

BAPTISMAL SPONSOR CERTIFICATE



For baptismal sponsors who are not members of Saint Stephen Parish, please:

1. Fill out the top portion of the certificate
2. Carefully read the affirmations
3. Have your Faith Community's priest/pastor witness your signature
4. Emboss the Seal of the Faith Community
5. Return this form to Saint Stephen Parish at least 3 weeks before the baptism

Name of Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Person to be Baptized _____ Date _____

I am a registered and participating member of _____

Church in (city) _____ State _____

Godparents

I affirm that:

- I have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- I regularly participate in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by regularly receiving the Eucharist.

Godparents and Christian Witnesses

- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life.

Sponsor _____

Priest/Pastor _____

Faith Community _____ Seal

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR BAPTISMAL SPONSORS TO BE REGISTERED IN A FAITH COMMUNITY?

Roman Catholic Godparents

Canon Law tells us that to be a sponsor (Godparent) it is necessary, in part, to be sixteen years old, be Catholic, fully initiated (having celebrated baptism, confirmation, Eucharist) and *living a life of faith which gives witness to this initiation*. (#874) Godparents, please supply a copy of your Confirmation Certificate.

For Roman Catholics, the parish offers stability for our regular celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus began his Church by forming a community of men and women to whom he handed over the faith. He built his Church on this community of apostles and disciples. The early Church understood the importance of community life and the Faith spread because the Apostles and St. Paul formed communities (churches) in various cities. The early Church knew that community was essential. Parish membership is one of the major indications that we take our faith life seriously. We need the community of believers to support and nourish our faith life. If we say we don't need a faith community to be Catholic, we deny the foundation on which the Church was built. How can we today, sustain our Catholicism apart from the parish community? What then gives us nourishment? How then do we continue to learn about our faith? Where is our stability? The Church does not exist apart from parish life. It is parish life.

Baptized Christian Witnesses

For baptized Christians who will be Christian Witnesses, if we are not registered at a congregation of our Christian faith, we are disconnected from the regular faith life of the church. If we are disconnected from our church's faith life, then to what do we witness? How then can we give proper example to the child we are supposed to be sponsoring? Christian Witnesses, please supply a copy of your Baptismal Certificate.

WHAT IF I DON'T BELONG TO A FAITH COMMUNITY NOW?

You may take this opportunity to register at the faith community where you attend. If the priest or pastor is familiar with your attendance and participation, he/she may be willing to sign and seal the Sponsor Certificate. If you have very recently changed locations, you may wish to contact your former parish or congregation and have that priest or pastor sign your certificate. At the same time you'll want to establish a membership at your new location.



Saint Stephen Catholic Community
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