

## Trinidad Area Catholic Community

### Most Holy Trinity Church

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## **Godfather's Baptism Petition**

To Be Completed by the **Godfather** and Turned-in at the Parent(s) Meeting with the Priest/Delegate

**Please carefully read the following and answer the preceding questions regarding the Baptism of infants, and the spiritual responsibility parents and godparents accept by having a child baptized in the Catholic Church:**

### **“Catechism of the Catholic Church”:**

**1250** 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.

**1251** Christian parents will recognize that this practice also accords with their role as nurturers of the life that God has entrusted to them...

**1255** For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather* and *godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized - child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function (*officium*). The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism.

- 1) In your own words, why do you desire to be a godparent in the Catholic Church for this child?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What is your understanding of what happens to the newly baptized child – spiritually – in the Sacrament of Baptism? (*See “Catechism of the Catholic Church”, paragraphs 1279 – 1280, available for free online*)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) By accepting the role of godparent for this child, you are taking on the responsibility assisting the parents in raising him/her in the Catholic Faith. In what practical ways do you see yourself assisting your godchild's spiritual growth process?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) In what ways will you encourage/guide your godchild in continuing the Sacramental process throughout his/her life? (*Specifically, as regards first Reconciliation, first Communion, and Confirmation*)

## Certification

Name of Child Being Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that the following indications are necessary to show I am ready to fulfill the role of Godparent. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Have been designated as Godparent by the parents/guardians
  - 2. Am 16 years old or older, am not bound by canonical penalty, and am not the father or mother of the one being baptized.
  - 3. Have received Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation
  - 4. Lead a life in keeping with the function to be taken on namely:
    - a. Have a relationship with Jesus Christ as His disciple
    - b. Consistent Mass attendance on Sundays & Holy Days
    - c. Regular Confession
    - d. Daily Prayer
    - e. If married, my marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. \*\*
    - f. If not married, I am not living conjugally with someone. \*\*
- \*\*If the couple is in marriage preparation in the Catholic Church and has a date set for their wedding through the Church, the pastor may, at his discretion, make an exception and allow them to become Godparents.
- 5. Intend to fulfill the functions of a Godparent by:
    - a. Praying for my Godchild
    - b. Setting a good example of a life of discipleship
    - c. Assisting the parents in their duty of raising the child in the Faith

**Please include a current Baptism Certificate with notations of First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, if applicable.**