

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

July 2020—June 2021

IV. The Paschal Mystery in the Church's Sacraments

(Please refer to the Catechism, §1113-1134)

Jesus' words and actions during his hidden life and public ministry were already salvific, for they anticipated the power of his Paschal mystery. They announced and prepared what he was going to give the Church when all was accomplished. The mysteries of Christ's life are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments, through the ministers of his Church, for "what was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries." - Catechism, §1115

Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, and he saves us through his words, his actions - through his very life. Although the Paschal Mystery formally refers to the mystery of his suffering, death, and resurrection, his life before and after the Incarnation, his childhood, his hidden and public life already prepared us for his last days in Jerusalem, when God fully reveals His plan of salvation for all men and women.

Indeed, Jesus has given us his life that we may share in it. Through each of the seven sacraments, we, the faithful, not only remember the very life of Christ, for we also effectively participate in the very life of Jesus. Whenever sacraments are celebrated, it is Jesus who is at work in them, who ministers to us, and who serves us.

In Baptism, it is Jesus who baptizes us - inserting us into his body, to participate in his life, suffering, dying and resurrection. In Confirmation, it is Jesus who guides to grow and to mature in the Holy Spirit. In the Eucharist, it is Jesus who once more proclaims his life-giving word and feeds us with his Body and Blood, sustaining us for everlasting life.

In Holy Orders, it is Jesus who offers the sacrifice and prays for us before the Father; in so doing, he sets us apart for God and for holiness. In Marriage, it is Jesus who loves the Church, and the Church loving him in return, and whose love comes alive in the love between husband and wife.

In Penance and Reconciliation, it is Jesus who forgives us and reconciles us back to the Father and his Church. And in the Anointing of the Sick, it is Jesus who shares with us his suffering and who makes our suffering redemptive; it is Jesus who heals and brings us comfort; and it is Jesus who accompanies us as we journey from our earthly life to eternal life.