



ST. BERNARD'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE • LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756 • 516-731-4220 • FAX 516-731-4355

Dear Friend in Christ:

A friend or family member has honored you by asking you to take on a truly awesome responsibility: to serve as a Sponsor or “Godparent” for a child who is about to be baptized into Jesus Christ and his Church at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church!

The role of Godparent is one that will require of you a serious commitment of time and effort, as you will be, after the parents, the primary model and teacher of the Catholic faith for your Godchild. As none of us can model and teach what we ourselves do not believe and live, we invite you at this time to consider carefully your own readiness to take on this role. It is my responsibility as Pastor to determine as far as possible that those who serve in the “ministry” of Godparent are truly ready to do so!

For this reason, I ask you to please read and give careful thought to the Catholic Sponsor Testimony found on the back of this paper. We hope that after appropriate prayer and reflection you will find yourself able to honestly sign the Testimony! If you have perhaps not been actively living your Catholic faith in recent years, we hope that this invitation to take on the role of Godparent will serve as an opportunity to renew your faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and your own parish faith community.

If you believe you are qualified and are ready to take on the responsibilities outlined in the Catholic Sponsor Testimony, please complete and sign the form, and obtain a current copy of your Baptismal Certificate, showing proof of Confirmation. Please return these documents to your Godchild’s parent/s, as she/he/they will not be able to schedule the Baptism without them. May God bless and guide you as you take on this new “ministry” of Godparent!

In the Lord,

Rev. John McCarthy
Pastor

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR FOR SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Sponsors serve an important function for those receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Sponsors are not honorary titles; rather, they are fully initiated Catholics who actively support the newly baptized and confirmed by giving good example and instruction in the life of the Catholic faith.

Given the seriousness of the role a sponsor plays in the life of a newly baptized or confirmed Catholic, the ecclesial laws of the Church require that specific qualifications be met. As a potential sponsor, please provide the information requested below:

Baptism or Confirmation? Baptism Confirmation Date of Sacrament: _____

<i>Sponsor Information</i>
Sponsor's Name: _____
Sponsor's Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Sponsor's Phone: _____
Sponsor's Email: _____
Name of Sponsor's Parish: _____
Address of Sponsor's Parish: _____
Name of Baptism/Confirmation Candidate: _____
Relationship to the Sponsor: _____
Name of Church where the Sacrament will be celebrated: _____
Address where the Sacrament will be celebrated: _____

Please affirm the following canonical requirements necessary to be a sponsor by acknowledging each statement as true with your initials:

	I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion (<i>please provide copies of the sacramental certificates</i>).
	I am currently an active, practicing Catholic.
	I will be at least sixteen years of age when the Sacrament is celebrated (<i>If not, please ask your pastor to seek a dispensation from the Chancellor's Office</i>).
	I am free from all canonical sanctions (<i>such as excommunication, apostacy, or schism</i>).
	I am not the biological father or biological mother of the candidate.
	I am currently living a life of faith that is in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church and befits the role I will undertake as sponsor.
	For Married Catholics: I am validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear before Almighty God that I fulfill all of the requirements described above, and I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Roman Catholic Church.

Signature of Intended Sponsor

Date

PLEASE RETAIN THIS DOCUMENT WITH THE PARISH FILE - DO NOT RETURN TO DIOCESAN OFFICES