

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

X. Preparing for Baptism

How does one prepare for Baptism? The Rite itself provides us important guidance and clear disposition.

Rite of Receiving the Child. To the parents. *In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him (her) in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he (she) may love the Lord and his (her) neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?* To the godparents. *Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty?*

The Church takes seriously the task of raising a child in the Catholic faith so that in such task parents are assisted by godparents. Their task rests on two pillars: their own observance of the commandments and their own love for God and neighbor.

Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism. God cannot co-exist with evil! To embrace God in one's life entails having to drive out Satan, and get rid of sin, including original sin.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith. The faith that we profess is the faith of Jesus Christ and his Church, and not anyone's personal opinion or interpretation of it. It is this faith that saves and that parents and godparents must share with their child.

Baptism. To baptize is to plunge, to immerse in water with clear intent and force. Our seeking to enter more deeply in communion with our Triune God must never lose its intent and force but must grow through life.

Anointing after Baptism. Balsam adds fragrance to the Sacred Chrism. The sweet smell is a wonderful image for the Holy Spirit pervading the life of the Baptized, as he (she) participates in Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly ministries.

Clothing with White Garment. We must wear our Christian dignity at all times, both publicly and privately, and strive to remain pure and sinless until we stand before God face to face.

Handing On of a Lighted Candle. Our Christian witness both in public and private takes on the image of light in the darkness, ever sanctifying the world for God.

Ephphatha. Our God speaks and listens, and so must we. Our ears are opened that we may hear God, and our lips that we may speak with God, and proclaim the Catholic faith.