



Introduction to the Sacramental Journey

WELCOME



- Parents “channels” through which the lifeblood of the love of God passes
- Always watch over your little ones, so that they may learn to know God as they grow up,
- love him with all their strength
- and serve him faithfully.

REFLECT ON HOW

- You try to be a channel through which the love of God can be passed onto your children
- How does prayer help you to be that channel for your child?

WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

- Recall the baptism day of your child, what memories of the day stay with you?
- Who did you choose as godparents and why?
- What hopes did you have for your child at that time?
- How have those hopes become reality?



COMMUNICATING FAITH in GOD

- The struggle and anxiety of parents and grandparents in passing on the faith to their children and grandchildren is a hot topic today.

This struggle is represented by questions of

- how to pray with their children,
- how to answer the moral questions they raised,
- how to share gospel values,
- how to cope with challenging behaviour,
- how to keep children involved in the Mass and the parish
- how to justify being practising Catholics as children begin to rebel.

Seven UP

- When we talk about Christian formation then at seven years of age we constantly reinforce in our children good habits of the heart which we hope will stay with them for a life time.
- An important milestone in personal growth, this is why the Church also affirms it as milestone in spritual growth and encourages parents to begin to prepare their children for the completion of their initiation.



A TWO YEAR JOURNEY TOGETHER

- Encourage your child to talk to God naturally
- When you are in Church help them to engage with the space and its symbols
- Explain why we sit sometimes in Church, stand, kneel, sing and so on
- Place images in the house that point towards your belief in God
- Say simple prayers at the end of the day with your child
- At family meals ask someone to say a prayer at the beginning and the end
- Teach your child to think about others and their needs
- Help your child to make good choices based on the values of the Gospel
- Encourage the whole family to say sorry when they have done something wrong
- Make it a family priority to participate in Mass every Sunday and then celebrate it

YEAR of RECONCILIATION

- This sacrament connects us to the call of Christ to live our baptism to the full
 - Helps us to grow in holiness
 - And enables us to become people who discern.
 - This is why it has also been called the sacrament of continual conversion.
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- In this sacrament the Church imparts the forgiveness of God through the ministry of the priest.

parent's formation

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

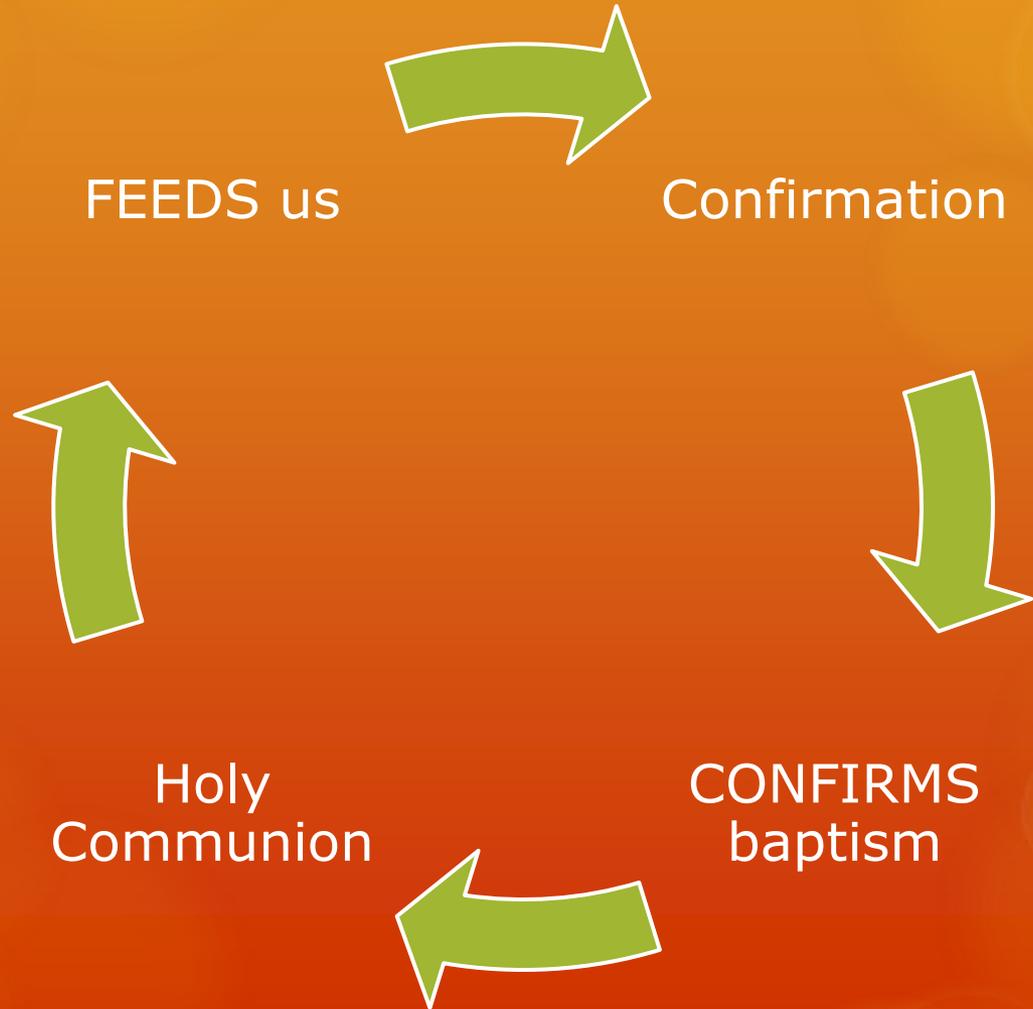
- Signs of readiness in your child
- Your own memories
- The different names for this sacrament
- Teaching your child about God's love
- The five stages in the sacrament

parent's formation

CELEBRATING WELL

- The S Word SIN
- Sin and Choice
- Listening to the voice of conscience
- Reflecting on the Prodigal Son parable

YEAR of COMPLETION of INITIATION



COMPLETION of INITIATION

- Confirmation confirms us in the faith we professed at our baptism and strengthens us to reach out to others in service.
- The reception of confirmation is not so much an end in itself but a new stage in growth for the child whom we hope will continue to be a strong witness to Christ.
- The reception of holy communion provides us with nourishment for our ongoing journey of faith.
- As we are fed by the body and blood of Christ we are given the strength to carry on, walking with him and living in his presence as we grow in faith.

YOUR PARISH DATES

For the Year of Reconciliation:

Meetings and Liturgies	DATE
First Parent Support Meeting	
Parents Session 1 on Reconciliation	
Advent Family Reconciliation Service	
Parents 2nd Session on Reconciliation	
Lent Family Reconciliation Service	
Eastertide First Confessions	

YOUR PARISH DATES

For the Completion of Initiation

Meetings and Liturgies	DATE
Parents Session about Confirmation	
Parents Session on First Holy Communion	
Parents Retreat Time	
Confirmation	
Reception of First Holy Communion	
Celebrating Together	

If a child



- If a child lives in a faith filled environment, she learns how to be full of faith
- If a child lives with adults who pray, he learns how to pray
- If a child lives in a home filled with forgiveness, she learns how to forgive
- If a child lives with parents who know Christ, he learns that Jesus is his friend
- If a child grows up celebrating every Sunday, she learns that the Mass is everything
- If a child grows up with friends of Jesus, he learns that he too is called to be His friend



Loving God help us to teach our children
that you love us totally and unconditionally.
Help us to encourage our children to grow in faith and love
and to learn from our example
as we seek to follow your Son Jesus every day.

Give us the courage to pray with our children
and to share our faith with them
as we journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN