

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. What is the Sacrament of Baptism?

Catechism, § 1213, *Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."*

In Baptism, we are born to the spiritual life: cleansed from sin, we become children of God, members of the Body of Christ, the Church, and temples of the Holy Spirit, and carrying out the divine mission.

Catechism, § 1214, *This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek baptizein) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."*

Behind simple ritual actions are powerful spiritual realities: immersed in water, we suffer and die with Christ, and taken out of water, we rise with Christ to new life.

Catechism, § 1215, *This sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God."*

The cleansing effect and life-giving nature of water are utilized to give us a sense of our spiritual rebirth.

Catechism, § 1216, *"This bath is called enlightenment, because those who receive this catechetical instruction are enlightened in their understanding..." Having received in Baptism the Word, "the true light that enlightens every man," the person baptized has been "enlightened," he becomes a "son of light," indeed, he becomes "light" himself...*

The instruction in the way of Christ is a life-long process. Parents are the first teachers of the faith and first witnesses to the Christian life. Parents and godparents in raising a child of God are raising another Christ in the world.

Through Baptism, God calls us to holiness, to become saints.