CUSTOMARY (CHECKLIST)**

Purpose

The ministry of healing prayer is a ministry of presence. While you do pray aloud in words, the most important thing you do is to communicate God's loving presence through your own.

Checklist

Before the Service:

- Check to make sure that the altar guild has placed the small wooden box, containing vials of oil, on the credence table.

Receiving the Oil:

- The Healing Prayer minister should join the altar party at the altar to receive communion, and should stand to the left of the chalicists.
- The Presider will then hand the box of oils to the Healing Prayer Minister, commissioning him/her to pray for healing in the name of Christ.
- The Healing Prayer Minister responds by answering "I will with God's help."

Preparing for Receive People for Prayer:

- The Healing Prayer minister then retreats to the back of the church by the credence table.
- The Healing Prayer minister then waits for people to present themselves for prayer.

How to Pray For Healing:

- Look the person directly in the eye.
- Ask what they would like to offer in prayer. (It may be a request for general healing or specific healing. It may be for physical, spiritual, emotional or relational healing.)
- Place hands on shoulder or head.
- Put a small amount of oil on your thumb and then make the sign of the cross with it on the person's forehead.
- Use the person's name in the prayer.
- Mention the specifics of the person's concern. If they wish for you to pray as proxy for someone else, ask them the name of the person and use it in the prayer.
- If the prayer is for someone else, mention the concern brought by the person standing there. Include them in the prayer, also.

Finishing Up:

- When prayers are completed, return to your chair with the box of oils.
- After the service, return the box to the altar.

Helpful Hints:

- ❖ If you have trouble with spontaneous prayer, you may wish to write a short, general healing prayer and insert the person's name and intention in the middle of it.
- ❖ It is always appropriate to include a desire for peace, joy and restoration to wholeness in the prayer.
- ❖ Keep your prayer fairly short and to the point. If someone has a more involved issue, you may wish to do a brief prayer, and then ask to speak to them afterward, and/or refer them to the clergy.
- ❖ Remember, it doesn't have to be perfect, just sincere!

HEALING PRAYER IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR WORSHIP MINISTRY.
MANY THANKS FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.