

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

VIII. The Sacraments and Communion

In every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to form his Body. The Holy Spirit is like the sap of the Father's vine which bears fruit on its branches. The most intimate cooperation of the Holy Spirit and the Church is achieved in the liturgy. The Spirit who is the Spirit of communion, abides indefectibly in the Church. For this reason the Church is the great sacrament of divine communion which gathers God's scattered children together. Communion with the Holy Trinity and fraternal communion are inseparably the fruit of the Spirit in the liturgy. - Catechism, § 1108

Previously, we learn that the sacraments are of the Church because they are by the Church and for the Church. The paragraph above helps us further understand why the proper environment of and for the sacraments is the community of the faithful, the Church.

It is because of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Communion: the communion between the Father and the Son, and the communion that binds the Christian faithful. And we can definitely call this communion, love!

Among the areas of understanding the sacraments, the area of communion needs some catching up. How can we do this?

Pray to the Holy Spirit. To be strengthened in our sense of communion, we need to ask the Holy Spirit for help. Even a simply daily prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit, come!" will do.

Live the life in community. First and foremost, in the Eucharist, every Sunday. Let our unity come from hearing the same Word of God, from being fed with the same Body and Blood of Jesus, and from being entrusted with the same mission. Also, find creative ways to safely connect with other parishioners, particularly during this time of pandemic: by phone calls, Face Time, Zoom, social media, etc. Keep yourself and your family safe, but do not let baseless fear isolate you from the community. Let faith temper overthinking. Believe in the greater power of God.

Celebrate the sacraments as a family. It is easier to be holy with help from one another: spouse helping spouse, parents helping children, and vice-versa. Know your schedule. Plan ahead. Ask for each other's prayers.

When you think of sacraments, think of community!