

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH,
8501 LOCH RAVEN BLVD., BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21286-2313
BAPTISM SPONSOR/GODPARENT FORM**

In the celebration of Baptism the Church asks that the candidate be brought forward by one or two sponsors, often called godparents. The Church's sacraments are only celebrated in the context of faith. When the candidate for Baptism is too young to understand that faith, it is the faith of the parents and godparents that is essential for the proper reception of the sacrament. Your role as sponsor is to be a model of the faith that the Baptism candidate will embrace and practice as he or she grows in understanding. Obviously, as in any organization, one cannot sponsor someone for "membership", unless they are already a member in good standing. As such you are attesting to your own practice of the faith in accepting this role and you are accepting the responsibility to encourage and support the candidate in their practice of the faith. A sponsor for Baptism must be someone other than a parent of the Candidate. There may be one male and one female godparent (sponsor), however, only one Catholic sponsor is required. (C. 873-874)

I, _____ therefore affirm that, in accepting the role of a Sponsor (godparent) for the Baptism of _____, I am:

(please check each following statement that applies):

- ___ **a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic;**
- ___ **in good standing with the Catholic Church (free to receive the sacraments and not prevented from doing so by any impediment;**
- ___ **(if married) married in the Catholic Church (if married elsewhere, please explain _____);**
- ___ **a person who regularly practices your faith (weekly attendance at Mass and regular reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation);**
- ___ **an active member of your Catholic Parish;**
- ___ **living a moral life in keeping with the Commandments and the teachings of the Church.**
- ___ **at least 16 years old.**

Signature Date

Address Phone

Godparents: Please have the section below completed by a priest in your Parish and returned at least two weeks prior to the baptism to: Immaculate Heart of Mary, 8501 Loch Raven Blvd. Towson, MD 21286

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The above-mentioned Baptism sponsor is: *(check one or both as is appropriate)*

___ a registered member of _____ Parish since _____:
___ is known to me as a Baptized, Confirmed practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

**PARISH
SEAL**

Priest's signature _____ Date _____
Address _____ ZIP _____

ELIGIBILITY FOR A CHRISTIAN WITNESS

The Catholic Church requires one godparent to be a Baptized, Confirmed Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church. In lieu of a second godparent, the Catholic Church also permits one other person to stand as a Christian Witness at Baptism. A Christian witness must be a baptized person of good moral character who strives to live up to the values of the Gospel and adheres to the tenets of their own Christian faith.

Therefore, I _____ a baptized person in the _____ Church (denomination), do affirm that I:

(please check each following statement that applies):

_____ am Baptized (please give place and date of Baptism) Date: _____

_____ Church of Baptism _____ City _____ State
_____ endeavor to live a good moral life in keeping with Gospel values;

Have you ever been baptized or officially received into full communion with the Catholic Church? YES NO

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In lieu of one of the godparents, the candidate or his/her parents, may choose one Christian witness. This person must be baptized in a Christian faith whose baptism is recognized and accepted by the Catholic Church. This includes most of the “main line” Christian Churches (Orthodox, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist). It does NOT include Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, or The Salvation Army. Also, those who are non-Christians (Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, etc.) may not stand as Christian witnesses.

Those who have been baptized as a Catholic or who were previously received into the Catholic Church but have since joined another denomination, even a Christian one, or who are presently in a marriage that is not recognized by the Catholic Church (civil marriage or marriage in another Church without Catholic dispensation) may not act as a sponsor, godparent or a Christian witness.

If you have questions about your eligibility to be a godparent, sponsor or Christian witness, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Michael Carrion, at mcarrion@immaculateheartofmary.com or 410-668-7935 ext. 203.