

## 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

### VII. The Church and the Kingdom of God

(Please refer to the Catechism, § 541, 669, 764, 768)

*"This Kingdom shines out before men in the word, in the works and in the presence of Christ." To welcome Jesus' word is to welcome "the Kingdom itself." The seed and beginning of the Kingdom are the "little flock" of those whom Jesus came to gather around him, the flock whose shepherd he is. They form Jesus' true family. To those whom he thus gathered around him, he taught a new "way of acting" and a prayer of their own.*

- Catechism, § 764

At the very beginning of the preaching of Jesus, he called men and women to a new way of believing and living, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Matthew 4:17) His call to a change of heart (thinking) ultimately leads to believing in him as the Son of God who has finally come to inaugurate the kingdom of God. Thus in his public ministry, Jesus spoke in parables, and many of which begin with, *"The kingdom of heaven is like..."* His parables are meant not only to inform but also to transform us. Because of Jesus, although we find ourselves in the world, we are not anymore of the world.

Jesus revealed to Peter that he would build his Church on rock and that the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. This image of on rock leads us back to the end of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus likened he who listens and acts on his word to a man who builds his house on rock. The house and the Church are the same, whose head Christ and whose body the disciples. To be built on rock is to stand living, listening and doing the words and actions of Jesus.

When Jesus invited the first disciples, *"Come and follow me,"* and they did. Then began the community of faithful who began living the way of Jesus. Today, we are members of this community of faithful living both in the already and not yet. We live in the already because we have already welcomed Jesus in our lives and made the decision to follow him. We live in the not yet because we wait for Jesus who has gone back to the Father and who will return so that where he is we will also be. We, the Church, will fully come to know who we are in heaven. In heaven, the Church and the kingdom of God will be the same.

Keep following Jesus. Keep listening to his words. Keep living like the first disciples.