

## GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IN OUR CHURCH

### The Sanctifying Role of the Church

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source, and it is the offer of salvation for all people. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of his/her parents, of his/her godparents and of the Church.

### PRACTICE IN THE PARISH

#### PREPARATION FOR THE PRE-BAPTISM COURSE

- The catechesis is conducted in four sessions.
- Enroll for the pre-baptism course in the Church office on a weekday.
- The pre-baptismal course is arranged by our parish in the months of January, April, July and October.
- The parents (both husband and wife) have to attend the course. Couples can attend this programme from the fourth month of pregnancy onwards.
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- Godparents to attend third session.

#### PREPARATION FOR THE DAY OF BAPTISM

- Baptisms are administered on every Sunday after the 10.30 am Mass in the Church.
- Register in the Church office with the Certificate received on completion of the rebaptism course.

- Carry along your Marriage Certificate (IMP).
- Ensure to be present 15 minutes before the Mass begins.
- Do not Dress the child in the Baptismal robe of Christ. Wear a simple light dress on your baby.
- Carry along a candle for Baptism.
- Ensure that the parents and God parents are not involved in the photography for the ceremony of Baptism.
- The photographers should not stand on the sacred Altar and not move around the Altar to disturb and disrespect the Eucharist.
- After the Baptism Mass do not keep your baby on the Altar as it is the sacrificial table. We, as parents, will not want to sacrifice our child; so kindly avoid.

