

ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Godparent Registration Form

Dear Godparent,

When a parent chooses you as a godparent that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or friendship rewards. The call to be a godparent bears the responsibility of giving a spiritual witness to your godchild of how to live out the Catholic faith in every day of life. As a confirmed, adult Catholic, you are a guide and model of how a mature Catholic ought to live. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living the Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to parents who commit themselves, in Baptism to faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as a godparent. If you are unable to live up to Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

REQUIREMENTS:

The Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law lists these requirements for a person to be a valid and lawful godparent in Baptism:

- Canon 872 - The godparent's role with the parents is to present the infant for the sacrament of Baptism and help the child live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.
- Canon 873 – There may be only one male godparent or one female godparent or one of each.
- Canon 874

§1 To be permitted to take on the function of godparent a person must:

1. Be designated by the parent and must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility;
2. Be at least 16 years of age;
3. Have received the three sacraments of initiation namely Baptism, Eucharist and **Confirmation** and live a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared by the Church;
5. Must not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized;

§2 A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic Christian community may not be admitted as a godparent but as a witness to the Baptism together with a Catholic godparent.

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic life and education. This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond. There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to our godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life, and keep your self-informed on the Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events...Christmas, Easter...and personal growth events...graduation, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED GODPARENT REGISTRATION FORM ALONG WITH THE GODPARENT TESTIMONIAL FORM AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY TO ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH.



ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 Division Street · Metairie, Louisiana 70001
Phone (504) 834-4980 · Fax (504) 831-5810
Email: stbenildechurch@cox.net · Website: www.stbenilde.org

Name of child to be baptized: _____ Today's Date: _____
First Middle Last

The Sponsor's role is to be a good example of Christian faith for the child being baptized. Together with the parent, the Sponsor (godparent) presents the child for the Sacrament and helps guide them to live a life of holiness. Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of our Catholic Faith, a lifestyle that proclaims the truth, and sense of responsibility toward the young person being baptized.

Sponsor/Godparent's Information

Please print

First Middle / Maiden Last name Suffix

Sponsor's Mailing Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Canon 874 and 892 of the Code of Canon Law lists these requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Baptism.

A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Catholic faith. When and where did you receive the three Sacraments of Initiation? (Fill in below.) If unsure a ***Certificate of Baptism*** can be requested from your church of baptism and will include all the sacraments listed below.

• **Baptism:**

Church: _____ City/State: _____

• **1st Communion:**

Church: _____ City/State: _____

• **Confirmation**

Church: _____ City/State: _____

Remember, a Catholic sponsor MUST be 16 years of age and Confirmed.

Are you 16 years old or older? Yes [] No []

Are you Confirmed? Yes [] No []

A sponsor must be canonically free to carry out this office. This means that Catholics in an invalid marriage (not according to Catholic Church regulations) and those that are cohabitating (living together without marriage) **cannot serve as a sponsor.** ***As a reminder, a Catholic must be married by a priest or deacon. A Catholic not married by a priest or deacon (i.e. civil ceremony) cannot serve as a sponsor unless your marriage has been Convalidated.***

Place of Marriage:

Location (church/other): _____

City/State: _____ Date of Marriage: _____

Marriage performed by:

Priest [] Deacon [] Minister [] Judge [] Justice of the Peace [] Not Married []

If not married within the regulations of the Church, has your marriage been Convalidated? Yes ___ No ___

A sponsor must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church? Yes [] No []

Sponsor's Church Attendance:

Religion: _____

Weekly [] Monthly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Name of church you now attend: _____

Address of Church: _____ City/State: _____ Zip _____

Pastor's Name: _____ Phone number (____) _____

In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the baptismal seminar is required for first-time godparents.

Have you previously attended a baptismal seminar at St. Benilde Church or another Catholic Church? yes ___ no ___

A sponsor must NOT be the father, mother, step-parent or custodial guardian of the one to be baptized. What is your relationship to this child (ie: grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend, etc.)?

Signature of Godparent / Christian Witness: _____

Please remember that the GODPARENT TESTIMONIAL FORM must be completed and signed in the presence of a priest or deacon and returned with this form.

Revised 11-2014



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Proposed Date of Baptism _____

Criteria to Serve as a Godparent for Baptism

- 1. Must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices their Catholic faith;**
- 2. Must be at least sixteen years of age;**
- 3. If married, a Catholic priest or deacon must have married them. They may not be cohabiting, or living together without marriage.**
- 4. If not accomplished yet, will also attend a Baptismal Seminar in preparation for this Baptism.**

By signing below, the proposed Godparent solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria and that he or she meets the above criteria to serve as a Godparent for Baptism.

Godparent's Signature: _____

Godparent's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Priest/Deacon Receiving Testimony