

The Sacramental Program

The parish sacramental team invites all parents who wish their child (who has been baptised in the Catholic Church) to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation (traditionally Year 3), First Eucharist (Year 4) and Penance (Reconciliation)(Year 5) to enrol their child into the sacramental program.

The whole preparation for the reception of Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation is divided into three phases:

First phase: Parents information session

At a Parent Information meeting held in the parish, parents are informed of the dates, procedures and expectations for the celebrations of the sacraments. An overview of the sacraments of initiation and Penance will be presented. Parents are then invited to enrol their child for the sacraments at the Commitment Mass on a designated weekend of the year.

Candidates and parents meet with the Parish Priest at least once during the program, desirably during the period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each family must organise to meet with the parish priest at a suitable time at the Parish Office. Families work in partnership with the parish priest and those who are preparing the child. With their support, they ensure the readiness of the child to receive the sacraments and in collaboration with them, discern when their child is ready.

Second Phase: Formal teaching (Catechesis) and Sacramental Preparation

Mother of Mercy Parish encourages a family-focussed, parish-based, school RE supported approach for the preparation and celebration of the sacrament.

Parents are invited to present their child to the community at the commissioning Mass (Commitment) at a weekend to be determined and encourage them to bring their children regularly to Mass at least during the preparation for the reception of Sacraments.

Families attend sacramental preparation sessions (approximately 4-6 for each Sacrament) – including a family group session, which are provided by the Archdiocese's Youth and Children's Ministry in Evangelisation Brisbane and the Parish sacramental team.

Third Phase: Reception of the Sacraments

After preparation for the sacrament has been completed:

- Children from the Parish, Parish School as well as children attending State Schools within the Parish boundaries receive the sacrament.
- Confirmations are normally celebrated on a Friday evening and First Eucharist at a Sunday morning Mass, followed by a parish celebration in the Parish Centre.
- The children celebrate the reception of the sacrament at the Parish Church involving the Archbishop (if available), the Parish Priest, members of the sacramental team, their parents, families and godparents (if possible) and all parishioners.
- First Reconciliation is celebrated at a weekday liturgy with the Parish Priest presiding.