



St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church, New Brunswick, NJ

St. Theresa Church, Edison, NJ

REGISTRATION FOR BAPTISM

NAME OF CHILD _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

RESIDENCE _____

TELEPHONE _____ () _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

_____ BOY / _____ GIRL

PLACE OF BIRTH _____
(City) (State)

DATE OF BAPTISM _____

FATHER'S FULL NAME _____

FATHER'S RELIGION _____

FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH _____

MOTHER'S FULL NAME _____
(First) (Maiden)

MOTHER'S RELIGION _____

MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH _____

ARE PARENTS MARRIED? _____ PARENTS MARRIED BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST? _____

GODFATHER'S NAME _____

IS GODFATHER CATHOLIC? _____ NAME OF HIS PARISH & TOWN _____

GODMOTHER'S NAME _____

IS GODMOTHER CATHOLIC? _____ NAME OF HER PARISH & TOWN _____

WAS THE CHILD PRIVATELY BAPTIZED? _____

IF SO, WHEN AND WHERE _____

PLEASE NOTE:
COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE
MUST BE ATTACHED WHEN
SUBMITTING APPLICATION.



PLEASE NOTE:

Parents must show proof of having attended Baptismal Preparation Class (letter or certification)

Sponsors from another parish must have a letter from their priest stating that they are practicing Catholics who attend church regularly.

Sponsors who are registered parishioners of St. Mary's must see Fr. Santa Barbara.

Sponsors must be at least 14 years of age, have received the sacrament of Confirmation, and, if married, be in a valid marriage. This means the marriage took place in the presence of a Catholic priest.

If one of your sponsors is NOT CATHOLIC, you MUST SEE Fr. Santa Barbara.

Call the Parish Office to confirm availability of your selected baptismal date! (732-545-5090)

BAPTISMS ARE ADMINISTERED SUNDAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 11:30 AM Mass.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH SPONSOR LETTERS 3-4 WEEKS BEFORE BAPTISM!



The GodParents of Your Child ... Being a Godparent is a privilege and an honor. Parents should carefully discuss and pray together about their choice of persons to serve in this role. It is not a matter to consider lightly. There are many wrong reasons for choosing someone to be a Godparent. Unfortunately, in this day and age, choosing a person to be a Godparent has become more of a social honor we give someone, without thinking about the person's faith life.

One should not be chosen simply because he or she is a nice person, or because they are a brother or sister, or because "it is their turn to be a Godparent." A person should first be chosen because they *practice their faith and live it out*. That does not mean that the only person who could be a Godparent is a "saint." It must be a person who, given his or her circumstances in life, really lives as a good Catholic Christian. That means the person must attend church with some regularity. He or she must be a person whose *faith life* and *practice* is something the child they are Godparents for would want to imitate.

There is, at times, some confusion as to who can serve as Godparent. Canon Law requires that, if there are two godparents, they must be one of *each sex*. You cannot have two female godparents, nor two male godparents. At least one Godparent must have received all three of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. Secondly, the person must be at least 14 years of age for the Diocese of Metuchen. A person who is divorced and remarried *outside of the Church* (this means by a Mayor, a non-denominational Minister, etc.) is not free to be a Godparent. Nor is someone who has only been married once but has done so outside of the Church without permission/dispensation from the Church for a Canonical reason (not simply because they wanted to get married in a restaurant, park, etc). This is not simply a rule of St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church ... this is the rule of the Catholic Church. The reason for this rule is that in both cases, the person is not free to receive the Holy Eucharist. However, if the person is simply divorced and not living with someone and has not remarried outside the Church, they *may* serve as a Godparent.

We require that *Catholics* of another parish, serving as Godparents here, provide a letter from their parish saying that they are eligible to serve as a Godparent. In recent years, the Church has allowed non-Catholics who are *Baptized* Christians to serve as Baptismal *witnesses*. Technically, they are not listed as Godparents; they are Christian Witnesses. At St. Mary OMV, we gladly welcome a member of a Protestant denomination to serve as a Christian witness provided they have been Baptized and can provide a letter from their church stating that they do practice their Christian faith. In this case, the Church requires that the other Godparent be a member of the Catholic Church in full and good standing.

When the Catholic party is asked to provide a letter of sponsorship from his/her parish, it does not mean a copy of their Baptismal Certificate. It means a letter from the church they are registered in, attend Mass in and receive the Sacraments in on a *regular* basis stating these facts. Before you ask someone to be a Godparent, consider if they do or do not really attend Mass, are registered, and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion regularly.

We hope that this information helps you to understand the qualifications of Godparents. Please think this over *carefully* and discuss the rules of the Church with your spouse. Make sure that the person you are planning to ask can fulfill the requirements of the Church. If you do not think these things through carefully, you may place yourself in the embarrassing situation of having to withdraw the invitation to be a Godparents from someone who is not qualified.

The above rules apply to those invited to serve as Sponsors for Confirmation, as well. Please do not ask for a letter of sponsorship if you know you do not fulfill the requirements. If you have any questions, please see Father Bob personally. God bless you!

Fr. Bob Santa Barbara
Pastor, St. Mary of Mount Virgin