

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, pray for us!



A Year of the Sacraments

XXI. The Anaphora or Eucharistic Prayer

Catechism 1352-1355: *The anaphora: with the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving and consecration - we come to the heart and summit of the celebration: ...*

I. Preface. *The Lord be with you... Lift up your hearts... Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.* Beginning with a dialogue between the priest and the people, the whole congregation recognize that they are in the presence of God and are orienting their hearts to God in the spirit of thanksgiving to Him. The prefaces are prayers addressed to God, that recognize the *creative* work of the Father, the *redemptive* work of the Son, and the *sanctifying* work of the Holy Spirit.

II. Epiclesis. *By the same Spirit graciously make holy...* The Church *calls on* the Father to send the Holy Spirit, whose power will help transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, and those gathered into Church.

III. Institution Narrative. *For on the night he was betrayed... This is my Body... This is the chalice of my Blood...* To the Church is made present the great event of the Last Supper. With the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of Jesus, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

IV. Anamnesis. *Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving passion of Your Son...* As Jesus commanded us, "*Do this in memory of me,*" we *remember* and present to the Father the sacrifice of the Son - his suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and our looking forward to his second coming.

V. Intercessions. *...grant that we, who are nourished ... may become one body, one spirit in Christ... with the Most Blessed Virgin Mary... with Saint Joseph... and with all the saints... your pilgrim Church on earth... To our departed brothers and sisters...* Through the Eucharist, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the sacrifice of Jesus, we are made the Church. In the sight of God, the Eucharist is a celebration of the whole Church - the Church triumphant in heaven (the saints), the Church militant on earth (the faithful in spiritual battle against evil), and the Church penitent in purgatory (the souls in cleansing).

VI. Communion. While grave sin (i.e. mortal sin, and therefore, must be confessed) separates us from God, *Holy Communion augments our union with Christ* (Catechism 1391). In receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus, we receive his divine life, and come to intimate union with him.