

BAPTISM APPLICATION

Name of Child.....
Last First Middle

Date of Birth.....Place of Birth.....

Home Address.....
Number Street (Apt. No) City/Town Zip

Home Telephone Number.....

Father's First & Last Name.....Religion.....

Mother's First & Maiden Last Name.....Religion.....

Church and Place of Marriage.....

Was the Child Previously Baptized?.....Was the Child Adopted?.....
A special authorization needed for Baptism of an adopted child.

Godfather's Name.....Religion.....

Godmother's Name.....Religion.....

Is either Godparent represented by Proxy?.....Which one?.....

CHURCH LAW requires that a candidate for baptism for membership in the Church community should be sponsored by a baptized and confirmed member of the Catholic Church who is willing and able to help the child develop and grow in the Catholic Faith. There must be at least one sponsor or godparent. In the case where there are two sponsors, one must be male and the other female. The maximum number of sponsors is two. The minimum age for a baptized and confirmed Catholic to be a sponsor is sixteen (16) years of age. A baptized Christian non-Catholic may not be a sponsor, but may act as a witness. Non-baptized persons may not officially act as a sponsor or a witness to a Baptism of a child in the Catholic Faith.

Name of Person Who Filled Out this Form.....

Date of Preparation Class.....Date of Baptism.....
Parents are required to fulfill the parish program concerning the preparation for Baptism.

Remarks:

Name of Priest.....

The Requirements of Sponsor

The role of *sponsor* is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the *sponsor* as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction. Because of the seriousness of this ministry, the Church has the following requirements:

- The sponsor must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
 - In this case, the Catholic who is younger than 16 must be fully initiated.
- The sponsor must have an active life of faith in the Church and provide good example.
 - Someone married outside the Church is not able to receive Communion and is not able to be a sponsor.
 - Also, a Catholic who has left the Church is not able to be a sponsor of a new member into the Church.
 - Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor, and cannot be a "Christian witness" if they join another Christian communion.
- The sponsor cannot be either parent.
- When there are two sponsors, they are "spiritual parents" and are to be a godfather and godmother.

Christian Witness - (A baptized non-Catholic Christian)

Provided there is one Catholic sponsor, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may serve as a Christian witness for Baptism only. This person is a *Christian witness* and not a *sponsor*.

- Requirements to be a Christian Witness:
 - at least sixteen years old
 - a validly baptized Christian
 - living an upright life
 - cannot be either parent
 - cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church
- A Christian witness may never be a non-baptized person. For example, Jewish or Muslim godparents are not permitted by universal church law.
- The notation "Christian witness" is placed under the name of the non-Catholic Christian witness in the baptismal register.

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR FOR SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Sponsors serve an important function for those receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Sponsors are not honorary titles; rather, they are fully initiated Catholics who actively support the newly baptized and confirmed by giving good example and instruction in the life of the Catholic faith.

Given the seriousness of the role a sponsor plays in the life of a newly baptized or confirmed Catholic, the ecclesial laws of the Church require that specific qualifications be met. As a potential sponsor, please provide the information requested below:

Baptism or Confirmation? Baptism Confirmation Date of Sacrament: _____

<i>Sponsor Information</i>
Sponsor's Name:
Sponsor's Address:
City, State, Zip:
Sponsor's Phone:
Sponsor's Email:
Name of Sponsor's Parish:
Address of Sponsor's Parish:
Name of Baptism/Confirmation Candidate:
Relationship to the Sponsor:
Name of Church where the Sacrament will be celebrated:
Address where the Sacrament will be celebrated:

Please affirm the following canonical requirements necessary to be a sponsor by acknowledging each statement as true with your initials:

	I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion (<i>please provide copies of the sacramental certificates</i>).
	I am currently an active, practicing Catholic.
	I will be at least sixteen years of age when the Sacrament is celebrated (<i>If not, please ask your pastor to seek a dispensation from the Chancellor's Office</i>).
	I am free from all canonical sanctions (<i>such as excommunication, apostacy, or schism</i>).
	I am not the biological father or biological mother of the candidate.
	I am currently living a life of faith that is in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church and befits the role I will undertake as sponsor.
	For Married Catholics: I am validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear before Almighty God that I fulfill all of the requirements described above, and I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Roman Catholic Church.

Signature of Intended Sponsor

Date

PLEASE RETAIN THIS DOCUMENT WITH THE PARISH FILE - DO NOT RETURN TO DIOCESAN OFFICES

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