

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*.

Visit our Face Book page -
Saint Patrick Victor NY
for regular updates.

Saint Patrick, pray for us!



A Year of the Sacraments

July 2020—June 2021

V. Visible Signs of Invisible Grace

(Please refer to the Catechism, § 774, 1113-1134)

"...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:20

The sacraments are efficacious (visible) signs of (hidden) grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with required dispositions.

- Catechism, §1131 (774)

We live within the beautiful realities of Jesus having ascended to the Father and of Jesus being with us always until the end of the time! Saint Leo the Great rightly reflected on this mystery: the Christ whom the apostles saw before his Ascension, is the Christ whom we encounter through the sacraments after his Ascension.

Grace is the life of God that enables us to live with God, and the help from God that enables us to do His will. This grace is invisible.

Thankfully, God reveals Himself to us, making the invisible visible - by speaking through His words and laws, by speaking and acting through His prophets and sages, and ultimately, by coming into the world, to us, through His Son, Jesus.

It is through Jesus that God offers to us the fullness of salvation, by his life, by his words, by his actions. And to connect the mission of Jesus (instituted by Christ) with the mission of the Church (entrusted to the Church), recall the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. Because of Jesus' words, we have something to teach, and because of Jesus' actions, we have something to do. And because of the Holy Spirit, the words and actions of Jesus today are as powerful and effective as he spoke and acted them two thousand years ago.

So how do we know that God makes us His children? Baptism! That Jesus strengthens us for the mission? Confirmation! That Jesus feeds and nourishes with divine life? Eucharist! That Jesus forgives us of our sins? Penance and reconciliation. That Jesus heals us? Anointing of the Sick! That Jesus loves us unconditionally? Matrimony! That Jesus offers sacrifice to make us holy? Holy Orders!

So, still looking for God? Please find Him in the sacraments!