

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*.

We are grateful to the staff, to the Pastoral Council, and to parishioners who helped draft our 2020-21 strategic plan.

Saint Patrick, pray for us!



A Year of the Sacraments

July 2020—June 2021

Join us in this spiritual adventure! There really is no better time. In the midst of the uncertainties of a pandemic and volatility of politics, we persevere on our journey as a pilgrim people of God. God has given us the seven gifts, that are the sacraments, to guide along the way and to remind us of His abiding presence among us. Let us encounter Christ together, let us believe together, and let us celebrate together.

Christ Jesus

What are the sacraments but real encounters with Jesus Christ! Pope Leo the Great, in his Sermon 74, rightly reminded us, "...after all had been fulfilled that belonged to the preaching of the Gospel... our Lord Jesus Christ was raised to heaven. He made an end to his bodily presence in the sight of his disciples on the fortieth day after the Resurrection... What was to be seen of our Redeemer has passed over into the sacraments." He who knows Jesus, also knows the sacraments.

Catechesis

Jesus in his public ministry spent much time with his disciples teaching and preaching. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church to deepen our understanding and appreciation not only for his teachings but also for his actions, as embodied in the seven sacraments.

Celebration

Of course! Every encounter with Jesus Christ calls for a celebration. Jesus shares with us his life. He feeds us with his Body and Blood. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help grow to maturity. He shows us how to love. He shows us how to serve. He offers us forgiveness and mercy. And he provides us healing and comfort. Jesus wants us to celebrate his life in us. Because of Jesus, we live life more fully and abundantly.