



"Drowning of St. Clement" 1725 by Pier Leone Ghezzi (1674/1755) altarpiece for the Clementine Chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter.

ST. CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

PSR

A Community of Spiritual Growth and Formation

PSR, or Parish School of Religion, is a program provided by the parish as an aid to parents in providing systematic religious instruction for children, in grades 1st-8th, who do not attend St. Clement Catholic School. PSR aims not to replace the parents in their role and right to teach the faith, but to cohesively and intimately work with parents in their own spiritual growth and formation *and* the spiritual growth and formation of their children. Our goal is for each member, particularly your child, to grow in intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

1653. The fruitfulness of conjugal love extends to the fruits of the moral, spiritual, and supernatural life that parents hand on to their children by education. Parents are the principal and first educators of their children. In this sense the fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life.

1656. In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. For this reason the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica* (The domestic church). It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and example ...the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children."

2221. The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.

2223. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues.

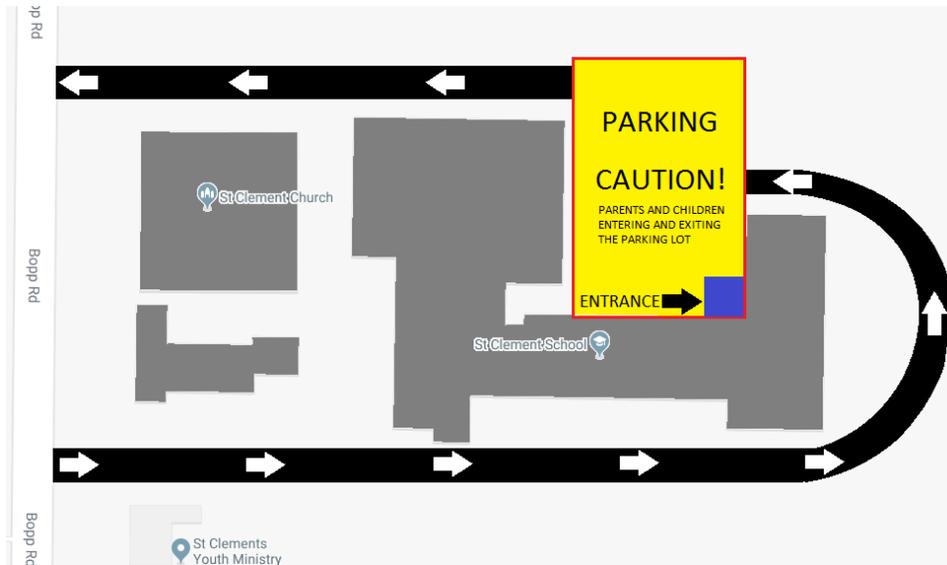
The Church holds in her possession the precious Truths of Christ who revealed them to Her. The parent, who then receives those Truths, hands them on to their children. However, we know that no parent has all the answers and that handing on the faith can be daunting, even humbling at times. PSR aims to assist in revealing and sharing the truths of the faith **not only** with the students but with the **whole family**.

Catechesis not only involves what's being taught in the classroom, but involves the spiritual growth and formation of everyone at PSR (parents, catechists, students), in the home, and in the world. Learning about God and His love never stops, and PSR is where we come together to learn and grow and live it out together. We are so very excited to grow in faith with you, not apart from you, this PSR year! The call to holiness is a call to everyone, let's answer that call together!

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

PSR is Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. Both ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL traffic flow will begin through the Rectory entrance and exit through the Church exit (as seen on the image below and on the Traffic Flow Chart on the Parish website/PSR tab).

The PSR entrance into the building for Parents and Students is located in the back most corner inside the school complex (See the blue square as seen on the image below).



All students should be in the classroom before start time at **6:00pm**. This ensures that our catechists can pass on the faith to the students without interruption and in the time allotted.

PLEASE NOTE: All students must be signed in and signed out of their classroom by their parent or guardian. Because of safety and security concerns, we ask all parents to comply with this policy to the best of their ability. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy please contact the DRE.

Classes end at **7:15pm**. At this time the teachers may open their doors and have you sign your child out of the classroom. This ensures that your child is picked up by the proper parent and/or guardian (as indicated on your registration form) and is safely escorted through the parking lot to your vehicle.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is vital to your student's religious and spiritual formation. Students who miss a class or activity should make up the lesson by contacting the catechist for help and/or materials. If your child will miss a class or activity, please let the catechist or the DRE know so that we can better assist you and your child. The DRE or assistant will be in the school office by 5:45pm every Tuesday if you have any questions or need to report any last-minute absences. Office: 314-822-1903

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the Parish Bulletin and check the PSR tab of the Parish Website for special announcements (<https://stclementcatholicchurch.org/psr>). The majority of PSR correspondence will be electronic, via email/Flocknote. Please let us know as soon as you can if there are any changes to your contact information.

DISCIPLINE

All students are expected to act in a manner that reflects a virtuous Christian life; respecting themselves, their peers, and those hoping to share the joy of the Faith in the classroom. We hope to create an environment that enables every child to learn and grow in the Faith. If a student is unable to behave appropriately and respectfully, he/she will meet with the Director. If further involvement is necessary, parents/guardians will be contacted. Serious matters may be referred to the Pastor.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

When weather becomes inclement, parents/guardians will be notified via email/Flocknote as well as the PSR tab on the parish website.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

As your aids in the spiritual formation of your children, we look to your joyful participation in regards to faith events and devotions that we provide here as well as those you practice at home.

Parents who hope to catechize their children at home please contact the Director for a brief interview and further details. (saintclementdre@gmail.com)

Each person in PSR (parents, students, and catechists) should strive to grow in holiness and intimacy with God. Just as the body becomes weak and frail without nourishment, so too do our souls become weak and frail without the Mass and the Eucharist. We ask everyone to give life to their souls and receive Christ into their very hearts by coming to Him in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays.

All families are invited to special activities during the course of the year to enrich and strengthen your faith, both hosted by PSR as well as those hosted by other parish ministries. Parents of students in the 2nd and 7th grade will be invited to Parent Meetings in preparation to receive the sacraments.

If you feel called to volunteer for PSR, whether it be a catechist or a cookie crafter, please talk to the Director about volunteer opportunities. Those who would like to be a catechist, classroom aid, or a child caretaker must take “Protecting God’s Children” workshop provided by the Archdiocese as well as a background check by the state. Spiritual and professional development and formation will be provided by the PSR team for your growth as a catechist and classroom aid should you feel called to that role.

HOMEWORK

Teachers will assign homework according to their own discretion. This work helps reinforce and support with is being taught in the classroom as well as at home. Please guide your children through the homework and walk with them in their journey of faith as they grow and learn about God's love in class, but most of all by your example and love for them.

LOST AND FOUND

Items that have been lost and found may be turned into the main office. The Director or assistant will store these items in the PSR closet. Please ask one of them to assist you. Also, St. Anthony is magnificent at showing the glory and love of God if you ask him for help. He does answer prayers!

REPORT CARDS

Report cards mark the progress of your child and will be produced three times through the year, at the end of each trimester, and can be picked up from the catechist at dismissal.

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY AND OTHERS

We are stewards of the building so we ask everyone to respect the premises as well as any materials that catechists distribute to the students. Students should come prepared with whatever materials their catechist requires. Students should refrain from chewing gum and wearing hats inside the classroom and any cell phones should be silenced/turned off and put away. If the cell phone becomes a problem, it will be confiscated by the catechist and returned at the end of the class. If there are any extenuating circumstances, please let the catechist or the Director know.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has a special need, please notify the classroom catechist and the Director by email and complete the special needs form. Health and special learning concerns should be brought to our attention and we will do whatever we can to help. Also inform us if your child needs special testing or learns in a particular way. We are here for you and your child so that they can come to know and love and serve God however he/she is able!

TEACHER CONFERENCES

During the mid-year point we will have a teacher's conference before one of the classes. Report cards will be given and discussed at this time. We encourage you to attend so that the catechist can offer insights and answers to any questions you may have. We encourage open communication between the home and the school so feel free to email the catechist any questions, concerns, or compliments!

REGISTRATION & FEE

You can register online on the PSR tab of the parish website (stelementcatholicchurch.org/psr). We ask that you register early so that orders for books and supplies may be placed. Registration is \$125 per child before August 1st. Registrations placed after August first are subject to an additional \$25 late fee. This helps us with ordering books and supplies in a timely manner.

Scholarships are available for those in need of financial assistance.

Towards the end of each registration period you will be invoiced the appropriate amount if you have not paid already. Please pay in a timely fashion as this helps purchase books and supplies in bulk to save us and you money.

Private school students beginning Confirmation prep in January are also required to pay the \$125 fee.

We hope that all students and parents continue their faith formation regardless of grade or state in life. However, it's especially essential that those students entering into a sacramental year (2nd and 7th grade) have attended religious formation the year prior (whether homeschooled, PSR, or the day school).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As the Parish School of Religion we maintain the right to amend policies according to the needs of the program. We also maintain the right to implement or waive consequences according to the discretion of the PSR staff or the Pastor.

STUDENT SAFETY

We take each child's safety very seriously. All Catechists, Classroom Aids, and Child Caretakers must attend or have attended "Protecting God's Children" workshop as well as a background check by the state. Parents who are separated/divorced and possess a custody agreement must provide this record to the Director so that we can ensure the child leaves with the proper parent/guardian. PSR follows the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program Policy, Guidelines and Procedures.

(<http://archstl.org/node/4389294>)