



**96<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
BLESSING OF THE FLEET AND SHRIMP FESTIVAL  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
QUALIFICATIONS FOR SHRIMP QUEEN CONTESTANTS**

TO COMPETE IN THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET AND SHRIMP FESTIVAL PAGEANT,  
THE CONTESTANT MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

1. She must be between 16-19 years of age by May 1, 2025.
2. She must be either: A student of a high school in one of the following cities/communities: Biloxi, (including St. Patrick High School), St. Martin, D'Iberville, Ocean Springs, Gulfport **OR** a currently enrolled college student.
3. She **MUST** be a descendant of persons involved with **Mississippi's** seafood industry (active, retired or deceased).
4. She **MUST** create a heritage project display board based on her family's involvement and history in the seafood industry, how the industry has affected her family, what she knows about the shrimping industry, how she envisions the future of the industry or anything else related to shrimp and/or the industry. Project display boards will be used in contestant scoring as part of the title of MISS SEAFOOD HERITAGE & SHRIMP QUEEN and will be used in the event of a tie for QUEEN.
5. Anyone qualified through local family heritage, but not attending the qualifying schools, may petition the Shrimp Festival Committee for participation as a contestant.
6. Contestants are responsible for obtaining their own sponsorship. **Please make checks payable to the Biloxi Shrimp Festival.** Sponsor checks are due at the initial meeting on **May 4**. Sponsors may be chosen from the list provided.

The Blessing of the Fleet and the Shrimp Festival is sponsored by St. Michael Catholic Church, City of Biloxi, Harrison County, along with cooperation and donations from local businesses. PLEASE NOTE: Contestant participation is subject to approval by the Shrimp Queen Pageant Committee. We are looking forward to you joining us this year. The following prizes will be awarded:

QUEEN- Sash with Pendant, Trophy and \$2,000.00 Cash  
1<sup>st</sup> ALTERNATE - Trophy and \$1,000.00 Cash  
2<sup>nd</sup> ALTERNATE -Trophy and \$600.00 Cash  
3<sup>rd</sup> ALTERNATE - Trophy and \$300.00 Cash  
MISS CONGENIALITY- Trophy and \$100.00 Cash  
MISS SEAFOOD HERITAGE - \$500.00 Cash  
Katie Pizzetta "Sparkle" Scholarship- \$500 Cash  
Most Ad sales - \$100 Gift Certificate

SPONSORS OF PAGEANT - Contestants are required to sell a minimum of \$300.00 in ads as part of the Coronation program. Program ad prices are as followed; \$25.00- quarter page, \$50.00-half page, and \$100.00-whole page.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 4 - PROGRAM ADS DEADLINE: June 4, 2025**

Questions, please call Jamie Gollott – 697-4805 or Darnell Schreck – 861-4662

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **Initial Meeting**– 9 a.m., *St. Michael Life Center*. We will discuss key dates Blessing Committee Members will discuss the contestant scoresheet. The application is available online at [stmichaelchurchbiloxi.com](http://stmichaelchurchbiloxi.com)
- TBA**      **Heritage Project Board Workshop (OPTIONAL)** – Blessing Committee Members and the staff of the Biloxi Library Genealogy Department will assist contestants in obtaining the documents needed in completing their projects during this workshop. See the “Queen Contestant Seafood Heritage Project Board Requirements and Guidelines” for details.
- Wed., June 4<sup>th</sup>**      **2025 Poster Unveiling Reception (MANDATORY)**, - 6 p.m., *St. Michael Life Center*  
\*\*\*Poster unveiling is open to the public. Contestants will introduce themselves and their sponsor.
- Pictures** – 5 p.m., *St. Michael Catholic Church*.      \*\*\*Individual      and group photos will be taken.
- Wed., July 2<sup>nd</sup>**      **Rehearsal (MANDATORY)** – Directly after Deceased Fishermen’s Mass., *Croatian Cultural Center (Slavonian Lodge)*..
- \*\*Heritage Project Boards are DUE at 5 p.m.\*\***
- Fun Day for Contestants** - Time, and place to be announced.
- Thurs., July 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **Memorial Mass for Deceased Fishermen (MANDATORY)** – 6 p.m., *St. Michael Catholic Church*.

**Past-Royalty Reception (MANDATORY)** – 7 p.m., *St. Michael Catholic Church. (Immediately following Mass)*

Sat., July 5<sup>th</sup>

**Contestant Interviews (MANDATORY)**- 8 a.m., *Mary Mahoney's French House.*

**Luncheon** – with the judges (*immediately following the interviews*).

**Blessing Mass (MANDATORY)** – 5 p.m., *St. Michael Catholic Church.* Contestants must be present by 4:30 p.m. for Mass. Family is welcome.

**Pageant (MANDATORY)** – Immediately following Mass. Contestants will be drive from the church to the **Slavonian Lodge**.

Sun., July 6<sup>th</sup>

**The Blessing of the Fleet** - The Queen plus (3) guests will ride on the Blessing boat with the King and Monsignor Fullam. Contestants plus 3 guest will view from **Shrimp Festival** at Harrah's Great Lawn. (Queen will be notified of the location and departure time on Saturday evening)

[www.stmichaelchurchbiloxi.com](http://www.stmichaelchurchbiloxi.com)

## **Sponsors**

**Sponsors can be a locally owned processing plant, retailer, wholesaler, or a MS licensed shrimp boat.**

**Local restaurants selling locally purchased gulf fresh shrimp are also qualified sponsors.**

**For any questions or concerns about sponsorship, please contact Wendy Fayard at (228) 861-3755.**

# 2025 BLESSING OF THE FLEET AND SHRIMP FESTIVAL

Advertisement Form – Pageant Program  
Please include this form with each individual ad  
*Please make checks payable to Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet*

Name of Business or Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Advertisement Selection:

- Full Page**      **\$100.00**
- 1/2 Page**      **\$50.00**
- 1/4 Page**      **\$25.00**

**Attach business card below or ad description with text and picture.**

**2025 BLESSING OF THE FLEET  
AND SHRIMP FESTIVAL**  
**Sponsorship Form – Shrimp Queen Contestant**  
**Please make checks payable to Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet**

**Name of Contestant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Name (Business Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Representative's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby sponsor the above named 2025 Shrimp Queen Contestant. I have paid the \$200.00 sponsorship fee to the contestant to be submitted. I understand that my sponsorship fee helps fund prizes for the pageant and other expenses. It is also my understanding that the contestant will wear a sash during the pageant reflecting our company name.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_