

FAQ

Who can be Confirmed? Anyone who is baptised into the Catholic Church, is 8 yrs or older and has been adequately prepared.

Can my child be confirmed if they are not baptised?

In this case, preparation takes place within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for:

- Anyone who is not baptised and is at least of catechetical age (7 years old)
- Anyone who is a baptised Christian seeking full communion with the Catholic Church;

Can parents/guardians demand that their children be confirmed? No. Confirmation must be the free choice of the individual. Parents/guardians may require their children to participate in the process.

Who can serve as a confirmation sponsor? The Church asks that a sponsor be:

- at least sixteen years of age
- have completed the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)
- lead a life of faith
- journey with the candidate during the preparation process and beyond in the life-long journey of faith
- accompany them as they continue to encounter Jesus Christ and deepen their relationship with him
- neither the father nor the mother of a candidate may be a sponsor nor a proxy*
- it is recommended that one of the Godparents serve as the Confirmation sponsor, if they still meet the other requirements and expectations for the role

May a candidate have more than one sponsor? Yes, however only one person should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who will present the candidate to the (Arch)bishop for Confirmation.

***Proxy:** Ideally, the sponsor should be present for the confirmation. If this is not possible a proxy may be designated. A proxy must meet the same qualifications as a sponsor, cannot be a parent and the proxy should be so designated in writing. The sponsor's name will be recorded in the parish registry and on the certificate, not the proxy.

How will I know if my child is ready for Eucharist?

Your child will (mostly) be keen to attend Mass and through regular participation, grow in their longing to receive Jesus in Communion. They will develop the 4 pillars of discipleship and a desire to live as a disciple.

Why is prayer important? Prayer connects us with God and helps transform us. We express gratitude, awe, love, thanks, sorrow. We ask for help. We rest in God's presence and draw closer to God. Try praying before meals, at the day's start and end. God is listening!

2023

KEY EVENTS & DATES: Confirmation

- Regular participation at Mass **in mths prior**
- Rite of Welcome **March 11**
- Rite of Enrolment **July 9**
 - presentation of the Creed
- Confirmation Retreat Day **October 7**
- Completion of Family Journal Workbook
- Rite of Confirmation **October 29 (28?)**
- Continued participation in worshipping community
- Parent Zoom Sessions

KEY EVENTS & DATES: Communion

- Regular participation at Mass **in mths prior**
- Rite of Welcome **March 11**
- Rite of Enrolment **July 9**
 - presentation of The Lord's Prayer
- Communion Retreat Day **August 26**
- Completion of Family Journal Workbook
- First Holy Communion **Sept 9/10**
- Continued participation in worshipping community
- Parent Zoom Sessions

All Saints Parish, Albany Creek Family-Friendly Happenings

Faith Formation

- **The Well** - bi-monthly, Friday nights (*check website for dates*)
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** - Sunday at 9am
Mass in school time, except Family Mass weekends
- **Family Mass** - alternates between 5pm and 9am
Masses on the second weekend of the month in school time (*check website for dates*)
- **Mass** - within the worshipping community each weekend - Saturday Vigil 5pm and Sunday 7am and 9am.

Service Opportunities

- Liturgical ministries
- Containers for Change
- Vinnies' Winter Appeal
- Donations to the local St Vincent de Paul Society
- The Well
- Other mission events throughout the year

References: RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Vatican); JG: The Joy of the Gospel (Pope Francis); CSL: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Vatican)



All Saints Parish
Albany Creek

All Saints Parish Albany Creek

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Sacramental Process Information Baptism - Confirmation - Communion

Our Vision

Centred on Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit, All Saints is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community of missionary disciples, embracing shared leadership, to serve God and others.

Sacramental Journey of Discipleship

- All Saints Parish looks forward to journeying with you, as you come to know God and grow deeper in your faith through the sacramental Journey of Discipleship.
- Our Sacramental Journey of Discipleship is a process by which a person accepts the responsibilities of their faith commitment within a network of support and strength, and learns what it means to be a disciple of Christ.
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist lay the foundations of every Christian life. We are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and in the Eucharist, receive the food of eternal life.
- The objectives for sacramental preparation include an intentionality that leads the children and us to a deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ, community involvement, and a search for a stronger faith through continuing preparation and reflection.
- Therefore, those who are seeking to enter the sacramental journey of faith within the church need to be aware that sacraments aren't magic — they depend on a free response in faith. We need to try to live what they signify. Sacraments are not 'over and done with' when the celebration is over and becoming a disciple is an ongoing process.

We look forward to accompanying you on this exciting venture as the children of our parish journey towards full initiation as committed disciples of Jesus. No-one will ever be turned away from All Saints' sacramental process.

Sacramental Journey of Discipleship

Clear Expectations:

- We warmly welcome all parishioners to see the Sacraments of Initiation not so much as a programme but more of a process forming a community of committed, passionate disciples.
- Parents are the child's first religious educators, mentors and role models. In this process they speak with their children about God, the Church, the sacraments and what they mean. They share with them their own stories and their own sacramental journey of discipleship.
- The sacramental process at All Saints Parish is a family-centred, parish based and school supported process that is not grade or age based. Archdiocesan Guidelines indicate Confirmation from the year a child turns eight, First Communion (or Eucharist) from the year a child turns nine. the Guidelines acknowledge that as individual readiness varies, more time may be required for specific children and their families.
- The process leading up to each sacrament (Confirmation and Communion) is expected to last a period of a minimum of twelve months.
- If a decision is made to delay reception of a sacrament, the family and the child remain in the process and receive support, encouragement and an open invitation to complete the initiation.
- The signs of readiness for the sacraments are:

The Four Pillars of Missionary Discipleship

- **Word** - engage with God's Word at Mass
- **Worship** – participate regularly in Mass
- **Welcome**–engage in worshipping community
- **Witness** – live our faith through service to the parish and wider community (RCIA 75)
- The reason we seek full initiation is so we can fully participate in Mass with the whole community. Therefore, the sacramental journey expects children and their families to have regular, active participation in our worshipping community.

Sacramental Journey of Discipleship

Clear Expectations:

- When a family, together with their child/ren discern that they are ready to continue the sacramental journey that began with Baptism, they are invited to begin the formal sacramental preparation process, which is in four stages (RCIA 6,7):
- **Stage 1**
 - regular participation in the worshipping community at Mass for at least 6 months
 - children express their own reasons and desire to receive the sacrament to parents and parish team
 - culminates in a Rite of Welcome
- **Stage 2**
 - the desire to receive the sacrament has intensified, faith has grown, there is an eagerness to be part of the worshipping community and this is expressed to parents and the parish team
 - a Rite of Enrolment at designated parish Masses begins a more formal preparation period
 - the presentation of the Creed or the Lord's Prayer at designated parish Masses
- **Stage 3**
 - more formal preparation takes places including
 - a Sacramental Retreat Day
 - The Retreat is an experiential, non-repeatable, and therefore compulsory event
 - Family Journal Workbook
 - Masses with after-Mass activities
- **Stage 4**
 - the actual Celebration of the Sacrament
 - ongoing participation in the worshipping community

As part of the journey, families especially engage with:

- **Family Mass** (2nd weekend of month)
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** (9.00 am Mass)
- **The Well** (bi-monthly, Friday nights)
(not in school holidays - check website for dates)

We understand that emergencies and major family commitments, which clash with a sacramental process event will occur from time to time. Those who are regularly engaging with the worshipping community and participating in the process should communicate with the parish as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be discussed.

How can we become part of this process? We would love to make contact with you and discuss this further. Please fill in a 'Sacramental Connect Card' (on website) and one of our team will reach out to you.

What does "regular attendance at Mass" mean?

This will change as the desire to commit to a life of discipleship grows. To begin with, you may attend once a month to test the waters: is the life of discipleship for your family at this time (Stage 1)? When a decision is made to move forward this is marked with a Rite of Welcome and then the aim would be to attend at least twice a month (Stage 2). After the Rite of Enrolment, the aim is weekly attendance, knowing that occasional weeks will be missed (Stage 3 & 4).

Is this process the same in other parishes? All parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane follow the same sacramental guidelines. However, they are able to implement them in different ways. All Saints Parish has committed to answer the call of Jesus, which is reiterated by Pope Francis, to make disciples (Mt 28:19). Our sacramental process is a vital part of this mission.

How long does the process take? Becoming a disciple is a life-long process. The sacraments are part of this process. Preparation to receive Confirmation and Communion will take a minimum of 12 months for each sacrament (RCIA 243). In each case, the starting point is regular participation in the worshipping community at Mass.

Why has All Saints made this change? Our mission is to make disciples. All we do is directed to this mission. So our focus is how to best help our people to carry out this mission. Similarly, this is the goal of the sacramental process. The sacraments are not an end in themselves, but a stepping stone on the pathway to discipleship.

Why is Mass with the parish so important?

Experiencing Jesus regularly in Mass and connecting with the worshipping community is at the heart of the process of disciple-forming (RCIA 4). The 4 pillars of discipleship are all present in the Mass, which is the source and summit of our life as Catholic Christians (CSL 10). The parish is the local presence of the Church and the place where disciples are nurtured (JG 28).