

**St. Clement of Rome Parish Sacramental Program**

**Parish: A parish comprises all Catholics within a geographical boundary under the care, leadership and administration of a parish priest.**

**Who is the program for?**

St. Clement of Rome Parish Sacramental Program is for all children and families preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian initiation in the Catholic tradition. The children include infants, the students of St. Clement of Rome Primary school and those who attend the After –School Religious Education Program. The sacraments are:

1. Baptism (of infants and young children. Those 15 and older are initiated through the RCIA program)

2. Penance

3. Confirmation

4. First Eucharist

5. Full reception into the Catholic Church (if baptized in another Christian tradition)

**A Family/Community Centred program**

**All sacraments are community celebrations.** We encourage families to engage actively in the life of the parish community and be regular financial contributors to the Parish through the Stewardship Programme.

The Church has always acknowledged that **parents remain the first educators of faith to their children.** The children’s sacramental program aims to supports families in that respect.

**How is the program run?**

**BAPTISM**

**Pre-requisites**

It is a requirement of the church that at least one parent is a baptised Catholic. Parents need to produce documentary proof of their baptism (baptism certificate or confirmation certificate or marriage certificate).

**Schedule for Baptism**:

* **Preparation of Parents**: **Every 3rd Wednesday** of each month from 7 pm to 8 pm:
* **Third Saturday and Sunday** @ **5.30 pm** masses: **Welcoming and anointing**
* **Fourth Saturday/Sunday** @ **5.30 pm** masses: **Baptism during Eucharist** or at 12.30pm on the **fourth** Sunday.

The current parish policy: a Maximum of **four baptisms** **at each service**. Parents may nominate their preference of Mass on a **first-come-first-served basis.**

**For those living outside our parish of St. Clement of Rome:** Please contact your local parish to obtain a letter of permission from the local Parish Priest if you wish your child to be baptised at St. Clement of Rome.

**GODSTART**

**The God Start Program** acknowledges and supports our families’ faith journey. Your child will receive a card on their birthdays together with suggestions for parents to talk to their children about God. We invite you to join us at the Blessing Masses we hold during the year, to meet other young families.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

This program has been developed in line with the current archdiocesan policy and guidelines for the sacramental preparation and initiation of school aged children.

**Families are encouraged to:**

1. Join the community at a weekend Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass with the worshiping community at St. Clement of Rome.
2. Participate in the scheduled family education evenings at the Clifton Centre.
3. Help their child celebrate their first experience of the Sacrament of Penance (formerly known as Confession), Confirmation and First Eucharist and encourage ongoing participation at Eucharist as often as possible.
4. Help their children with their worksheets or home projects and ensure they are completed before attending the next class.
5. Help make sure **children attend all** **classes punctually** and bring their workbooks, worksheets and the appropriate stationery (pens, pencils, craft scissors, glue, felt-tip pens or colouring pencils) for each class.
6. Come to the rehearsals in preparation for each celebration of the sacraments.
7. Refrain from organizing or scheduling holidays during the period when classes are held.

**It is up to the discretion of the parish to recommend if your child is ready to receive the sacraments.**

**Sponsor (Confirmation) or Godparent (Baptism)**

The sponsor or godparents’ role is to support parents and the children in their growing Christian faith.

**Some requirements to keep in mind:**

* Is the person a **Confirmed Catholic**?
* Are they over the age of 18 years?
* Are they a witness to the Christian faith?
* Will they be able to participate in at least some of the program as well as the celebration?
* Will they continue to be a part of your child's life as they grow up?

**Registration:**

Parents wishing to enrol their children for the different sacraments please:

* contact the Parish Office to obtain enrolment forms or
* download the relevant forms from the parish website.

Please forward you:

* Your baptism certificate (Baptism)
* Your child’s Baptism Certificate (Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist)
* Enrolment Form
* Financial Contribution

to the Parish Office by the dates listed with their corresponding Sacrament.

Completed forms are to be returned as soon as the decision is made for the child to receive the relevant sacrament before the commencement of the program.

**No enrolments will be accepted** once classes for the after-school preparation of the sacraments begin. This is to ensure a thorough preparation of the children before reception of the sacraments.

**Financial Contribution**:

Baptism: $150 (includes the stole and candle)

Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation: $150

These are for administrative and other peripheral costs in relation to the preparation and celebration of each sacrament.

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Ct/Sacramental Program Guidelines and Forms