

## **GODPARENT/SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM**

Dear Godparent/Sponsor,

An invitation to serve as godparent or sponsor is an honor and a very special privilege! With this privilege comes great responsibility. Ideally, parents do not choose godparents/sponsors merely because of family ties or close friendships: They choose godparents or sponsors who are good role models for their child, who are already devoted to living our Catholic Faith, and who commit to assisting parents educate and raise their child in the Catholic Faith. Likewise, the role of a sponsor also leads those being Confirmed into a deepened life of Faith. Godparents or sponsors are faithful to God's Law, active in parish life, participate in weekly Mass, and strive to live the Gospel at all times. Through example and involvement in the spiritual life of their godchild/candidate, godparents offer tremendous support to parents, who commit themselves through baptism to faithfully pass the Catholic Faith on to their child. It is of greatest importance that godparents understand their role and responsibility, prayerfully consider their ability to faithfully fulfill their role, and discern whether to accept or decline the invitation to serve as godparent or sponsor.

### **CHURCH REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS ACCORDING TO CANON LAW:**

- \* Canon 872: The godparent's role with the parents is to present the infant for the Sacrament of Baptism and help the child/person to 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: 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 Sacraments of 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;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.

### **A NOTE TO GODPARENTS & SPONSORS:**

Being a godparent or sponsor invites you into a person's life in special ways. There is great opportunity to develop a mutually-enriching spiritual relationship that lasts throughout this life and beyond! There are many ways to nurture this relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Some ideas are suggested below, but there are many more. Be creative!

- \* Celebrate the anniversary of the holy day of your godchild's Baptism each year with a visit, a phone call or a card.
- \* As your godchild grows, listen to questions and concerns. Share in their struggles and triumphs of living a Catholic Christian life.
- \* Keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to lend understanding or answer questions that may arise.
- \* Encourage a consistent faith life through special cards, letters, or gifts which celebrate holy events (Christmas, Easter, etc.) or personal events (graduation, first job, Driver License, engagement, etc.)
- \* Participate in the celebration of other Sacraments your godchild receives, particularly First Holy Communion and Confirmation, which complete Christian Initiation into the Church community.
- \* Send frequent "thinking of you & praying for you" note and messages.
- \* Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as primary religious educators.
- \* Most importantly, be a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

**By sharing a Catholic Christian life together, you and your godchild can help each other experience the great joy of living as disciples of Christ.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED GODPARENT REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH OFFICE.**

## GODPARENT/SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT

Name of Candidate for Baptism/Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Sacrament: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Church where Sacrament will be conferred: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Godparent/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Godfather ☐ Godmother ☐ Sponsor

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parishioner of Holy Family: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If no: Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I acknowledge** that to serve as a Godparent or Sponsor I must meet the following criteria.

**Please check all affirmations that apply to you:**

- ☐ **I am** at least sixteen years of age.
- ☐ **I am** a Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
- ☐ **I participate** in Sunday Mass regularly.
- ☐ **I am** single (never been married).
- ☐ **I am** in a valid Catholic marriage, celebrated sacramentally in the Catholic Church.
- ☐ **I shall** give Christian witness to and pray for the person I am sponsoring.
- ☐ **I understand** the responsibility I am undertaking and have both the desire and intention to fulfill it faithfully.

I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### TO BE COMPLETED BY HOME PARISH OFFICE OF GODPARENT/SPONSOR:

To the best of my knowledge, this person named above is able to faithfully fulfill the responsibilities involved in sponsoring the Catholic initiation of another.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name of Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish  
Seal