

BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM

Name of child being baptized:

Male Female

FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____ LAST _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

CITY OF BIRTH _____

Is the child adopted? Yes No

Did the child receive emergency/private baptism? Yes No

**Please turn in a copy of the birth certificate or adoption records as soon as possible*

FATHER

Name: _____

Address: _____

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Birth Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MOTHER

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Birth Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Marital Status: Married _____ Years Divorced Separated Single Engaged
Married by a Catholic Priest/Deacon? Yes No If no, has the Church recognized your marriage? Yes No

Please read "How to Choose Godparents" before filling out the next portion.

GODFATHER

Name: _____

Address: _____

godparent must be Catholic

Parish: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Proxy (if needed) _____

GODMOTHER

Name: _____

Address: _____

godparent must be Catholic

Parish: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Proxy (if needed) _____

For Office Use

Birth Certificate: _____ Consecration Meeting Date: _____ Staff Member: _____

Parent Class Date: _____ Location: _____

Godparent Class Date: _____ Location: _____ Godparent Form: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Name of Baptizing Priest/Deacon: _____



HOW TO CHOOSE GODPARENTS

The following statement is read during the Rite of Baptism:

“Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.”

As you prepare to celebrate this beautiful sacrament with your child, prayerfully consider who you could call on for help in teaching your child the practice of the faith, detachment from sin, and virtuous living. Reflect on the lists below and discern who in your life possesses such qualities and abilities for the responsibility of being godparents.

Qualities of a good godparent: (the godparent must be Catholic)

- Believes in Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Receives the sacraments on a regular basis, especially Sunday Mass each week and frequent Confession.
- Prays often and lives a virtuous life.
- Is a loving and caring person.
- Will be a spiritual partner with the parents.

Ways godparents can assist in the spiritual formation of their godchildren:

- Pray with and for their godchild.
- Read and explain Bible stories to them.
- Assist the parents when needed.
- Help prepare them for other sacraments
- Be present for the celebration of future sacraments.
- Do service projects and acts of charity with them.
- Take them to church for worship, learning opportunities, community events, celebration of the sacraments (Mass and Confession).

Because of the great responsibilities of a godparent, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all godparents set forth by the Code of Canon Law (Can. 873-874):

- Be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- If married, be married according to the laws of the Church
- Be active in the practice of the faith and receiving the sacraments regularly
- Not be the father or mother of the one being baptized



CHOOSING A CHRISTIAN NAME

*“What name do you give your child?”
This is the first question asked during the Rite of Baptism.*

The Importance of the Name

In the announcement of the birth of Jesus, the angel Gabriel instructs Mary that she will name the child “Jesus.” The name Jesus means “God saves.” Jesus’ name reveals his very purpose...he came to save humanity from sin and open the gates of heaven for eternal life. Our names mean something! Choosing a name for your child is a large undertaking. His (Her) name will be one of the first gifts given by you and will remain with this child forever. Here are some things to consider as you prayerfully discern the name you want spoken over your child from now until eternity.

What hopes and expectations do you have for your child?

As Christian parents our primary goal must be that our children make it to heaven! We want our children to not only be good people but holy people. Through baptism, your child will be consecrated to God for his purpose and design and the name of an individual can be a powerful reminder of that. On several occasions in the Bible, God changes a person’s name. This indicated that God wanted the person to embody a new identity or mission. Here are a few examples:

Abram - Abraham (Genesis 17:5)

Jacob - Israel (Genesis 32:28)

Sarai - Sarah (Genesis 17:15)

Simon - Peter (John 1:42)

Ways to Reflect on Possible Names

1. Research the lives of the saints. St. John Chrysostom said, “So let the name of the saints enter our homes through the naming of our children.” Which saints do you want to invite into your home?
 - a. Write down some saints whose story inspires you, whose patronage stands out to you, or virtues you admire. (For a list of patron saints go here: <https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>)

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CHOOSING A CHRISTIAN NAME

Ways to Reflect on Possible Names, continued

Saint Name:

Patronage/Virtues:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Look through the Bible and search for biblical heroes.

- a. Write down some bible characters whose story inspires you or virtues/characteristics you admire.

Bible Name:

Virtues/Characteristics:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Choose a name associated with a family member or personal hero who lived exceptional Christian virtue whom you wish to honor and desire your child to imitate.

- a. Write down some family members/personal heroes whose story inspires you or virtues/characteristics you admire.

Family Member/Hero Name:

Virtues/Characteristics:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Now that you've had time to research and reflect on possible names for your child, spend some time in prayer asking God to assist you in naming this child. May this name be a constant reminder that, through baptism, this child will *belong* to God and *live* for God to be *with* God for all eternity!



BAPTISM GODPARENT AND COMMITMENT FORM

As a Godparent, I meet the following criteria as set forth by the Church's Code of Canon Law §874. I affirm that each of the following statements are true.

- I am at least sixteen years of age.
- I have received all sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.
- I affirm that I am not the parent of the child to be baptized.
- I regularly attend Mass and live a life of faith in keeping with the role of a godparent/ sponsor.
- If married, I am validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church
- I am a registered parishioner of _____ Catholic Church,
in _____, _____
city state
- I am the sponsor for: _____
name of person being baptized
Scheduled date of Baptism: _____ Parish of Baptism: _____
name of church
Address of Baptism: _____

By my signature, I confirm that I am a *practicing* Catholic and recognize my responsibility as a godparent. I promise to faithfully assist my godchild in his or her efforts to live an authentically Catholic life. I have read "A Guide to Great Godparenting" and commit to nurturing the spiritual life of my godchild.

Signature of sponsor: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSOR'S PARISH

Signature of Parish Priest _____
Date _____ Phone _____
Parish Name: _____
Parish Address: _____



A GUIDE TO GREAT GODPARENTING

Congratulations...being chosen as a godparent is a very special honor! You have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic life and education. This is an occasion to not only nurture the spiritual life of your precious godchild but yours as well. There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special mentor to your godchild.

WAYS TO NURTURE THE FAITH INCLUDE:

- ❑ Celebrate the anniversary of your godchild's Baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card/gift.
- ❑ As your godchild grows give him or her time and attention. Call him or her. Acknowledge the child each time you see her, show affection, be involved in his/her life. Be there to listen to and share in the struggles and joys of living a Christian life. Keep up the study of the faith and the practice of virtue so you can help guide your godchild in understanding doctrine and living out the faith.
- ❑ Send special cards, letters, or gifts when celebrating holy events (Christmas, Easter, feasts of patron saints, Lent, Advent, etc) and personal growth events (birthdays, graduation from high school or college, first job, engagement, etc).
- ❑ Gift suggestions can include a Bible, a Catechism of the Catholic Church, spiritual books, a rosary, religious jewelry, religious medals, holy cards, and retreat opportunities.
- ❑ Pray for him or her (by name) daily and in special ways when your godchild is preparing for other sacraments.
- ❑ Become a model of Catholic living for your godchild through daily prayer, the practice of virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy. (Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, go to Reconciliation regularly.)
- ❑ Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their children.
- ❑ Be a spiritual partner with the parents

A Godparent's Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the blessing of being a godparent and all the joy that flows from that. Please provide for me the faith and virtue required to journey with my godchild as he/she grows in faith. Keep me faithful to the promises I have made to pray for him/her and to encourage him/her to a deeper relationship with You. Help me to grow in faith, prayerfulness and virtue and be a constant example to my godchild of a life rooted in You. Amen.

A Prayer for Your Godchild

Lord God, thank you for the gift of my godchildren. I pray for them today that they grow strong in faith and love. May they encounter your beauty, goodness, and truth in their experiences of this day. With the help of Your grace, may they bring Your light to those around them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

