



GUIDELINES for BAPTISM at MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH

- ❖ We welcome your child to be baptized at Mater Dolorosa Church. Parents should contact Fran Lidwell in the Parish Center at least three months prior to the desired date of baptism in order to allow sufficient time for the sacramental preparation, and to gather paperwork.
- ❖ When you contact the Parish Center, we will gather the necessary information **PRIOR** to the sacrament. We will require a copy of your child's birth certificate.
- ❖ Both parents and godparents are required to attend a pre-Baptism Class **PRIOR** to the date of the baptism, which is held on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in our school. The class can be conducted in Spanish, if necessary, by arrangement. Please call the Parish Center to register for the class. If the godparents would like to take the class at their parish, we require a certificate of completion. If you have taken a Baptism Class within two years, that is acceptable and you do not need to repeat the class.
- ❖ At least one godparent must be a practicing Catholic. We will require a letter from the pastor of the godparent's parish, called a "Permission Letter". The second godparent can be a Christian. If you have more than two godparents, please know that only two names will be placed on the baptismal certificate and will be recorded in the child's Church Record. Others will be considered Christian Witnesses.
- ❖ Please be prepared to offer a minimum donation of \$100.00 **before** the date of your baptism, in order to focus your attention on the blessed event. In addition, it is customary to donate a stipend to the minister after the ceremony. If the donation is a hardship for your family, please let Fran know and arrangements will be made. The baptism is more important than the donation.
- ❖ Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Please discuss any special circumstances with Fran or Father Roland.