

Requirements for Infant Baptism (For Children 6 Years And Under)

- If you are requesting baptism for your child, **at least one parent must be a practicing, baptized Catholic and be a registered parishioner at St. Joseph Church, Hilo.**
- **A donation to St. Joseph Church will be most welcome.** No one will be denied the services if they cannot pay.
- If you do not live in the Hilo area and are not registered currently with St. Joseph Church, you will need to go to the Catholic Church in the community you are living to inquire about baptism.
- You will need to select Godparents that meet the qualifications below. Both parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class. Once the parents or Godparents have attended a preparation class, it's valid for 3 years.
- Please provide a copy of your child's **BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.**
- Baptisms are celebrated primarily at the 11:45 am mass on Sundays.
- If your Godparents do not live in Hilo, they may attend the baptismal preparation program at the Catholic Church they attend. They will need to get a letter verifying that they have completed the required preparation for a baptismal Godparent, which is offered at that Catholic Church and send it to us.

Please fax to: **808-969-1665**, or mail to: **St. Joseph Church 43 Kapiolani Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720**

Godparents:

Qualifications: Godparents/sponsors not only serve as witnesses at the ceremony of Baptism and/or Confirmation but also assist the person in leading a Christian life. Therefore, Church law requires that godparents/sponsors be people who are living the Catholic faith and meet the following qualifications (*Code of Canon Law, canons 872-874*):

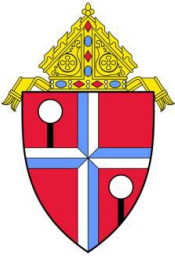
1. They should ordinarily be at least 16 years of age.
2. One Male and/or One Female
3. They must be Catholics who have received Baptism, Confirmation, & first Holy Communion.
4. They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith & participating in the church regularly (i.e. Eucharist, confession, parish life, etc.).
5. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
6. Parents of the person to be initiated may not serve as godparents/sponsors.

Not qualified? Please speak to your pastor about receiving the sacraments and getting qualified!

Christian Witnesses for Baptism: If only one godparent is chosen for Baptism, someone validly baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community may serve as a Christian witness to the ceremony, along with the Catholic godparent. This form is not required for Christian witnesses. (Baptized Catholics who no longer practice their faith or who have joined another ecclesial community may not serve as Christian witnesses.)

Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians may serve as godparents/sponsors like a Catholic. Please provide a copy of valid church registration or baptism in your home church.

Proxies: If the godparent/sponsor cannot be present for the ceremony, a proxy may stand in as a witness at the ceremony. This person must attend a baptismal preparation class.



Office for Canonical Affairs

DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

Latin Catholic Church Sui Iuris

**Certificate for Godparents/Sponsors
for BAPTISM**

Person to be baptized (print): _____

Church where sacrament will be celebrated: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Qualifications:

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6. Parents of the person to be initiated may not serve as godparents/sponsors.

I hereby declare before God that I meet the above qualifications. I also promise to assist the person being initiated in living the Christian life as a faithful Catholic.

Godparent/sponsor signature: _____ Date: _____

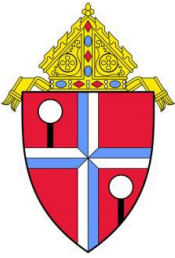
Godparent/sponsor name (print): _____

Name of your Catholic parish: _____

Your city: _____ Your state or country: _____

Notes:

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- Orthodox Christians:** Orthodox Christians may serve as godparents/sponsors like a Catholic. Please provide a copy of valid church registration or baptism in your home church.
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