



14 March 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Sacramental Program 2024– Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation

Thank you for your *Interest* in the parish's 2024 Sacramental Program. As the first and foremost educator of the faith of your nominated child/ren, you have determined that they are ready to deepen their relationship with God by completing their Christian initiation (through Confirmation and Eucharist) which began in their Baptism.

This journey will also incorporate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which the Church confirms the work of God's mercy and forgiveness in our lives.

This is a unique and enriching time in your child's life, and a special time that creates opportunities for the entire family to affirm and celebrate their faith in each other and in God. You are invited to accept the challenge of this adventure in faith, and the parish community wants to support you at this time.

Families who respond to this invitation are supported in the 2024 program through parent and child information sessions, during which you will be provided some input, work one-to-one with your child/ren as well as in small groups to discuss topics, complete activities and participate in prayer. You and your child/ren will also receive material to use at home to assist you in ongoing preparation. Please find the **2024 Program Timetable** enclosed.

The Sacramental Program this year **will require you and your child/ren to:**

- attend ALL Sessions
- participate in further preparation and discussion at home, and
- attend Mass as part of ongoing preparation.

You will also be asked to nominate a **Sponsor** who is at least 16 years of age, a confirmed Catholic and actively practicing their faith. Proxy sponsors will be discouraged: best to have someone actively involved in your family's faith journey.

To offset a number of costs and build capacity in the parish to improve delivery of the program into the future, the **cost of the 2024 program will be \$60.00 per family**. Payments may be made by:

- Cash (at Sacramental Program Session)
- Cheque - payable to Edmonton Catholic Parish (at Sacramental Program Session)
- Direct Deposit using the following: **NAB, BSB: 084-352, Account Number: 000000373** and kindly identify your contribution as **SAC + your Family Name**.

However, if this is in any way a burden, please raise the matter through the Parish Office. Your circumstance will be treated with fairness and respect.

The family is the place where a child's real and deep education in faith begins. What happens within the family shapes the child's experience of God, companionship with the Church community and the child's encounter with their own unique faith development.

Therefore, we ask parents to make a commitment to this Sacramental Program by completing the enclosed **Family Commitment Statement**.

Please note: families who do NOT keep this commitment should not presume their child/ren can automatically proceed to the sacraments this year. They may indeed be asked to wait for a more suitable time.

If you would now like your child/ren to proceed to the nominated sacramental preparation, **please complete the enclosed 2024 Enrolment Form**.

RETURN ALL RELEVANT FORMS (SIGNED), together with ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS (Baptism Certificate/s and the like) to: edmonton.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au or the Parish Office (between 1:30pm – 5:00pm) by Friday 28 March 2024.

If you have any questions, please phone Vera Skinner at the Parish Office on 4055 4315.

Kind regards and blessings,

Fr Michael Szymanski

Parish Priest

John Fitzgerald

Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

Vera Skinner

Parish Administration Support - Registrar

Attached:

Sacramental Program Timetable

Enrolment Form – Written Version

Family Commitment Statement