

6 February 2020

Dear Parents,

As your child prepares for the Sacraments in 2020, I want to convey to you the importance that parents play as first teachers in the faith of the church.

The church teaches that the responsibility of initiating children into the Church through preparation for the Sacraments belongs firstly with parents.

The family is the basic unit of the faith community. Children are presented for initiation into the church at baptism by their parents, whose role in fostering a child's life of faith is so crucial that nothing else can replace it.

It is within the family that faith is received and nurtured and so the family is the primary focus for the sacramental preparation.

Times of sacramental preparation are moments of grace for nurturing the faith of the whole family and the parish community.

Several important dates have been carefully planned by the parish to clearly assist parents in this faith journey and are mandatory if your child is to be properly prepared. Parents are therefore asked to commit themselves to these forward dates.

Namely: Presentation of Candidates, Sacramental Formation Evening for Parents, Teaching Mass, Parent-Child Workshop, Sacrament Retreat, Reconciliation and Celebration Mass after Sacrament.

Please feel free to discuss with me your child's journey in developing a strong Catholic faith as they grow to maturity.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Fr Mathew Velliamkandathil CRS
Parish Priest
St Jerome's Parish Community