

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Godparent Registration Form

Dear Godparent,

When a parent chooses you as a godparent that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or friendship rewards. The call to be a godparent bears the responsibility of giving a spiritual witness to your godchild of how to live out the Catholic faith in every day of life. As a confirmed, adult Catholic, you are a guide and model of how a mature Catholic ought to live. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living the Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to parents who commit themselves, in baptism to faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as a godparent. If you are unable to live up to Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

REQUIREMENTS:

The Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law lists these requirements for a person to be a valid and lawful godparent in Baptism:

- Canon 872 – The godparent's role with the parents is to present the infant for the sacrament of Baptism and help the child 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
 1. 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 three sacraments of initiation namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation and live a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken
 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;
 2. 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.

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic life and education. This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond. There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life, and keep yourself-informed on the Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events... Christmas, Easter... and personal growth events... graduation, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of you godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED GODPARENT REGISTRATION FORM
AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

A sponsor must be canonically free to carry out this office. This means that Catholics in an invalid marriage (not according to Catholic Church regulations) and those that are cohabitating (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a sponsor.

Place of Marriage:

Location (church/other): _____

City/State: _____ Date of Marriage _____

Marriage performed by:

Priest [] Deacon [] Minister [] Judge [] Justice of the Peace [] Not Married []

If not married within the regulations of the Church, has your marriage ben Convalidated? Yes ___ No ___

A sponsor must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly, Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church? Yes [] No []

Sponsor's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Monthly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Religion: _____

If you do not attend Mass weekly, please explain: _____

Name of church you now attend: _____

Address of Church: _____ City/State: _____ Zip _____

Pastor's Name: _____ Phone number _____

A sponsor must NOT be the father, mother, step-parent or custodial guardian of the one to be baptized. What is your relationship to this child (i.e.: grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend, etc.)?

Signature of Godparent / Christian Witness: _____

To be completed by the Pastor of the Sponsor's church parish & then returned to
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 2621 Colonial Blvd., Violet, La 70092

I hereby certify that _____ is a registered member or lives within the boundaries of this parish; is a practicing Catholic in good standing; and is eligible to serve as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of **BAPTISM** for

_____.

Name of Parish: _____

Pastor's signature: _____

Date: _____

Church Seal