

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

VI. Meaningful and Worthy Celebration

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

But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence.

- Matthew 22:11-12

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with required dispositions.

- Catechism, § 1131

Because the sacraments are the handiworks of God, the mysteries of the life of Jesus, and the actions of the Holy Spirit, they are and will always remain bigger than either the minister or the recipient. Thank God for this! This means we need 'only' to approach the sacraments with sincere humility.

What does sincere humility entail? Humility to know and understand what Jesus offers us through the sacraments, and so to prepare ourselves worthily, that when one arrives at the celebration, he or she would be properly disposed, wearing the appropriate garment.

How do we do prepare meaningfully and worthily?

Be thankful to God for the sacraments. An attitude of gratitude helps one to be humble before God. It is always God who takes the initiative, and we respond by intentionally receiving the sacraments and living the consequences of the sacramental life.

Know the nature of the sacraments. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a helpful tool to learn more about the sacraments. It provides biblical references and gathers the teachings of the Church throughout history on the sacraments. It is available online for free.

Put on yourself the proper garment intentionally. The sacraments are powerful but they do not work automatically or act like 'magic' (if there were such a thing). God's will is powerful, yet He waits for us to actively cooperate with Him. God offers us grace and we must choose to receive it. God gives us grace and we must choose to live the life of grace, the sacramental life.

Celebrate the sacraments. Live the sacraments.