

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH SHRINE GODPARENT/SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM

(Must be on file at least two weeks prior to Baptism)

Dear Sponsor:

When a parent chooses you as a Sacramental Sponsor that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a Godparent/Sponsor is not merely a choice because of family ties or a reward of friendship. This call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving spiritual witness to your Godchild/Confirmed Child of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participation in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to the parents who commit themselves in Baptism to faithfully pass on the Catholic faith to their child.

The laws of the Catholic Church offer these qualities of a **valid sponsor**:

- Must be mature enough to undertake this role, at least 16 years of age.
- Must be fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. (This would indicate that Catholics living in an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those who are cohabiting (living together without marriage) are ineligible.
- Must know the fundamental truths of the faith, be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass and receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
- Must not be the mother or father of the one to be baptized or confirmed. The sponsor, with the parents, presents the child for the sacrament and helps him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as a Godparent/Sponsor. If you are unable to live up to these Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

I, _____ of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Shrine accept the invitation
(PRINT Sponsor's full name)

to be Godparent/Sponsor to _____ for the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation at

(Name of Parish where ceremony will take place)

If you are a Christian Witness (non-Catholic), please scratch through this paragraph and sign below.

***** I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, living my Catholic faith and in good standing with the Catholic Church. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide, and role model to my godchild/confirmed child especially by my own example and witness.**

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Sponsor Contact Info:

Phone #: () _____ and/or Email: _____

*Must be completed and returned two weeks prior to:
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Shrine, 135 N. White Horse Pike, Lindenwold, NJ 08021
Phone: 856-627-2222; Fax: 856-627-8210*