



# OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH Umbilo



Catechism 2020

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## **1.Parish Mission Statement**

We, the Assumption Parish, are a Community of Faith  
with a Vision to build our Parish into a Vibrant  
‘Community of Communities’  
Serving humanity and in doing so,  
enable each parishioner to enrich his  
or her Spiritual Life  
In Communion with Christ

## **2.Address by Parish Priest**

Dear Parents,

I am sure you are well aware that the first place most of us receive any form of Catechesis is in the home from our parents.

Your role in this does not end when you place your children in the Parish run sessions; on the contrary it is vital that you reinforce that which is taught by our Catechists.

We wish to emphasise the importance of the role of the family as a faith sharing community which in turn leads to the greater parish family community. I encourage you to be actively involved in your child's Catechesis. This means deepening your own knowledge and practice of the faith in order to pass this on to your children. This will enable you to form a solid foundation as your own faith community at home, which will lead to the growth of the larger family of faith The Church.

Purchase the young people's catechism, '*Youcat*', which can enhance your knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Finally, get to know the Catechists of your children and work closely with them, giving thanks to God for their dedicated service and commitment in your Parish.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Zibonele Ngubane', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**FR. ZIBONELE NGUBANE, O.M.I.  
PARISH PRIEST.**

### **3. General Catechetical Policy**

All children of school going age are expected to attend catechism on a regular basis. Catechism is NOT SUNDAY SCHOOL nor Religious Education classes – but a Holistic approach to our faith which attempts to build a community of young people who understand the Bible and their Catholic Faith.

### **4. Children Attending Catholic Schools**

It is the Archdiocesan Policy that Catholic Schools do not prepare children for any of the Sacraments. Due to the Communal nature of Sacraments - *all Sacraments are prepared for and received in the community of the child i.e. in the individual Parishes.*

It is strongly recommended that children in Catholic schools attend Catechism in their parishes throughout their schooling as in this way they become part of the Parish Community. We as the Assumption Parish reiterate this policy. While it is not obligatory, we suggest it would be wise for all those Children attending Catholic schools to attend the Parishes catechism sessions.

### **5. Expectations**

The Assumption Parish has the following expectations of our young people attending catechism:

- MINIMUM Attendance Rate of 75% required by all Catechism Candidates.
- Candidates must bring the following to catechism:
  1. A BIBLE (preferably a Catholic Bible or one with the Deuterocanonical books and Apocrypha)
  2. Book / journal as instructed by Group Catechist
- Candidates are to arrive on time and collected at the closing time of the session. See times below.
- Apologies for missing sessions are to be given in advance by the Candidate's parents/ guardians. Apologies from any other source are not acceptable.
- Candidates to attend Holy Mass every Sunday and to PARTICIPATE in their FAITH LEVEL'S YOUTH OR CHILDREN'S MASS.
- Candidates to attend the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion regularly once they have received them for the first time.

- Registration Fees of R50 per annum per Candidate payable at the beginning of the 1st Term to their Catechist.
- Registration Fee for Confirmation is R200 per Candidate.
- Adult support. We expect parents / guardians (& God Parents) to support their child by attending parents' meetings, workshops, various liturgical celebrations and most of all **MASS** with their child.
- We also ask you to pray for your child.

## **6. Levels of Catechism / Faith groups:**

**First Steps** Grade R (Ages 5-6)

**Faith group 1** (School grade 1 & 2)

**Faith group 2** -First Reconciliation Group

(School grade 3 –and those in grade 4 who have not celebrated this sacrament yet)

**Faith group 3** - First Communion Group

(School grade 4 – and those in Grade 5 who have not celebrated this sacrament yet)

**Faith Group 4** (School grades 5-7)

**Faith Group 5** (School grades 8-9)

**Faith group 6** - Confirmation

(School Grade 10. Two groups run concurrently as course runs until they are confirmed in the following year)

## **7. Times of Catechism:**

**First Steps/Grade R & Faith Groups 1- 4**

Sundays 9:30am to 10:30am

**Faith Group 5 – Grade 8 and 9**

Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:15

**Faith Group 6 - Confirmation**

Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm

## 8. ROLE OF THE PARENTS

Believing families are of primary importance as centres of living, radiant faith. The Second Vatican Council calls the family the domestic Church (Lumen Gentium 11). Parents are the primary catechists; they have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith. They catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love for the faith. It is the role of the parish to assist the parents in nurturing the faith of their children.

A parent who would like their child to attend the program . . .

- Should be a ***registered member of the parish***, or if from another parish, have permission from both Parish Priests to participate in the religious education program.
- Is responsible for providing the parish with information regarding the child's baptism and other sacraments, if applicable.
- Attends Sunday Mass with his/her child every week.
- Takes responsibility for his/her role as primary catechist.
- Collaborates with the catechists in the program by sharing faith with the child at home and by making sure the child does any required follow up to the lessons taught in the sessions.
- Teaches their child the traditional prayers of the Church at home.
- Maintains an open line of communication with their child's catechist.
- Ensures their child will arrive at class on time and be picked up on time.
- When the child is dropped off for class, makes sure that their child enters the building where sessions are held and goes to the classroom. Brings his/her child to the sessions dressed appropriately, ready to participate with enough rest and nourishment and makes sure the child has gone to the bathroom, if needed, before the session.
- Attends parent meetings when requested.
- Is supportive of the catechist especially in the area of discipline.
- Informs the program coordinator of any special needs of the child, and works with the parish to make appropriate accommodations. For example, the parent should provide snacks for a child who has allergies or diabetes. If a child has learning problems or a disability, it is essential that the parent and catechist work together to provide the best possible learning environment for the student

## **9. Policy for Baptism**

### **Biblical references to Baptism**

Jesus said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” - Mt 28:18-20

See also the baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

Also – Mark 16:16; John 3:5-6, 22, 4:1-2; Acts 2:38-41, 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-4; Col 2:12

### **Policy for Baptism of Babies and those younger than 3**

- Baptisms are held on the Last Sunday of the Month either during or after the 8:00AM Mass
- Parents/Guardians must contact the Parish Priest or Deacon to set up an interview.

### **Policy for Baptism of Catechetical age children**

Baptism is the gateway to our Catholic Faith. A child needs to have received the Sacrament of Baptism before they can proceed to receive any of the other Sacraments.

### **Requirements:**

- The child be the age of Reasoning (ie older than 7)
- At least one parent /guardian should be a practicing Catholic
- Attended Catechism for at least one full year
- Parents/ Guardians to apply for have their child baptized – by completing the Baptism of school going child. (If another family member looks after the child but not a legal guardian – a letter from the legal guardian permitting Baptism in the Catholic Church is required)
- Parents/guardians and sponsor/s (God Parent/s) to attend two sessions – introductory meeting and basic instruction meeting
- Child to attend at least 4 instruction sessions over and above normal catechism (dates will be agreed upon by parents in the first introductory meeting)

## 10. Policy for First Reconciliation

### **Biblical references of Confession:**

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” - John 20:21-23

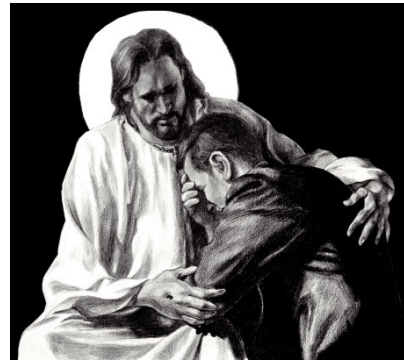
See also Matt 16:19, 18:18; James 5:16

### **Introduction:**

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is to be celebrated prior to the reception of First Eucharist. (Addendum to the GDC, 1971)

Readiness for reception of this sacrament includes knowledge of:

The person of Jesus,  
the Gospel message of forgiveness,  
sin and its effects,  
understanding and experience of sorrow,  
forgiveness,  
and conversion.”  
(NDC, #36, B2)



The understanding of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a gradual development; the rate of moral, psychological and religious development differs from one person to another. Therefore, a person is to be considered ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation when he/she has an initial understanding of the concepts listed above and freely desires to receive the Sacrament.

### **Requirements of Children:**

- Copy of Baptism certificate/ Red Book
- The child be the age of Reasoning (ie older than 7)
- At least one parent /guardian should be a practicing Catholic
- Attended Catechism for at least one full year
- Parent must register their child for this Sacrament at the beginning of the Catechism year (January)
- If the Child is in Grade 3 / 4 then the child must be registered in the First Reconciliation group. If the child is in a higher grade (5-11)

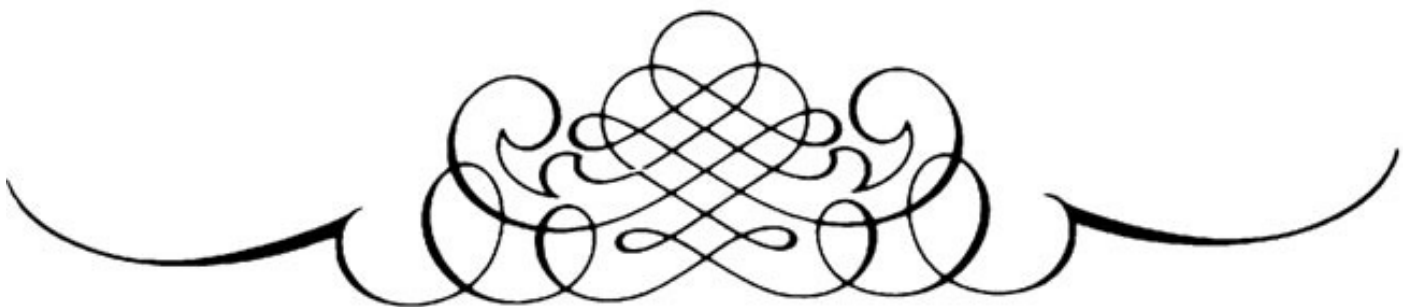


then the child must register for First Reconciliation and must be registered to attend catechism in their normal group for that year.

- By this stage we have a reasonable expectation that the child regularly attends Sunday Mass, and that personal prayer is a part of his/her life.
- MINIMUM Attendance Rate of 75% required by all Catechism Candidates for Catechism Sessions & all are expected to attend Mass every Sunday & day of Obligation
- For those not in the First Reconciliation group. – the child must attend at last 6 extra lessons- times and dates to be discussed and agreed upon by catechist in consultation with the child and their parents / guardians

### **Requirements of Parents:**

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child should be involved in the preparation for this Sacrament and participate in its actual celebration.
  - The parents are to attend at least two Parent meeting
  - The parents are to attend two workshops with their children
  - The parents are to participate in the retreat day set for their child
- (These sessions offer the opportunity to update their own understanding of the sacrament, as well as materials and ideas for preparing their children for Penance and Reconciliation)



## **Policy for First Communion**

### **Biblical references Holy Communion:**

Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day. For my flesh is real food; my blood is the real drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them." - John 6:53-56

See also Matt 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23: The Lord's Supper - Institution of the Holy Eucharist

See also Luke 24:30-31; 1 Cor 11:23-29

### **Introduction**

*A validly baptised person who is appropriately prepared has a right to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist. The first reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is to be celebrated prior to the reception of First Eucharist.*

### **Requirements of Children:**

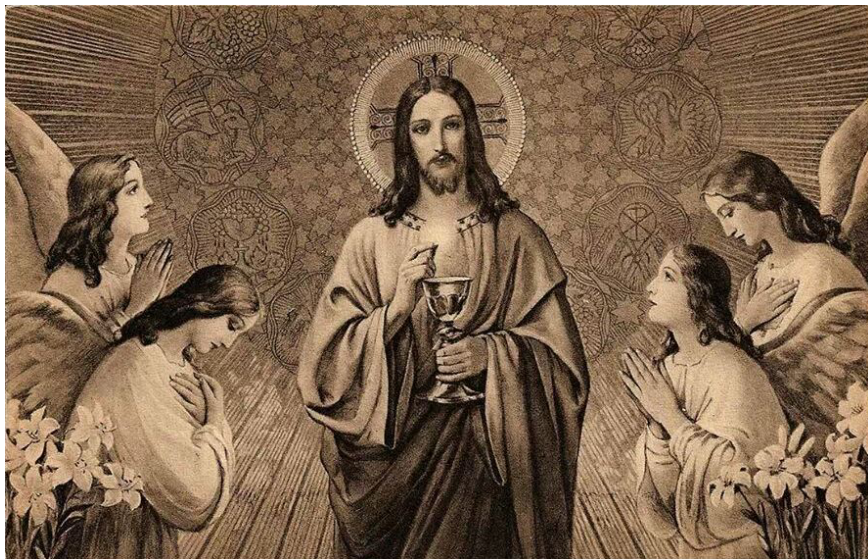
- Copy of Baptism certificate and proof of having received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation/ Red Book
- At least one parent /guardian should be a practicing Catholic
- ***Attended Catechism for at least one full year before they will be accepted into First Holy Communion Group.***
- Parent must register their child for this Sacrament at the beginning of the Catechism year (January)
- If the Child is in Gr 4 / 5 then the child must be registered in the First Communion group. If the child is in a higher grade (6-11) then the child must register for First Communion and must be registered to attend catechism in their normal group for that year.
- By this stage we have a reasonable expectation that the child regularly attends Sunday Mass, and The Sacrament of Reconciliation and that personal prayer is a part of his/her life.
- MINIMUM Attendance Rate of 75% required by all Catechism Candidates for Catechism Sessions & all are expected to attend Mass every Sunday & days of Obligation
- For those not in the First Communion group – the child must attend at least 6 extra sessions – times and dates to be discussed and agreed upon by catechist in consultation with the child and their parents / guardians.
- The Child must be "READY" ready to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist i.e. when the child according to his/her capacity:
- celebrates the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

- Participates actively and consciously in Sunday Liturgy on a regular basis
- Understands that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine
- Understands that the Eucharist is both the commemoration of Christ's last meal with his disciples before he died, and a re-happening of his sacrifice on the Cross for our salvation
- Understands that by sharing in this special meal, we become brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ on earth

## **Requirements of Parents / Guardians**

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child should be involved in the preparation for this Sacrament and participate in its actual celebration.
- The parents are to attend at least two Parent meeting
- The parents are to attend two workshops with their children
- The parents are to participate in the retreat day set for their child

(These sessions offer the opportunity to update their own understanding of the sacrament, as well as materials and ideas for preparing their children for)



## 11. Policy for Confirmation



### **Biblical references Confirmation:**

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had received the word of God, so they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:14-17

See also John 20:22; Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:6; 1 Tim 4:14, 5:22; 2 Tim 1:7

### **Introduction**

*A validly baptized person who is appropriately prepared has a right to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. At the present time, it is recommended that the celebration of Confirmation be in the years of high school preferably their Grade 11 year.*

### **Requirements of Candidates**

- Copy of Baptism certificate and proof of having received the Sacrament of First communion/ Red Book
- Attended Catechism for at least two full years (Grade 8 & 9) with a 75 % attendance (Faith Group 5)
- Parent/Guardian must register their child for this Sacrament at the beginning of the Catechism year (January) the year the child is in Grade 10 (or give written permission that the child may participate in this sacrament)
- By this stage we have a reasonable expectation that the child regularly attends Sunday Mass, and The Sacrament of Reconciliation and that personal prayer is a part of his/her life.
- MINIMUM Attendance Rate of 75% required by all Catechism Candidates for Catechism Sessions & all are expected to attend Mass every Sunday & day of Obligation

The Child must be “READY” to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation i.e. when the child according to his/her capacity has met the requirements of law:

- has been validly baptized and has not been confirmed (Canon 889:1)
- has the use of reason
- has been suitably instructed
- is properly disposed
- is able to renew his/her baptismal promises (Canon 889:2)

The candidate shows evidence of willingness to use the Gifts of the Spirit to:

- bear witness to Christ
- build up the Body of Christ in faith and love (Introduction to the Rite, #2)
- The candidate has met the legitimate requirements of the local parish community:
- has faithfully participated in the catechetical sessions and requirements of the preparation process
- has completed the required interviews (suggested: initial, middle, final)
- has participated in the retreat component of the process
- has completed the “apprenticeship for discipleship” requirements (e.g. service projects, working with an adult in ministry, etc.)
- has demonstrated faithful participation in the liturgical life of the parish

## **Requirements of Parents**

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) and sponsors of the child should be involved in the preparation for this Sacrament and participate in its actual celebration.
- The parents/sponsors are to attend all of Parent meetings called by the team
- The parents are to attend workshops with their children
- The parents are to participate in the retreat day set for their child

(These sessions offer the opportunity to update their own understanding of the sacrament, as well as materials and ideas for preparing their children for)

## **Requirements of Sponsors**

- Each person to be confirmed should have a sponsor. Chosen by the candidate and is to be responsible for the candidate during and after the faith formation process.
- The sponsor need not be of the same sex as the candidate. Ideally, he/she should be a member of the local Catholic community, but cannot be a parent or guardian of the candidate (Canon 874 §1,893).
- The Confirmation sponsor may also have been the baptismal godparent of the candidate. In fact, given all other considerations, the baptismal godparent is the ideal choice for this ministry.

Above all, the sponsor should be a person who is:

- a mature, active member of the Catholic Church & at least 16 years of age [Canon 874 § 1,893]
- free to undertake the responsibilities of being a sponsor (fully initiated)
- reasonably informed and up-to-date in Church teachings
- chosen by the individual candidate in consultation with the parish staff
- willing to accept this ministry knowing full well what it involves
- adequately prepared for this ministry by the parish

The sponsor is expected to:

- journey with the candidate during the different aspects of the parish preparation program
- be a friend and companion to the candidate, helping the candidate integrate the teachings of Jesus into his/her daily living
- minister to the candidate even after the actual celebration of the sacrament

## **14. REGISTRATION:**

1. Parent must complete the following:
  - a. 2020 Catechism Registration form for the appropriate Faith Group.
  - b. Parish update of Personal details form
2. Registration fee: R50 (R200 for Confirmation which covers 18 months (This goes towards photocopying and any other expenses incurred for the sessions during the year)
3. Copy of Baptism certificate and or Red Booklet

## **15. Prayer for Families**

God of tender Love and mercy,  
Thank you for the gift and blessing  
of Christian life and all families.

We trust our families to your constant care and protection.  
Grant us wisdom to see how we can change our home life,  
to become more like that of the Holy family of Nazareth.

Teach us to listen to each other more attentively  
And to be sensitive to each other's needs.

Show us how to care for each other  
and to share our time and all we have generously.

Give us a spirit of patience and understanding.

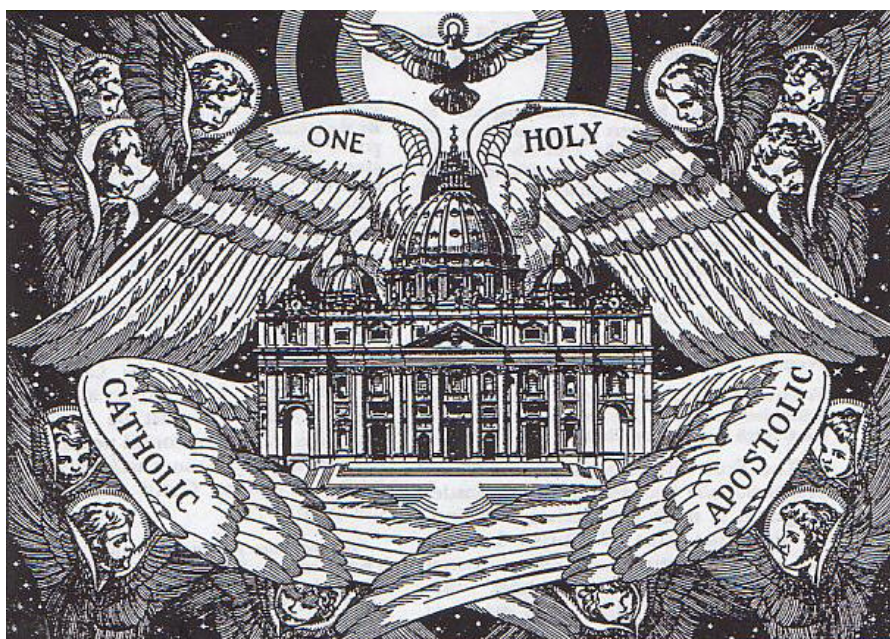
Draw us together in deep bonds  
of friendship, love and care for one another.  
Comfort and strengthen us when we are wearied  
by trials and sorrows.

May the inspiration of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph be in our homes  
bringing light, warmth,  
unity, forgiveness and peace.

May we radiate the joy of Christian family life  
to all who come to our homes.

Bless our hearts and our homes  
now and always.





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**Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church**

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Zibonele Ngubane, O.M.I.

**Deacon:** Allister Glenn (031-2050825)

**Pastoral Assistant:** Raymond Peters [raymondpeters@aod.org.za](mailto:raymondpeters@aod.org.za)

**Office Hours for Administration:**

Monday to Friday 8:00am - 12:30pm & 3:00pm – 5:00pm