

BAPTISMAL GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM

All Saints Catholic Parish, Knoxville TN

I, _____, phone number _____,
[PLEASE PRINT NAME]

Testify by my signature below that I am qualified to serve as a godparent for baptism in the
Catholic Church for _____.
[PLEASE PRINT Infant/Child's Name to be Baptized]

Please circle YES or NO for each question that follows:

YES NO 1) Are you a Roman Catholic?

YES NO 2) Are you at least 16 years old?

YES NO 3) Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?

YES NO 4) Are you free to receive Holy Communion when you come to Mass?

Answer the following question if you are married or are living as though you are married

YES NO 5) Regarding this present relationship, are you legally married **and** was your present marriage either 1) celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest, or deacon or 2) in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop?

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I sign this document in the presence of a Catholic priest, deacon, or pastoral minister of a Catholic parish and understand that by my signature I attest that what I have circled above is truthful.

Godparent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Church City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[SEAL]

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The godparent is a most important person in the life of the infant or child who is to be baptized. The godparent is:

- 1) a spiritual role model and
- 2) an example of the Christian life and
- 3) the official representative of the body of Christ, the church, into which an infant or child is being baptized.

**Because of these 3 responsibilities,** the Catholic Church has set the minimum requirements for godparents. We ask that each godparent complete the “BAPTISMAL GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM” to attest to their conformance to these requirements.

**NOTE ABOUT PROXIES:** A godparent is not required to be present for a baptism. When a godparent cannot be present, someone may stand in as a proxy for the godparent as long as the proxy is not one of the parents.

### **Regarding Questions 1-5 on BAPTISMAL GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM**

**Question 1) RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION:** since the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church, godparents **must** be Roman Catholic. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian witness for the baptism of a Catholic.

**Question 2) MINIMUM AGE:** godparents must be 16 by the date of the baptism.

**Question 3) SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:** godparents are baptized Catholic and have received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

**Question 4) FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS:** the godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.

**Question 5) MARITAL STATUS:** a Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either:

a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or

b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in subsequent marriages must have had their earlier marriages annulled, and their current marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are **not eligible** to serve as a godparent.

**UNMARRIED STATUS:** if unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g., living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is **ineligible** to serve.

**SIGNING AND RETURNING THE FORM:** bring the completed but unsigned form to a Catholic Church and ask a priest, deacon, or a pastoral minister of that parish to witness you signing the document. This witness must then sign the document and place the parish seal on it.

Please return the form using one of the following methods listed below:

- Mail the document: 620 N Cedar Bluff Rd, Knoxville, TN 37923
- Drop Off the document: You may hand this form to an Administration Assistant in the Parish Office during normal office hours, or you may place in the drop box located outside the Parish Office.
- E-mail a photo of the document: [admin@allsaintsknoxville.com](mailto:admin@allsaintsknoxville.com)
- FAX the document: 865-531-1009