St Joseph Ponchatoula Catholic Church
RCIA Sponsor – Godparent Certification Form

Dear Sponsor or Godparent,

The Church thanks you for your lifelong commitment to your catechumen or candidate. Being called to be a Sponsor or Godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or a reward of friendship. The call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving spiritual witness to your catechumen or candidate, your soon to be godchild, of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support in their faith lives.

The laws of the Church require the following of a valid sponsor (godparent):

- Must be mature enough to undertake this role, at least 16 years of age
- Must be fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office [This would indicate that Catholics living in an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those cohabitating (living together without marriage) are ineligible]
- Must know the fundamental truths of the faith, be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass and receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction in his/her family
- Must not be the mother or father of the one being baptized or confirmed

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility which you take on as godparent. The Church thanks you for your witness to the faith and for living these Catholic ideals.

I, _____ of _____ Church accept
(Print godparent name) (Name of Church)
the invitation to be godparent to _____ for the sacraments of baptism and/or confirmation at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ponchatoula, LA.

I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, living my Catholic faith and in good standing with the Catholic Church. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide, and role model to my godchild, especially by my own example.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Certificate from Godparent's Home Parish
(Fill out only if not St. Joseph Ponchatoula Parishioner)

This is to certify that _____

- ☐ Is in good standing in this parish and the she/he meets the requirements for being a godparent
- ☐ Is registered in our parish as a practicing Catholic
- ☐ Lives in the territorial boundaries of the parish, but is not a registered parishioner

Parish:_____ Address:_____
Phone:_____ _____

Signature:_____ Title:_____ Date:_____

[Affix parish seal]

Please complete no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled baptism and/or confirmation and return to St. Joseph Catholic Church; Ponchatoula, LA 70454; Phone: 985.386.3749