



OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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GODPARENT REGISTRATION

Dear chosen Godparent,

Thank you for accepting the great responsibility to be a part of a child's journey of faith. This is a great honor that carries with it serious responsibility. Church Law requires that both parents and Godparents "are to be instructed properly on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it" (Canon 851). Therefore, you will be *required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class*. Please call the office to register for the class.

In addition, please carefully read the following description of the role of Catholic Godparents and the requirements. Afterwards, please fill out the information form on the back of this page and return to the church office.

The following information is taken from the General Instruction to the *Rite of Baptism for Children* and the Roman Catholic Church's *Code of Canon Law*:

"In the baptism of children...Godparents are to be present in order to represent both the expanded spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as a Mother. As occasion offers, godparents help the parents so that children will come to profess the faith and live up to it.

In the actual celebration of baptism, the part of the Godparents is to...together with the parents, profess the Church's faith, in which the children are baptized.

Therefore Godparents, chosen by...the families of children to be baptized, must, in the judgment of the pastor, be qualified to carry out" the above responsibilities."

Requirements for Godparents:

- Must be a Baptized Catholic, at least 16 years of age, and received Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Provide proof of Confirmation, if single. Confirmation and Marriage, if married.
- Free to receive Holy Communion (in good standing with the Church)
- Be an actively practicing Catholic "An active Catholic is one who attends Sunday and Holy Day masses regularly and participates in the Sacramental life of the Church."
- Must have attended Baptism Preparation Class within the last two years and provide proof of attendance.
- If married (to anyone), they must be in a valid marriage (married by a priest).
- Must fit the criteria for a Catholic baptism (need at least one godparent, not more than two, if two godparents must be one male/one female.)

