

Required Sacramental Mass Attendance

It's a joy to continue walking with you on your faith journey. Our parishes' Faith Formation program is designed to guide us in living the Christian life fully. This begins with placing worship of God at the heart of our lives, especially through attending Mass every Sunday. This is the most important part of the program.

Those preparing to receive sacraments for the first time must be active in the Faith Formation program for two years. Attendance at Mass and at the faith formation sessions is monitored during this time. All requirements must be fulfilled for these sacraments to be received. These requirements help form us to live the Christian life well and ensure that we are ready to celebrate these sacraments.

Church Teaching:

- On Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass (#2180).
- The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass (#2181).
- Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and being faithful to Christ and his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (#2182)

Procedure:

- All candidates and their families must attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday vigil) and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Candidates are to sign in indicating their attendance at Mass.
 - Each week, a book will be available at St. Augustine's, St. Elizabeth's, and St. Mary's where candidates can record their Mass time and signature.

F.A.Q.

CAN I ONLY OCCASIONALLY ATTEND SUNDAY MASS & STILL RECEIVE SACRAMENTS?

- Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is now required for reception of Confirmation and First Communion. It is understandable to miss very occasionally due to sickness or severe weather, but a pattern of missed Masses will not be excused, and will delay the reception of the Sacrament.

WHAT IF WE ATTEND A DIFFERENT CHURCH FOR MASS?

- If you attend a different parish for Mass (outside of Baldwinsville), a bulletin from that parish must be brought back with the child's name written on the bulletin, and it is signed by the priest/deacon there.

DOES SATURDAY NIGHT MASS COUNT? OR DOES IT HAVE TO BE SUNDAY?

- Yes - Saturday evening vigil Masses fulfill the Sunday Mass requirement.

WHY SUNDAY MASS?

- The observance of "keeping holy the Lord's Day" goes all the way back to Genesis, when God created the world and then rested on the 7th day. The Sabbath -- Sunday -- is a gift from God to us; it is an invitation to rest and be rejuvenated, to look forward to Heaven and to rejoice in the Resurrection. The Catechism states, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice" (#2181). As such, all Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation: this is the First Precept of the Catholic Church, and one of the "indispensable minimum" requirements for practicing Catholics (#2041). Furthermore, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (#2181).