



ST CLEMENT PARISH

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Dear Staff and Families of St Michael Catholic Elementary School,

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we begin a new school year. It is with great pleasure that I write to you as Pastor of St. Clement Parish to introduce a new and exciting monthly focus, 'NextGen Sunday'. This initiative aims at equipping young families to be the next generation of intentional disciples for Christ and His Church.

As educators and parents, you hold such a vital role in modeling and imparting the Faith to our youth. St Clement Parish is here to partner with you and show our support as you navigate the beauty and richness of Catholicism.

We plan to hold 'NextGen Sunday' at the 11am Mass on September 17, October 22, November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18, March 10, May 19, and conclude on June 9. Our dedicated team of educators, musicians and volunteers are working diligently to curate engaging content that will cater to the varying needs of young families within our community.

The 'NextGen Sunday' on October 22, November 19, January 21, February 18th and May 19 will include a Children's Liturgy of the Word using methodology from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is a ministry for children that is based on Scripture and the Sacred Liturgy. It is inspired by the principles of Montessori education and will be an interactive and engaging opportunity for children to explore the Faith in a way that is developmentally appropriate. On September 17, December 17, March 10 and June 9, we will be blessed with the ever-talented Youth Choir, led by Michael Taylor. Let us gather as a local community of faith to celebrate the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life (CCC 1324-1327).

After talking with many good teachers and parents over the years, I know how challenging it is to bring children to Mass and it is such a huge consolation when I see so many beautiful families in the pews who prioritize and make sacrifices to come to Church and I wanted to share my sincere gratitude for your faithfulness. If it has been a while since you have been to Mass, we welcome you with open arms like the Good Shepherd that gathers the lost sheep and leads them to greener pastures. You are a necessary part of the Church and we would love to see you!

Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our parish community. We look forward to embarking on this journey together and witnessing the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on the lives of young families within St. Clement Parish. I am excited about the possibilities that 'NextGen Sunday' holds and eagerly anticipate your invaluable support.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Markus