



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Godparent Form
Infant Baptism (0 – 6 years old)

You have been asked to serve as godparent(s) by the parents whose names appear below on the occasion of the Baptism of their child. Catholic teaching requires that at least ONE godparent must be a **practicing Catholic**. Please read the godparent qualifications VERY CAREFULLY.

If you are able to serve as godparent, based upon these church guidelines, please SIGN and DATE this paper and mail or fax it back to the Church office **no later than 2 weeks** before the date of Baptism.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GODPARENTS:

1. A godparent must be a practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years of age and has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. (Canon 874, #1,2)
2. A godparent, if married, must be married according to the marriage laws of the Catholic Church...that is, married before a Roman Catholic priest/deacon and two witnesses. (Canon 8874, #3, #4).
3. A godparent may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. (Canon 874, #5)
4. A godparent is strongly encouraged to attend the class along with the parents.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GODPARENTS:

1. In the baptism of children, a godparent is to be present in order to represent the expansion of the spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as Mother.
2. As occasion offers, the godparent helps the parents to lead the child to profess the faith and to show this by living it.
3. Godparents should attend baptism classes.
4. In the ritual, the godparent's role is, together with the parents, to profess the Christian faith in which the child is being baptized.
5. The role of godparents in Baptismal ceremonies and subsequent responsibilities are SECONDARY to the role of the parents.
6. The godparent is encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the child's baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card. The godparent should also encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters or gifts which celebrate holy events. Godparents should participate in the child's First Communion and Confirmation.

I have read and understand the qualifications for a godparent and the subsequent responsibilities, and I solemnly affirm my adherence to all of these by my signature below:

SIGNATURE OF GODPARENT: _____ Date: _____

PRINTED NAME OF GODPARENT: _____

NAME OF CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED : _____

NAME OF CHILD'S PARENTS: _____

DATE OF ANTICIPATED BAPTISM: _____