

# Godparent Certificate

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

**Saint John the Beloved Catholic Church**  
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THIS REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM IS TO BE SIGNED BY THE GODPARENT AND HIS/HER PASTOR.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitalis spiritualis ianna*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word" (CCC 1213).

This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek *baptizein*) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature" (CCC 1214).

This sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God" (CCC 1215).

Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth (CCC 1250).

The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments (CCC 1257).

By Baptism all sins are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God (CCC 1263).

Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte "a new creature," an adopted son of God, who has become a "partaker of the divine nature," member of Christ and co-heir with him,<sup>70</sup> and a temple of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1265).

## THE ROLE OF THE BAPTISM SPONSOR

Candidates for Baptism fittingly receive the spiritual help of a *sponsor* or "godparent". Godparents "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the Baptized on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function... bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255) Like parents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them, and so are called "godparents".

Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, *The Trinity's Embrace*), the Godparent should be a Catholic who loves and lives the Faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic Faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the Godparent's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I \_\_\_\_\_,

Godparent's name

AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN \_\_\_\_\_

Parish name

City, State

ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO BE THE GODPARENT AT THE BAPTISM OF

\_\_\_\_\_.  
Candidate's name

**In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully state all the following:**

- ☐ I am at least 16 years of age and am not a parent of the Confirmation candidate.
- ☐ I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and am in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- ☐ I am single and living chastely OR I am married and my marriage has been blessed by the Catholic Church.
- ☐ I always attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance regularly.
- ☐ I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth; in Jesus Christ His only-begotten Son Our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified died and was buried, descended into hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.
- ☐ With firm faith I believe as well everything contained in God's word, written or handed down in tradition and proposed by the church - whether in solemn judgment or in the ordinary and universal magisterium - as divinely revealed and called for faith.
- ☐ I also firmly accept and hold each and every thing that is proposed by that same church definitively with regard to teaching concerning faith or morals.
- ☐ I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman pontiff or the college of bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic magisterium even if they proclaim those teachings in an act that is not definitive.
- ☐ To wit, I affirm *inter alia* the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the infallibility of the Pope, the immortality of the soul, the reality of original sin, the existence of the devil and hell, the inerrancy of Sacred Scripture, the sanctity of marriage as the irrevocable union of one man and one woman as well as the incompatibility of contraception, abortion and euthanasia with human dignity.
- ☐ I understand and accept the responsibility which I undertake as a Godparent and I promise to I will do everything I can to promote my Candidate's salvation by teaching and living the Faith with prayer and love.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent's Signature

#### PRIEST'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is an active parishioner, is in good standing with the Catholic Church and is, to the best of my knowledge, capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of Godparent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Priest's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PARISH SEAL (MUST BE PRESENT)**