



HOLY FAMILY

7321 BURKITTVILLE ROAD + MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND 21769

301.473.4800 • Fax: 301.371.6810 • www.hfccmd.org

BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return this form, preferably before the baby has been born. You will be contacted by the Baptism Coordinator to schedule the Baptism. If this is your first Baptism at Holy Family Catholic Community, a Baptism prep class will be scheduled. If this is your first child, a meeting with the pastor will be scheduled as well. **A copy of the child's birth certificate and Godparent forms must be provided no later than 3 weeks prior to the Baptism. Delay in submitting the paperwork can result in rescheduling the baptism.** For more information, please see our parish website.

(please type or print all information)

Child's Date of Birth or Due date _____

Child's Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Child's Gender Male Female

City and State of Birth _____

Copy of birth certificate Enclosed will be submitted at a later date

Has the baby previously been baptized either at home or at another Church? Yes No

Father's Name (First, Middle, Last) _____ Goes by: _____

Mother's Name (First, Middle, Maiden, Last) _____ Goes by: _____

Father's Religion _____ Mother's Religion _____

Relationship Status Married Engaged Single

If married, was it by a priest or a deacon? Yes No No, but with dispensation

Registered members of Holy Family Catholic Community? Yes No

Previous baptism at Holy Family? Yes - Year _____ No

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Email address _____

Godfather's Name _____ Religion _____

Godmother's Name _____ Religion _____

(Godparent information and forms can be submitted at a later date; please refer to our website at www.hfccmd.org under Sacrament Prep for information on choosing godparents. Eligibility requirements for godparents are listed on page 2.

Godparent forms must be signed and sealed by the parish of registration and must be submitted at least 3 weeks before the baptism.

Please provide a phone number and preferred day and time that you can be reached Monday – Friday between the hours of 9 and 4. _____

Other pertinent information: _____

Eligibility requirements for Godparents

The decision as to who should be a Godparent should be based upon who would provide the best example of Catholic living for the child and is chosen for the well-being and faith development of the child. In order to be a Godparent for Baptism, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- They must be at least sixteen years of age and mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
- They must be Catholics who have received the three sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- They must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church
(i.e. attends Mass on a weekly basis, regularly celebrates the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation; if married, lives in a valid Catholic marriage; and makes a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation)
- They must be someone besides the child's parents.
- They must be registered in a Catholic parish

Only one Godparent is required by Church law. This Godparent may be a man or a woman. However, if two Godparents are selected (the more common practice), then there must be one man and one woman chosen.

Christian Witness

While it is ideal that the parents select two Catholic godparents, the Church only *requires* that there be one godparent. A baptized non-Catholic may serve as a "witness" to the ceremony, as long as a Catholic godparent is present. The non-Catholic who is selected as a witness should be an active and participating member of his/her Christian community who makes a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation.

When Catholics do not meet the qualifications to serve as a godparent, we are often asked if a Catholic can be allowed to serve as a "Christian witness". "Christian witness" is a term that is described in canon law as "*A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community...*". Therefore, a Catholic who does not meet the requirements to serve as a godparent cannot serve as a Christian witness.