

# BAPTISMAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FULL NAME OF CHILD:

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WAS CHILD ADOPTED?

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DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

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DATE OF BAPTISM (WITH APPROVAL FROM THE PRIEST):

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FATHER'S NAME:

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MOTHER'S NAME (INCLUDING MAIDEN NAME):

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WERE PARENTS MARRIED BY A PRIEST?

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IF SO, AT WHAT CHURCH AND WHO WAS THE PRIEST?

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DATE BAPTISM CLASS WAS ATTENDED:

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GODFATHER (MALE SPONSOR):

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IS GODFATHER A CATHOLIC? \*\*

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GODMOTHER (FEMALE SPONSOR):

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IS GODMOTHER A CATHOLIC? \*\*

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WILL EITHER GODPARENT BE REPRESENTED BY A PROXY?

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IF YES, PLEASE LIST NAME(S):

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NAME OF PRIEST OFFICIANT FOR BAPTISM:

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\*If godparents are not Catholic, they are not canonically permitted to serve as a Catholic Sponsor (technical Church term for *godparent*). They can, however, serve as a *Christian Witness* by standing with the child and parents at the baptism. A Christian Witness is one who does not belong to the Catholic Church but is a practicing member of another Christian denomination and, in that sense, is a strong Christian example in the life of the one baptized; see back side for additional information from the Code of Canon Law; the law which governs the universal Roman Catholic Church.

The Code of Canon Law (*Codex Iuris Canonici* in Latin, abbreviated CIC), revised in 1983 under the supervision of His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II, is the body of ecclesiastical laws for the Latin Church. It contains all legislation pertaining to the governance and practice of the Roman Catholic faith

Within the CIC are 30 laws (Can. 849-878) pertaining to the administration of baptism. Below are the laws which explain the liceity of baptisms and the requirements of sponsors, culturally referred to as *godparents*.

**Can. 867** §1. Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks; as soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it.

§2. An infant in danger of death is to be baptized without delay.

**Can. 868** §1. For an infant to be baptized licitly:

1/ the parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent;  
2/ there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed according to the prescripts of particular law after the parents have been advised about the reason.

§2. An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death even against the will of the parents.

**Can. 869** §1. If there is a doubt whether a person has been baptized or whether baptism was conferred validly and the doubt remains after a serious investigation, baptism is to be conferred conditionally.

§2. Those baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community must not be baptized conditionally unless, after an examination of the matter and the form of the words used in the conferral of baptism and a consideration of the intention of the baptized adult and the minister of the baptism, a serious reason exists to doubt the validity of the baptism.

§3. If in the cases mentioned in §§1 and 2 the conferral or validity of the baptism remains doubtful, baptism is not to be conferred until after the doctrine of the sacrament of baptism is explained to the person to be baptized, if an adult, and the reasons of the doubtful validity of the baptism are explained to the person or, in the case of an infant, to the parents.

**Can. 870** An abandoned infant or a foundling is to be baptized unless after diligent investigation the baptism of the infant is established.

**Can. 871** If aborted fetuses are alive, they are to be baptized insofar as possible.

## SPONSORS

**Can. 872** Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation (*terminology referring to full initiation into the Catholic Church*) or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

**Can. 873** There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

**Can. 874** §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;  
2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;  
\* 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;  
4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;  
5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

The Code of Canon Law may be accessed electronically in its entirety at the following link: [https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/\\_INDEX.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)

\* *Living a life of faith assumes that the-would-be-sponsor is validly married in the Catholic Church, if in a marital relationship, and has not sought marriage outside the Church.*