

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

II. The Church in God's Plan of Salvation

(refer to the Catechism, § 1091-1112)

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

And from the Catechism, 1112, *The mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church is to prepare the assembly to encounter Christ; to recall and manifest Christ to the faith of the assembly; to make the saving work of Christ present and active by his transforming power; and to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church.*

Just from these excerpts from the Bible and from the Catechism, we gain some concrete sense on the role of the Church in God's plan of salvation.

- **The Church as recipient of salvation.** During his public ministry, Jesus initially called the Twelve to follow him, and then many more disciples. By his example, Jesus called them to live according to the ways of the Kingdom of God. In Jerusalem, the Twelve witnessed the plan of God unfold in the very life and death of Jesus, culminating in his resurrection. Jesus suffered for us, Jesus died for us, and Jesus rose from the dead for us.
- **The Church as herald of salvation.** At various moments in his public ministry, Jesus shared his mission with his disciples. As those first men and women responded to salvation through the call to discipleship, present-day disciples offer Christ's salvation to others by making other disciples. As promised by Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit, to guide and help us carry out his and our mission.
- **The Role of the Apostolic Church.** The Apostles transmitted the faith of Jesus by the witness of their lives, through person to person encounter, and in living as a community of disciples. The faith of Jesus they handed on in written form (the Scriptures), through the life of the Church (the Tradition), and safeguarded by the apostolic and teaching ministry (the Magisterium).

We received the gift of faith that we may share it with others.