



## St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

527 S. Houston Ave.

Humble, Texas 77338

281-446-8211 (fax) 281-446-8213

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) *GODPARENTS/SPONSOR FORM*

**Sponsors (Godparents) for** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of candidate for baptism and/or confirmation*

**Child(ren) of** \_\_\_\_\_

Choosing your child's sponsor (two persons together are usually referred to as godparents) is one of the most important decisions you will make. Godparents represent the Church and, as such, it will be their responsibility to help your child in his or her Catholic Christian formation and education. Therefore, you should verify whether the sponsor or godparents you have in mind meet the following criteria.

### **Mandatory Criteria for Godparents/Sponsor (for details see page 4)**

- 1. Must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.**
- 2. Have received the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (Communion).**
- 3. Is a Catholic in good standing with the Church (e.g. free to take Eucharist)?**
- 4. If either is married, he/she must be in a valid marriage (e.g. a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses).**
- 5. Cohabiting couples should be interviewed to determine if they qualify. Sexual relationships of any kind outside of marriage are morally wrong and would disqualify a person from serving as a godparent/sponsor.**
- 6. Divorced persons may be godparents/sponsors as long as they are not remarried outside of the Church.**
- 7. Is presently practicing his/her faith (attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, registered in his or her home parish, able to receive Communion and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church).**
- 8. May not be a parent of the child to be baptized.**

One Catholic sponsor is sufficient; it is preferable that this person later become the child's confirmation sponsor as well; however, two godparents may be chosen, male and female.  
No more than two sponsors' names will appear on the certificate of baptism.

**Among your family and friends, is there anyone who stands out as a good example of someone who practices his/her faith?** Remember that the godparents may influence your child, not only in the practice of the faith, but also in the virtues of Christian life. Ask God in faith to help you discern the best godparents for your child.



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**Name of Male Sponsor (Godfather):** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1. He must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	He is a baptized Catholic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is not a baptized Catholic, so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<input type="checkbox"/>	He is at least 16 years of age	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is younger than 16 so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<b>2. He must have received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	He has received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).	<input type="checkbox"/>	He has not received all three of the sacraments: confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion), so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<b>3. He must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church (free to take Eucharist).</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	He is a practicing Catholic, able to receive the sacraments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is not a practicing Catholic, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<b>4. Is he married?</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Fill out question 4a.		<input type="checkbox"/> No. Fill out question 4b.	
<b>4a.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> He had a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He was married outside of the Catholic Church, and has not had his marriage convalidated by the Church, so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<b>4b.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> He is living a chaste single life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is involved in a sexual relationship outside of a Catholic marriage, so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.
<b>5. Is he presently practicing his faith?</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	He is attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is not attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, not participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so he is not eligible to be my child's godfather.

Name of proxy, if representing absent godfather: \_\_\_\_\_



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Name of Female Sponsor (Godmother): \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1. She must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	She is a baptized Catholic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is not a baptized Catholic, so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	She is at least 16 years of age	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is younger than 16 so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.	
<b>2. She must have received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	She has received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).	<input type="checkbox"/>	She has not received all three of the sacraments: confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion), so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.	
<b>3. She must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church (free to take Eucharist).</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	She is a practicing Catholic, able to receive the sacraments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is not a practicing Catholic, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.	
<b>4. Is she married?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Fill out question 4a. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Fill out question 4b.				
<b>4a.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	She had a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	She was married outside of the Catholic Church, and has not had her marriage convalidated by the Church, so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.
<b>4b.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is living a chaste single life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is involved in a sexual relationship outside of a Catholic marriage, so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.
<b>5. Is she presently practicing his faith?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	She is attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church.	<input type="checkbox"/>	She is not attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, not participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so she is not eligible to be my child's godmother.	

Name of proxy, if representing absent godmother: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Mandatory Criteria for Godparents/Sponsor

**“Good standing with the Church”** means that this person is a Catholic who has received the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist), penance and if married, he/she must be in a valid Catholic marriage. A faithful candidate is one who attends Mass regularly, prays in the home, shares the faith with family and when possible participates in active ministry in his/her parish. A divorced Catholic who is not remarried or cohabiting can be a godparent.

**Why is it important to choose Catholics who practice the faith?** As representatives of the Catholic Church, it is the obligation and responsibility of the godparents to give your child a good example of lived faith so that your child may grow to have a loving relationship with God and his Church. Children learn best by observing—“faith is caught, not taught.”

**Can a man sponsor a girl child? Can a woman sponsor a boy?** Yes. The sponsor does not have to be of the same sex as the child.

**May a Christian of another faith be a Sponsor / Godparent?** A person baptized in another Christian faith may be a Christian Witness, as long as your child has one Catholic godparent as well. To be clear, a Christian witness is a baptized non-Catholic Christian who serves along with one Catholic Sponsor. This person should be practicing his or her faith according to the norms of his or her faith tradition, including regular participation in Sunday worship. **Anyone who has EVER been baptized in the Catholic Church MAY NOT serve as a Christian witness**; such a person is considered to be a non-practicing Catholic.

**Can anyone who is living together without being married be a Sponsor / Godparent?** No, Catholics who are cohabitating in a sexual relationship (either heterosexual or homosexual) without being married to each other in a Catholic ceremony are not eligible to serve as sponsors.

**What if the godparents cannot attend the ceremony?** It is acceptable to have a proxy.

**What if I can’t find a sponsor for my child who meets these guidelines?** Let us know, and we can find a practicing Catholic from among our parishioners who will serve as a sponsor for your child. Every person who is baptized must have at least one sponsor. This person may be male or female for either a boy or a girl.

*Note: Many families expect much more from godparents than the Church requires (birthday presents, certain family traditions, caring for your children in the event of your death, etc.); you will want to be clear with those persons you choose about your personal expectations.*

**I promise and affirm that I have read all 4 pages and that my child’s sponsor(s) meet the guidelines presented here.**

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Parent’s Signature

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Date