

PARENTS

Canon 867 and 878 of the code of Canon Law requires that parents have their child baptized as soon as possible after birth and be themselves duly prepared for it. For an infant to be baptized lawfully it is required that parents give their consent and that there be a well-founded hope that the child be brought up in the Catholic religion.

GODPARENTS

Canon 872 and 874 of the code of Canon Law lists these requirements for valid and lawful sponsorship in Baptism. Canon 873 states one sponsor, male or female, is sufficient, but there may be two, one of each sex.

The sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation. In the case of an infant baptism, the role is, together with the parents, to present the child for baptism and to help it to live a Christian life befitting the baptized.

A Godparent must submit a *letter of eligibility* from his/her pastor attesting that he/she meets the following requirements:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility
2. Must have received the three sacraments of initiation, namely Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
3. Must be not less than 16 years of age
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sundays, receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. (This would indicate that Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage or those living together without marriage are excluded from being lawful sponsors)
6. Must not be the father or mother of the one baptized.

GODPARENT BY PROXY

If the godparent cannot be present in person, he/she may appoint another person to represent him/her. This is usually done by letter which would contain a statement of the acceptance of the responsibilities by the sponsor and the appointment by name of the proxy. Requirements for proxy are the same as listed above for a godparent.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

A baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism. A letter of recommendation from his/her pastor should be obtained.

ORIENTAL (ORTHODOX)

According to the Directory of Ecumenism, for a just cause, it is permissible that a member of a separated Oriental (Orthodox) Church act as sponsor, together with a Catholic godparent so long as there is provision for the Catholic education of the person being baptized, and it is clear that the godparent is a suitable one. A letter of recommendation from his/her pastor should be obtained.

HOLY TRINITY PARISH
5718 STREUBENVILLE PIKE,
MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136-1311
412-787-2140

Preliminary Record Baptism

Date & Time of Baptism _____

Child's Name _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Family Name)

Date of Birth _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____

Place of Birth _____ (Hospital) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Father's Name _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Family Name)

Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (MAIDEN Name)

Mother's Religion _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Godfather's Name _____

Parish of Godfather _____

Godmother's Name _____

Parish of Godmother _____

Was Child baptized privately? _____ Were parents married by a priest? _____

Are parents registered in Holy Trinity Parish? _____

Parents must have attended Pre-Baptism Instructions within 5 years?

Have you attended? YES _____ NO _____ Date _____

Please Read Reverse Side