

Instructions for Completing the Godparent Testimonial Form

INTRODUCTION:

The godparent is a most important person in the life of an infant, child or adult who is to be baptized. The godparent is:

1) a spiritual role model, 2) an example of the Christian life and 3) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which an infant/child/adult is being baptized.

Because of these three responsibilities, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. Each godparent is asked to complete the second page of this form according to these instructions.

NOTE ABOUT PROXIES: A godparent is not required to be present for a baptism. When a godparent cannot be present, a Catholic parent or the candidate him/herself may ask someone to stand in as a proxy for the godparent as long as the proxy is not one of the parents.

B. THE QUESTIONS:

1. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION: A godparent must be a Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. A Christian of another denomination whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic alongside a Catholic godparent. Christians whose baptism are not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.

2. MINIMUM AGE: A godparent must generally be 16 years old by the date of the baptism. For exceptions, see a Catholic priest or the minister who will celebrate the baptism.

3. SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

4. FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS: The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.

6. MARITAL STATUS: A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a non-Catholic ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in a second marriage must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. A Catholic presently in a civil or common law marriage is not eligible to serve as a godparent.

7. UNMARRIED STATUS: If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.

C. SIGNING AND RETURNING THE FORM:

Bring the completed but **UNSIGNED** form to a Catholic Church and ask a priest, deacon or pastoral minister of that parish to witness your signing the document. This witness must then sign the document and place the parish seal on it. Please return the signed and sealed document to the person in charge of baptismal preparation at the parish no less than 5 days before the date of baptism. Forms may be e-mailed but the original must be brought to the church before or on the day of the baptism in order for the godparent to serve.



Baptism Sponsor/Godparent Testimonial

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502

Godparent's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Name of child to be baptized: _____

Baptism date: _____

Will the Baptism be celebrated at St. Mary Magdalene? YES / NO

As a practicing member of _____, I hereby affirm that:
(Name of Godparent's Parish)

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ I am a Catholic 16 years of age or older;
- ☐ ☐ I have received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church;
- ☐ ☐ I regularly participate in the Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by regularly receiving Him in Holy Communion;
- ☐ ☐ I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the community life of the Church by my loving response to those with whom I come in contact daily;
- ☐ ☐ I will support the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the example of my daily life.
- ☐ ☐ **If married:** My present marriage was celebrated in the Catholic Church and officiated by a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon; or, if celebrated outside of a Catholic Church, was performed with the written permission of a Catholic bishop. (If not, please provide a written explanation.)
- ☐ ☐ **If unmarried:** I am not living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple.

Godparent's signature: _____

Attested by: _____
(Pastor)

(Parish Seal)

Date: _____