

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

XV. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Catechism 1303: Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with His sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

The incomparable gift of Confirmation is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit also gives us seven unique gifts to strengthen and prepare us for the work of the mission:

Reverence. *This gift is also called piety. God is God and we are not. Because of God's greatness, holiness, goodness and love for us, He deserves our reverence, respect, and devotion.*

Holy Fear of the Lord. *At times, this gift is referred to as awe and wonder. Fear of the Lord may begin limitedly as servile fear - fear because of punishment. Proper fear of the Lord is filial fear - fear that recognizes and appreciates the goodness and love of God that one fears to offend God.*

Wisdom. *That we cannot fully know God is a given. Yet God does not hide but reveals Himself to us, and His mind - His plan and goal through Scriptures, through Jesus, through the Holy Spirit working in the Church.*

Knowledge. *By the gift of reason, God has given us a tool to comprehend the world around and our human condition too.*

Understanding. *This gift enables us to connect the dots - to see the bigger picture, in a way that is attentive to God's design, and respectful of human knowledge.*

Right Judgment. *This gift is also called prudence and counsel. Right judgment enables us to consider essential factors that must be considered when finalizing our decisions. This is not to forego wisdom, knowledge and understanding but maximize their use under given circumstances.*

Courage. *This gift is also called fortitude. The decisions made by Christians are first and foremost attentive to the will of God, and therefore, may not be popular to the world. Courage is needed to make a choice for God, truth, and goodness, even when the world is most likely to frown upon at these choices.*