

# FOR GODPARENT CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

---

Certificates of Eligibility are required for your Catholic Godparents.

\*\*Most Parishes will provide their own certificate. Your Godparents need to contact their Parish.

OR

\*\*You may use the blank certificate included in this packet if you would like. This would be given to your Godparent which they would bring to their Catholic Church. (See page 6)

**NOTE:** If your Godparent(s) are registered parishioner here at Nativity they do not need a certificate of eligibility since we have their information.

## GODPARENT REQUIREMENTS:

The following is a review of the Church Law regarding the requirements for Godparents:

- There must be at least one Catholic Godparent.
- The Godparent must have received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation and be a regular participant in the life of the church. If a Godparent is married, he or she must be married in the Catholic Church, or the marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.
- If there are two Godparents, one would be a male and the other a female.
- There can only be 2 official Godparents.
- The normal minimum age of a Godparent is 16 years.
- The eligible godparent must supply Nativity Catholic Church with a signed "Certificate of Eligibility" from his or her own parish.
- A baptized Christian, non-Catholic may be a Christian Witness, but not a godparent. A person who was baptized Catholic cannot be a Christian Witness.
- A person who has not been baptized may not act as a Godparent or witness to the Baptism of a child in the Catholic Faith.

*Congratulations!*

## LETTER FOR CATHOLIC GODPARENTS

---

Congratulations! A loved one has appreciated your faith enough to ask you to share that faith with them, or with their child. Certainly, you feel honored. The Catholic Church values godparents/sponsors so much that you should be very clear about what your role of being a godparent involves.

This is what Canon Law, the official law of the Church, states in Canons 872-874:

The one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who will....help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must be a Catholic who has been baptized, confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist, normally is age 16 or above, and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.

As you can see, being a Godparent is far more than an honorary role. You will be modeling the Christian life and how we call upon God in prayer. From you, this person will discover a sense of Church: they will learn of repentance, justice to the poor, the victory of the cross, hunger for the Eucharist, a love of the Sacraments, and the many other ways God's love gives us new life. In other words, you will represent to this person the rest of the Church, the communion of Saints to which the newly-baptized will belong. The individual you are a godparent for (and his/her parents) will know that he/she is not alone in the quest to know God and to do God's will.

What are your hopes and dreams for your Godchild? What do you most want to give them? What graces have you been given that you can share? What are God's answers to these questions? What role did your own Godparents play in your discovery of God and in your religious formation? Do you want to be the same way to your Godchild? What does it mean to "lead a life in harmony with the role of Godparent?"

Even if distance or circumstances separate you from your Godchild, you can do a simple thing such as sending a card of remembrance and encouragement on the yearly anniversary of the Baptism. How many other ways can you "be there" for them? How might you be needed throughout their life to be a mentor? A guide? A companion? A listener? An example? A teacher? A friend? How might you need to be comforting? Challenging? Encouraging? Forgiving? Please know that you can call upon your priests if they can be any help in discerning how best to fulfill this very important role in the Church.

One thing we know for sure: you cannot fulfill this role without prayer and regular reception of the Eucharist and other Sacraments. Your best resource in helping this person to live their faith well is for you to live your faith well. If you remain active in the Church, and keep growing in your faith and in love for God, you cannot go wrong.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS...and... God Bless You!



# CATHOLIC GODPARENT ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

---

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### For Catholic Godparents:

1. Please fill out the top portion.
2. Bring this form to the Catholic Church where you are registered for signature and Parish Seal (see below) \*\*

**FOR THE BAPTISM OF (Name of Child):** \_\_\_\_\_

To be baptized at: Nativity Catholic Church

6400 Nativity Lane

Burke, VA 22015

Phone: 703-455-2400, Fax: 703-455-6832

In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully state that I meet the following requirements, according to Diocesan regulations and Canon Law:

- \* I am at least 16 years of age.
- \* I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- \* I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.
- \* If married, I was married in or with permission of the Catholic Church.
- \* I am not the parent of the one to be Baptized.

### Name of Godparent

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Godparent)

### \*\* To Be Completed by the Godparent's Parish:

The above mentioned person is a member of this Parish and is qualified to act as a Godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Name of Parish, City, and State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Parish Seal: