

# HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH - GODPARENT CERTIFICATION FORM

[Must be on file at least two weeks prior to Baptism.]

Dear Baptismal Sponsor:

When a parent chooses you as a Baptismal Sponsor (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 a reward of friendship. The call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving spiritual witness to your Godchild of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to the parents who commit themselves in Baptism to faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child.

The laws of the Catholic Church offer these qualities of a **valid sponsor**:

- Must be mature enough to undertake this role, at least 16 years of age.
- Must be fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. [This would indicate that Catholics living in an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those who are cohabiting (living together without marriage) are ineligible.]
- Must know the fundamental truths of the faith, be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass and receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
- Must not be the mother or father of the one to be baptized or confirmed. The sponsor, with the parents, presents the child for the sacrament and helps him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

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 these Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Church accept the invitation to  
(PRINT Godparent's name) (Name of Church)  
be godparent to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Sacrament of Baptism at Holy Ghost.

If you are an official witness, please scratch through this paragraph and sign below.

**\*\*\* I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, living my Catholic faith and in good standing with the Catholic Church. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide, and role model to my godchild especially by my own example and witness.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~ **\*\*\*CERTIFICATION FROM GODPARENT'S HOME PARISH\*\*\*** ~~~~~

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is in good standing in this parish and that s/he meets the requirements for being a godparent.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is registered in our parish as a practicing Catholic.  
\_\_\_\_\_ lives in the territorial boundaries of this parish, but is not a registered parishioner.

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Must be completed at Godparent's Church Parish and returned to Holy Ghost Church, 601 North Oak Street, Hammond, LA 70401; Phone: 985-345-3360, ext 28; Fax: 985-542-4191, 2 weeks before scheduled baptism.