

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 Precepts of the Church

Catechism 2041-2043: *The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor:*

- **First Precept:** *You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.* Without Sunday, we are nothing. On Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection, we worship God and find our rest in Him (after the Third Commandment). On Sunday, God feeds us with His Word, and the Body and Blood of His Son (after the Last Supper Commandment).
- **Second Precept:** *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.* Since 1215, at the Fourth Lateran Council, the Church prescribed that the faithful should go to Confession at least once a year. This is tied to the reality at that time that some faithful, to no fault of their own, receive Holy Communion only once a year. This ensures that the faithful receive the Eucharist worthily. Mortal sins need to be confessed immediately. And persistent venial sins can benefit too from regular celebration of Penance.
- **Third Precept:** *You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.* Given the first precept, the third precept may seem redundant, but check the explanatory note on the second precept. The insistence on receiving the Eucharist is undeniable. We have life within us because of the divine life we receive from the Eucharist.
- **Fourth Precept:** *You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.* Our spiritual battle entails mastering our instincts and appetites. We definitely do not want to lose sight of God the Giver because we become distracted, or worse, blinded by the many good gifts that He gives us.
- **Fifth Precept:** *You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.* We exist as Church for the mission. We too are gifted by God for the mission. We use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to give back to God and to serve one another, particularly our brothers and sisters in need.