

ST. CLEMENT OF ROME CATHOLIC CHURCH

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August 30, 2019

St. Clement of Rome
1510 Bopp Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

Dear St. Clement of Rome,

Change is in the air. Summer is coming to an end and we anticipate the beauty of the coming autumn. With change comes opportunity to reflect on the past and prepare for the future.

I'm inviting you to a special opportunity to help shape the future of St. Clement of Rome as we too change. "Strategic Planning" is essential in any well-run organization. I've seen the benefits of this approach in the Seminary, the military, and parishes where I have served. This involves parishioners articulating where we are as a parish and how we can become stronger, even better. For parishes, this process is called Pastoral Planning and it begins with a **Visioning Day**. It's an initial gathering for all parishioners to help develop the goals and desires of the Parish.

Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. has been set for this purpose. During this gathering you will have the chance to give input into the direction of the future course of our Parish. The focus areas covered are not a mystery, they include: *Liturgy, Formation and Education, Social and Service, and Administration* (resources/facilities). Mr. Vince Estrada, a faithful parishioner of Incarnate Word Parish and a worldwide business, philanthropic, and parish consultant, has offered his expertise free of charge.

A few explanation points seem important:

- This is NOT a directive from the Archdiocese! Rather it has been recommended by our own parishioners and supported by our Parish Council.
- This is not being undertaken because we are in a crisis mode. In fact, just the opposite is true! We are a strong parish in good standing, making it the perfect time to capitalize on our strengths and to build an even stronger future. *"If one fails to plan, one plans to fail."*
- An outcome to this planning is NOT predetermined. We need your input, your hopes and desires for the future of St. Clement of Rome, our parish. I am convinced that *anything I can do, we can do better.*

Anyone who wishes to contribute input to guide the future direction of our parish and community, **this is your opportunity!** I ask that you prayerfully, seriously consider joining in with other parishioners as we begin this exciting process of planning our future. **Visioning Day** may well be the most important day in planning for the future of our Parish, our communities and our families. **Plan to join us on Saturday, October 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Center as we chart our tomorrow.** A light lunch will be provided.

For planning purposes, we ask that you pre-register on our parish website, stclementcatholicchurch.org. Look for the **VISIONING DAY** link on the home page or type <https://bit.ly/2Zj7NM9> into your browser. We are clearing all other parish events for that day, so many parishioners will attend. I pray you might consider doing the same as together we plan for a stronger tomorrow.

Pax Tecum,



Msgr. Michael Butler