

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is the beginning of our Christian faith journey, where we become a 'child of God', and friend and follower of Jesus Christ. We have a share in his life and we join his family, the Church.

The Parish of St Ambrose offers a program for parents/carers of babies and young children prior to their Baptism. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Parish 9743 1023 or sacraments@stambrose.org.au.

RCIA

The RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process offered to non-Catholics who seek to know more about the Catholic Church's beliefs and teachings. The process continues from September to the Easter Vigil each year where candidates, if they wish, can become Catholics.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Parish on 9743 1023 or admin@stambrose.org.au.

Parish Based Family Centred Programs

In the Parish of St Ambrose, the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are **organised by the parish**.

But in reality, the **responsibility for a child's spiritual growth** rests with the parents or carers, who the Church see as the primary teachers of the faith. This is why our programs are family-centred. Family involvement is crucial in all aspects of each program. Parent/carer and child discussion is a key component. These are also opportunities for parents/carers to be open to growth in their own faith.

The sacramental programs are supported by our local Catholic primary school, as well as the catechists who attend the public schools in the parish. All our parish children complete the same program.

If any candidate is of an age where they would like to celebrate a Sacrament this year, but are not baptised, please contact the Sacramental Co-ordinator as soon as possible.



The Catholic Parish of
St Ambrose
Concord West

Megan Harris
Sacramental Coordinator
2 Burke St, Concord West 2138

Phone: 97431023
Fax: 97363702

Email: sacraments@stambrose.org.au

The Celebration of Sacraments 2020



Baptism
Reconciliation
Holy Communion
Confirmation

St Ambrose Catholic Church

First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance or Confession) celebrates God's forgiveness and is a pre-requisite to the celebration of First Holy Communion.

To participate in this program, a child must be Catholic (either Baptised Catholic or received into the Catholic Church from another denomination). It is offered to children from **Year 2** onwards. The program also caters for older children, so if children have missed out in previous years, they are still very welcome to enrol.

This program begins in Term 2 of the school year. It begins with an information evening for parents, and then continues with four x 1 hour parish-based, small-group sessions with both child and a parent. Each group has a parent volunteer leader. These sessions are held in the Aikenhead Centre, St Ambrose Primary School.



Key dates for First Reconciliation 2020

Parent Information Night: Thurs 18 June

Group Sessions 5.30pm or 7pm:
Thurs 25 June, 2 July, 23 July & 30 July

Ceremonies: Saturday 8 Aug, 15 Aug and 22 Aug @ 2pm

First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion welcomes children to the Table of the Lord for the first time. It is offered to children from **Year 3** onwards who have celebrated their First Reconciliation.

This program begins in Term 3 of the school year, and includes a Parent Information Night and four x 1 hour small group sessions for both child and a parent. Each group has a volunteer parent leader. These sessions are held in the Aikenhead Centre, St Ambrose Primary School.

We also have a full day Reflection Day held at the Aikenhead Centre. All children are expected to attend. There will be a practice afternoon on the Fridays prior to the First Holy Communion masses.

Key dates for First Holy Communion 2020

Parent Information Night: Thurs 10 Sept

Group Sessions 5.30pm or 7pm:
Thurs 17 Sept, 24 Sept, 15 Oct & 22 Oct

Reflection Day: Thurs 29 Oct

Masses: Sunday 1 Nov, 8 Nov and 15 Nov @ 11am

If any candidate is of an age where they would like to celebrate a Sacrament this year, but are not baptised, please contact the Sacramental Co-ordinator as soon as possible.



Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism. It completes the process of initiation into the Church.

The program will run in Term 2 of the school year and is offered to all young people in **Year 6 or above** who have made their First Holy Communion.

The program begins with a Parent Night and continues with four x 1 hour sessions for all participants and at least one parent held in the Aikenhead Centre, St Ambrose Primary School.

We also have a full day Reflection Day held at the Aikenhead Centre. All children are expected to attend. There will be a practice afternoon prior to the Confirmation ceremonies.



Key dates for 2020 are as follows:

Parent Information Night: Mon 6 April.

Group Sessions 5.30pm or 7pm:
Thurs 30 April, 7 May, 14 May & 21 May.

Reflection Day: Thurs 28 May

Ceremonies: Saturday 30 May @ 11am and 2pm