

## 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

### XVI. The Perfect Sacrifice and Perfect Meal

Catechism 1323: *At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet "in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us."*

The actions of Jesus are life-giving and life-changing. What he did during his public ministry, Jesus commanded us, his Church, to continue doing for our salvation.

His saving actions culminated when Jesus offered himself as the sacrifice at the Last Supper and on the Cross. By suffering and dying, Jesus paid the dear price for our sins. By raising him to new life, God accepted Jesus' sacrifice, the only acceptable atonement for our sins. By instituting for us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, we get to participate in the sacrifice even now, and eat and drink the sacrifice even now. By his death on the Cross, Jesus removed any doubt that the bread at the Last Supper was his flesh, and the wine at the sacred table was his blood.

It is fitting that the Eucharist completes Baptism and Confirmation. Through Baptism and Confirmation, we receive and nurture the faith of Jesus. Through the Eucharist, the faith of Jesus is embodied sacramentally, in the encounter with the real presence of Jesus. Through the sacraments of initiation, we not only know about Jesus, we know him!

Catechism 1325: *The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit.*

In the Eucharist, we encounter God in Jesus who offers us communion in the divine life. In the Eucharist, our human worship is perfected in Christ and is made acceptable to God the Father.

When we look at Jesus on the cross, may we find God who sacrificed Himself for us. And when we look at Jesus on the cross, may we find ourselves in him, being offered to God.