

HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH – SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM

SPONSOR FOR: _____ BAPTISM _____ CONFIRMATION _____ RCIA (*please check one*)

Dear Sponsor:

When a parent and/or candidate chooses you as a Sponsor (Godparent) that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a Sponsor (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 either your Godchild, to your Confirmation Candidate, or to the person you are sponsoring in RCIA, by living 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 either to the parents who commit themselves in Baptism to faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child, to the Confirmation Candidate you are sponsoring or to the person whom you are sponsoring in the RCIA process.

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 cohabitating (*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, or initiated into the Catholic faith.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as either a Godparent for baptism or a Sponsor for Confirmation or for RCIA. If you are unable to live up to these Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

I, _____ of _____ Church accept the invitation
(Print Name) (Name of Church where you are a registered member)

to be godparent/sponsor to _____ for the Sacrament of:

Baptism Confirmation RCIA (circle one)

Contact Information: Home phone: (_____) _____ Cell phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

[For baptisms only:]

If you are an official witness (*meaning not baptized in the Catholic faith, but are baptized in another faith tradition*), 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 Sponsor's Home Church Parish*****

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

Catholic Church: _____ Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ City, Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Must be completed at Godparent's/Sponsor's Church Parish and returned to Holy Ghost Catholic Church, 601 North Oak Street, Hammond, LA 70401; Phone: 985-345-3360, ext. 28; Fax: 985-542-4191; or Scan and EMAIL: tlabbe@hgchurch.org