

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

XII. Advancing the Kingdom

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that your children, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as children of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.

In Baptism, Jesus shared his light with us that we may become his bright light for others.

Now more than ever, every Baptized must live a life centered on Jesus Christ. It is only a life focused on Jesus that will allow us to live out our Baptismal call daily. In a society that is becoming more secular, we cannot anymore just plug-in to the society and be passively nurtured in the Catholic faith. We need to create Catholic oases amid the secular desert, to which we must intentionally go and be refreshed, to strengthen our faith and to nurture the faith of our children.

Encounter Jesus Christ, first and foremost. Let this happen through daily prayer: personal prayer, family prayer, the Mass and the sacraments. It is through a life of prayer, that we nurture a personal relationship with Jesus.

Know more about Jesus. In Luke 24:27, at Emmaus, Jesus told his disciples that the Scriptures were written referring to him. So read the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels. Allow your knowledge of Jesus to be concrete and truthful. Obey the Word of God precisely because it is of God and not of man.

Live as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ. Throughout the millennia, how has the Catholic Church sought to live according to the way of Jesus? Not many will have the opportunity to read the vast literature on the history and the life of the Church. The Catechism is an accessible document that combines Scriptures (the Word of God) and Tradition (the Life of the Church), and it expresses the Life of the Church based on the Word of God. The four sections of the Catechism should guide our way through this wonderful document: (i) *the profession of faith* - what we believe as Catholics, (ii) *the celebration of the Christian Mystery* - living the life of Jesus through the liturgy and the sacraments, (iii) *the Ten Commandments* - living the moral life, and (iv) *the Lord's Prayer* - the life of Christian prayer.