ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Humble, Texas 77338

Phone: 281-446-8211 Website: www.st-mm.com

Office of Adult Faith Formation
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IMPORTANT LETTER

Baptism Preparation for Parents of Children Under the Age of Seven

Dear Parents,

We rejoice with you on the upcoming baptism for your child. Your Catholic family warmly welcomes you and promises to support you in your endeavor to be a Christian parent. Please:

1. **Read and review the contents of this welcome packet carefully.** It contains important information you need to know.
2. **Register for our baptism class** for parents by completing the registration form and submitting a copy of your child's birth certificate. Please take the registration form home and discuss the questions with a spouse or family member. You will be registered only after we have both of these documents (unless the child is not yet born; in that case, only the registration form is necessary).
3. **BOTH PARENTS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS.** If you have a special need that makes this difficult, please speak with me.
4. After you have completed the paperwork and the online class, you will be scheduled to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with your family.

On behalf of Fr. Felix Osasona, MSP, our pastor, and all of the families here at St. Mary Magdalene, we congratulate you as you approach this special celebration and invite you to continue to worship with us at Sunday Mass each week.

You and your family remain in our prayers; we ask you to join us in praying for the growth and life of all the people of our parish.

In Christ's Love,

Ginger Herrington, MA Theology
Director of Adult Formation
gingerh@st-mm.com

New Infant Baptism Format

St. Mary Magdalene invites you to attend our Infant Baptism class in our new COVID-safe format.

Registration packets can be downloaded from our website. You can email all the necessary documents to gingerh@st-mm.com , or you can drop the completed documents off in the church office. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Documents needed:

- Registration Form;
- Godparent form;
- and the baby's birth certificate.

COVID-Safe Format

- Accept my invitation to join the Google classroom. If there's a glitch…
  - ✓ You may need to download the free Google classroom app if you don't have a Gmail account.
  - ✓ If you have a Gmail account, look for the Google app "square made up of squares" near your icon at the upper right-hand corner of your Google account. Scroll down until you see the green chalkboard and click on it.
  - ✓ Look for the large "plus" sign (+) and click on it; choose "Join a class"
  - ✓ The code for the class is wxdhfkw
- Click on the Classwork tab.
- Begin with the first module, "*Catholics 101*." Watch these short videos before moving on to the next module.
- Complete the second module, "*A New Creation*."
  - ✓ Answer the introductory question by writing a comment.
  - ✓ Watch the video.
  - ✓ Respond to the "group discussion" questions and upload your document to the classroom or email it to me.
  - ✓ Read and respond to the Parent Promise and upload your document to the classroom or email it to me.
  - ✓ If the godparents are watching with you, please ask them to read and respond to the Godparent Promise and upload it to the classroom or email it to me.
- Move on to the next module, "*The Rite Explained*."
  - ✓ Follow the same steps as you did for A New Creation.
- Move on to the last module, "*Nurturing the Life of Grace*."
  - ✓ Follow the same steps as you did for The Rite Explained.

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
527 South Houston Avenue, Humble, Texas 77338

REGISTRATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

TO BE CELEBRATED IN ENGLISH
for infants and children who have not reached the age of seven.

Please take these pages home to fill out and discuss your responses with your family.

PLEASE PRINT **Today's Date:**_____

Child's Full Name_____Sex: _____

Father's Name:_____Religion:_____

Mother's Full Maiden Name_____Religion:_____

Address:_____

City_____State:_____Zip:_____

Geographical area or neighborhood where you live:
☐ Humble ☐ Kingwood ☐ Atascosita ☐ Porter ☐ New Caney ☐ Houston ☐ ☐ Other

Cell Phone: _____Other Phone:_____ ☐ Home ☐ Work

Email Address (*please print very clearly*): _____

Child's Date of Birth:_____ Age: _____Unborn? ☐ Yes Due date_____

Child's Place of Birth (City, State, Country) _____Special Needs? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was the child adopted? ☐ Yes ☐ No Was the child baptized privately or in an emergency? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For census purposes only (optional) Ethnic Origin:
☐ European American ☐ Hispanic American ☐ African American ☐ Asian American ☐ Other

Where do you attend Mass?_____How often do you attend? _____

At which parish is your family registered?_____ (Office—reg. no. _____)
Where are you planning to have your child baptized? ☐ St. Mary Magdalene ☐ at another parish

Have you ever taken baptism class or preparation before? When? _____Where? _____
When do you plan to access the class? _____

BOTH PARENTS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE CLASS.
Godparents are invited to participate in the class.

Are you married in the Catholic Church? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you want to get married in the Church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do not write in this space – for OFFICE USE ONLY

Documents are attached: ☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Sponsor/Godparent Form—Reviewed for accuracy
Date class was completed: _____ Attended by ☐ Mother ☐ Father

Date baptism is scheduled:_____ Time: ☐ 3 PM Sunday ☐ At Mass (which?)
_____
☐ Outside of Mass on a weekday
Presider scheduled: _____

Date baptism was celebrated:_____ **Signature of Priest or Deacon:**_____
Recorded in the parish registry: Date: _____ Vol.____ Page____ No.____ Secretary's Initials: _____

PRAYERFULLY REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AT HOME.

This reflection is to help you spiritually prepare for your class. If you are married, discuss them with your spouse and do this activity together. If you are a single parent, discuss them with a family member. If it is easier, you may type your responses (answers only) and insert the page(s) inside this form. Turn the entire form in to the parish office or by email to me and we will then register you for the class.

1. **Who influenced your faith life as it is now? In what ways did he/she influence your faith?**

2. **How has your own faith life changed over time? What meaning did it have for you as a child? What does "faith" mean to you now?**

3. **What is your experience of God, church, prayer, worship, religious instruction, and faith life? How do you see yourself in relation to the Church?**

4. **What are some ways you celebrate faith in your home?**

5. **Do you pray very often? Does your family pray together? Is it easy or difficult to pray?**

6. **Did your family attend Mass last Sunday? What was that experience like for you?**

7. **How often do you attend Mass and receive the sacraments?**

8. **Why do you want to have your child baptized in the Catholic Church?**

9. **How do parents help children to grow in faith? What are some of the ways you are planning to teach your child the Catholic faith? How will you model the faith in your home and personal life?**

10. **Describe your present state of marriage. Are you married in the Catholic Church, civilly married, living together with someone, or single, raising your child alone? How do you think your present marital status influences raising your child to live as a practicing Catholic?**

11. **What are some changes you think you might need to make in your life at this time in order to practice your faith and raise your child Catholic?**

12. **What are some of the challenges you will face as you strive to make these changes? How can your parish family help you overcome these challenges?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

1. **Are there any other spiritual or sacramental needs in your family? Is there anything in particular for which you are hoping for? How can your parish family serve you better? Please describe.**

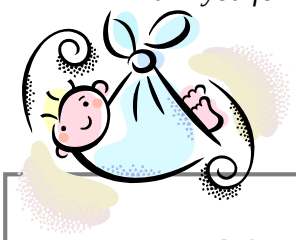
☐Adult Confirmation ☐ Eucharist ☐Convalidation (marriage in the Church) ☐Help with prayer
☐An opportunity to be of service ☐Becoming more active in parish life and activities
☐Other, please describe:

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for taking your time to do this activity! Please spend time in prayer before your retreat day!



Children are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward.

Psalm 127:3

You can ask for your child's baptism to be scheduled after you have completed all of the paperwork and the online class.

There is no charge to you for this preparation, but it does cost money. Please support your parish by contributing to the Sunday collection. How much you give is up to you. An offering given to the baptism program to cover expenses is appreciated. It is also customary to give an offering to the priest or deacon on the day of baptism.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

- Referred to clergy as needed. _____
- Date set for follow-up discussion, if needed: _____
- Other sacramental needs: _____
- Other special needs: _____

Form Revised June 2022 GH

Sponsor-Godparent Form

Sponsors (Godparents) for _____
Name of candidate for baptism and/or confirmation

Child(ren) of _____

Choosing your child's sponsor (two persons together are usually referred to as godparents) is one of the most important decisions you will make. Godparents represent the Church and as such, it will be their responsibility to help your child in his or her Catholic Christian formation and education. Therefore, you should verify whether the sponsor or godparents you have in mind meet the following criteria.

Mandatory Criteria for Godparents

1. Must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.
2. Have received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).
3. Is a Catholic in good standing with the Church (free to take the Eucharist).
4. If either is married, he/she must be in a valid marriage—a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses.
5. Cohabiting couples cannot serve as a godparent. Sexual relationships of any kind outside of marriage disqualify a person from serving as a godparent.
6. Divorced persons may be godparents as long as they are not remarried outside of the Church.
7. Is presently practicing his/her faith (attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, registered in his or her home parish, able to receive Communion and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church.
***8.* May not be a parent of the child to be baptized.**

For details, see page 4.

One Catholic sponsor is sufficient; however, two godparents may be chosen, male and female.
No more than two sponsors' names will appear on the certificate of baptism.

Among your family and friends, is there anyone who stands out as a good example of someone who practices his/her faith? Remember that the godparents may influence your child, not only in the practice of the faith, but also in the virtues of Christian life. Ask God in faith to help you discern the best godparents for your child.

Name of Male Sponsor (Godfather): _____

1. He must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.			
☐	He is a baptized Catholic.	☐	He is not a baptized Catholic, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
☐	He is at least 16 years of age	☐	He is younger than 16, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
2. He must have received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).			
☐	He has received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).	☐	He has not received all three of the sacraments: confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion), so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
3. He must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church (free to take Eucharist).			
☐	He is a practicing Catholic, able to receive the sacraments.	☐	He is not a practicing Catholic, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
4. Is he married? ☐ Yes. Fill out question 5a. ☐ No. Fill out question 5b.			
5a. ☐	He had a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses.	☐	He was married outside of the Catholic Church and has not had his marriage blessed by the Church, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
5b. ☐	He is living a chaste single life.	☐	He is involved in a sexual relationship outside of a Catholic marriage, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.
6. Is he presently practicing his faith?			
☐	He is attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church.	☐	He is not attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, not participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so he is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godfather.

OR Name of proxy, if representing ***absent*** godfather: _____

OR Name of male Christian Witness, ***instead of godfather***, to stand with an eligible godmother:

_____

*A Christian witness is a baptized **non-Catholic** Christian who serves along with one Catholic Sponsor.*

Anyone who has EVER been baptized in the Catholic Church MAY NOT serve as a Christian witness.

Name of Female Sponsor (Godmother): _____

1. She must be a baptized Catholic, 16 years of age or older.			
☐	She is a baptized Catholic.	☐	She is not a baptized Catholic, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
☐	She is at least 16 years of age	☐	She is younger than 16, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
2. She must have received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).			
☐	She has received the sacraments of confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion).	☐	She has not received all three of the sacraments: confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion), so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
3. She must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church (free to take Eucharist).			
☐	She is a practicing Catholic, able to receive the sacraments.	☐	She is not a practicing Catholic, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
4. Is she married? ☐Yes. Fill out question 5a. ☐No. Fill out question 5b.			
5a. ☐	She had a Catholic wedding that was witnessed by a priest or deacon and two Catholic witnesses.	☐	She was married outside of the Catholic Church and has not had her marriage blessed by the Church, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
5b. ☐	She is living a chaste single life.	☐	She is involved in a sexual relationship outside of a Catholic marriage, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.
6. Is she presently practicing her faith?			
☐	She is attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, and participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church.	☐	She is not attending Catholic Mass each Sunday, not participating in the sacramental life and activity of the Church, and is not able to receive the sacraments, so she is ***not eligible*** to be my child's godmother.

OR Name of proxy, if representing ***absent*** godmother: _____

OR Name of female Christian Witness, ***instead of a godmother***, to stand with an eligible godfather:

_____

*A Christian witness is a baptized **non-Catholic** Christian who serves along with one Catholic Sponsor.*

Anyone who has EVER been baptized in the Catholic Church MAY NOT serve as a Christian witness.

Mandatory Criteria for Sponsors/Godparents

"Good standing with the Church" means that this person is a Catholic who has received the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist), penance and if married, he/she must be in a valid Catholic marriage. A faithful candidate is one who attends Mass regularly, prays in the home, shares the faith with family and when possible participates in active ministry in his/her parish. A divorced Catholic who is not remarried or cohabiting can be a godparent.

Why is it important to choose Catholics who practice the faith? As representatives of the Catholic Church, it is the obligation and responsibility of the godparents to give your child a good example of lived faith so that your child may grow to have a loving relationship with God and his Church. Children learn best by observing—"faith is caught, not taught."

Can a man sponsor a girl child? Can a woman sponsor a boy? Yes. The sponsor does not have to be of the same sex as the child.

May a Christian of another faith be a sponsor? A person baptized in another Christian faith may be a Christian Witness as long as your child has one Catholic godparent as well. **Anyone who has EVER been baptized in a Catholic Church MAY NOT serve as a Christian witness.**

May a Christian of another faith be a Godparent? *A Christian witness is a baptized **non-Catholic** Christian who serves along with one Catholic Sponsor.* A person baptized in another Christian faith may be a Christian Witness as long as your child has at least one Catholic godparent as well. This person should be practicing his or her faith according to the norms of his or her faith tradition, including regular participation in Sunday worship. **Anyone who has EVER been baptized in the Catholic Church MAY NOT serve as a Christian witness**. Such a person is considered to be a non-practicing Catholic.

Can anyone who is living together without being married be a sponsor? No, Catholics who are cohabitating in a sexual relationship (either heterosexual or homosexual) without being married to each other in a Catholic ceremony are not eligible to serve as sponsors.

What if the godparents cannot attend the ceremony? It is acceptable to have a proxy.

What if I can't find a sponsor for my child who meets these guidelines? Let us know, and we can find a practicing Catholic from among our parishioners who will serve as a sponsor for your child. Every person who is baptized must have at least one sponsor. This person may be male or female for either a boy or a girl.

I promise and affirm that I have read all 4 pages and that my child's sponsor(s) meet the guidelines presented here.

_____ _____

Parent's Signature **Date**