

Saint Patrick's Church

A Year of the Sacraments
Christ, Catechesis, Celebration

A Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, pierce my soul with your love so that I may always long for you alone, who are the bread of angels and the fulfillment of the soul's deepest desires. May my heart always hunger and feed upon you so that my soul may be filled with the sweetness of your presence. May my soul thirst for you, who are the source of life, wisdom, knowledge, light and all the riches of God our Father. May I always seek and find you, think upon you, speak to you and do all things for honor and glory of your holy name. Be always my only hope, my peace, my refuge and my help in whom my heart is rooted so that I may never be separated from you. Amen.

- Saint Bonaventure, 1221-1274, *Desire for Closer Union*.

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Saint Patrick Victor NY
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Saint Patrick, pray for us!



A Year of the Sacraments

XIV. To Full Maturity in Christ

Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And we shall do this, if only God permits.

- Hebrews 6:1-3

That Baptism is the first formal step to discipleship in Jesus, then every disciple is meant to take a second step, and then more steps after these. Christian discipleship, after all, is about following Christ and walking with him.

For those who were baptized as infants, Confirmation is the opportunity to be thankful for the faith handed on to them by their parents, to take ownership of this faith, and to build on this faith by growing to full maturity in Christ.

Catechism 1285, *For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."*

What is expected of the Confirmed?

The Confirmed not only knows about Christ, they know Jesus. They can talk about him as one talks about a beloved friend who is, at the same time, God. Their capacity to talk to Jesus and about Jesus make them witnesses to Jesus.

The Confirmed, with the help of the Holy Spirit, understands the faith of Jesus as spoken and as lived by Jesus. This understanding does not end in oneself but is meant to be shared (this is evangelization) and to be defended from error and misrepresentation (this is apologetics), when needed.

The Confirmed cannot see themselves apart from Jesus the Head, and the Church, his Body. To be a Christian is to be relational, that is, communitarian as the Persons of the Triune God. This must be understood at the level of identity and level of mission. "I" cannot be replaced by anyone in the Church. What "I do" in service of God and neighbor cannot be done by anyone else in the Church.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful!