



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

February 26, 2020
Ash Wednesday

“Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” Mt. 19:14

Dear Brother Priests,

Baptism marks the beginning of our journey of faith and gives witness to the freely given grace of salvation. Families embark on this journey accompanied by their pastor, members of the local parish, and the whole ecclesial community.

In promulgating these Sacramental Guidelines for Infant Baptism today, I offer direction to parish communities in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. These Guidelines become normative for the Archdiocese of San Antonio effective Ash Wednesday, 2020. The Guidelines include sections regarding Parents, Godparents, the Parish, Preparation and Catechesis, as well as the Liturgical Celebration. A sample parish baptismal policy and registration form is provided in the Appendix.

As Pope Francis taught at the General Audience initiating his catechesis, *Baptism: The basis of Christian life*, “The baptismal font illuminates all of our life, guiding our steps toward the Jerusalem in Heaven ... even children, from antiquity onwards are baptized into the faith of their parents. Immersing us in Christ, baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world.”

May these Guidelines help us accompany the People of God with love and care as we celebrate the mysteries of our faith.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio