

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, pray for us!



A Year of the Sacraments

July 2020—June 2021

I. God's Plan of Salvation

(refer to the Catechism, § 1066-1112)

To read from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation is to simply discover the story of God's love for humanity. In good pleasure, God desires to share His life and love with all men and women.

Even when Adam and Eve rejected His divine life and love - in choosing the serpent's cunning over God's wisdom, in choosing to be like God on their own terms rather than God's, and in choosing temporal life (death) over eternal life - God did not abandon them. God will only invite every person and every generation to be guided by Him back to paradise.

From the Third Preface of Sundays in Ordinary Time is a good summary of God's plan of salvation, "*For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of salvation, through Christ our Lord.*"

What do we learn from this prayer about God's plan of salvation?

- **God continues to abide with us to help us.** We cannot save ourselves alone; we cannot re-enter heaven on our own. We need God's help.
- **Through Jesus Christ.** God, in His wisdom, was able to use even the limitation of our humanity to save us. Jesus took on our human suffering and made it redemptive. Jesus took on our human death and made it the gateway to the resurrection.
- **Through the Holy Spirit.** How does the work of the Father and the Son continue in our time? Through the Holy Spirit, of course! Although the Preface does not explicitly mention the Holy Spirit, in reality, it is through the Spirit that we are formed as the Church to pray, and we are able to recognize and participate in God's work of salvation through the Paschal Mystery (that is, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus). This work of God for our salvation in which we participate is also aptly known as "liturgy," which in faith and gratitude we celebrate because our God continues to save us.