

You will be the Godparent/Sponsor to: *Child's Name*

Sacred Heart Church
1301 Cooper Ave
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 634-8578, Fax (209) 634-7124

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE GODPARENT: (Please Print)

Name of Godparent: _____ Age _____

Address: _____

Are you registered at Sacred Heart Church? Yes _____ No _____

Church of Baptism: _____
Name of Church City & State

Church of First Communion: _____
Name of Church City & State

Church of Confirmation: _____
Name of Church City & State

Are you Married? Yes _____ No _____ By a Catholic Priest? Yes _____ No _____

Church of Marriage: _____
Name of Church City & State

When and where did you last attend a baptism class?

Name of Church City & State Date

“I understand the responsibility I am undertaking and I have both the desire and intention to fulfill it”

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

This section needs to be completed by the priest of the church you attend

I know the above person is Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. This person participates regularly in the life of the Catholic Church, is bound by no canonical penalty, and is able to fulfill the responsibilities involved in sponsoring the Catholic initiation of another.

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____ (please comment below)

Priest Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Church _____

Seal



Diocese of Stockton

Infant Baptismal Policy

Sacred Heart Church

INTRODUCTION:

The parents of the infant who is to be baptized and likewise those who are to undertake the office of sponsor are to be properly instructed in the meaning of the sacrament and the obligations which are attached to it. (Canon 851) *

Parents are obligated to see that infants are baptized within the first weeks after birth; or even before birth, parents can go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child. (Canon 867).

INVOLVED AND ACTIVE ROMAN CATHOLIC:

To be involved and active, Catholics must have an adequate understanding of what Baptism is. They should worship at Mass on the Lord's Day, and receive Holy Communion when possible. In their home they should live in a Christian life, with prayer, and some popular religious customs. In doing this they provide a well-founded hope that their infant will be brought up to live an authentic Catholic life.

On the other hand, if such hope is lacking, the Baptism should be postponed according to the regulations of the local bishop or pastor and the parents are to be informed of the reason.

“OUT OF PARISH”

Requests for baptism should be sent to the proper parish. Pre-baptismal instruction preparation is the responsibility of the proper parish. Parishioners who request a baptismal outside their proper parish should still fulfill the preparation program in their proper parish.

QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE AS SPONSOR (GODPARENT)

The role of the sponsor or Godparent is, “together with the parent and infant at baptism, and... help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it”. (Canon 872)

One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex. (Canon 873)

Thus the church has established the following norms governing the qualifications needed to be a sponsor or Godparent. They must:

- be sixteen (16) years of age.
- “be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken.

(Canon 874)

- “not be the father or mother of the child being baptized.” (Canon 874)

Only the Godfather and/or Godmother can be baptismal sponsors (Canon 873). In addition, “a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.” (Canon 874.2)

If sponsors are from outside the parish, a letter of reference/permission from the proper parish is required.

* *Canon? These come from the “Code of Canon Law”, the living Law of the Roman Catholic Church, promulgated in 1973 by Pope John Paul II.*