



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

To See as Christ Sees and Love as Christ Loves

BAPTISMAL GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE

I, _____, phone number _____,

(PRINT your Name)

testify by my signature below that I am qualified to serve as a godparent for baptism in the Catholic Church for _____.

(PRINT Name of Infant/Child/Adult to be Baptized)

Please circle either YES or NO for each question that follows:

- YES NO Are you a Roman Catholic?
- YES NO Are you at least 16 years old? (See a priest or the baptism minister for exceptions.)
- YES NO Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?
- YES NO Are you free to receive Holy Communion when you come to Mass?

Answer the following only if married:

- YES NO Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest, or deacon or in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop? (If not, please provide a written explanation.)

Answer the following only if unmarried:

- YES NO Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

I sign this document in the presence of a Catholic priest, deacon or pastoral minister of a Catholic parish and understand that by my signature I attest that what I have circled above is truthful.

Godparent Signature: _____

Church Representative's Signature: _____

Church Representative's Title: _____

Church Representative's Parish: _____

Church City and State: _____

Date: _____

SEAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM

A. 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 other side of this form using this side of the form to answer the questions.

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 Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is 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 by the date of the baptism. For exceptions, see a Catholic priest or the minister who will officiate for 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.
5. **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 church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a godparent.
6. **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 by **UNSIGNED** form to a Catholic Church and ask a priest, deacon or pastoral minister of that parish to witness you 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 the baptism. Forms may be faxed but the original must be brought to the church before or on the day of the baptism in order for the godparent to serve.