

BAPTISM SPONSOR / GODPARENT ELIGIBILITY FORM

I have been asked to be a sponsor/Godparent for _____
(Baptismal candidate's full name)

I accept and profess all that the Catholic Church teaches and believes as revealed by God. I have been baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. I attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. I was married in the Catholic Church or I will marry in the Catholic Church, if God calls me to that vocation.

I have read the letter on the reverse of this page and I am aware of my responsibilities to assist the person named above with my prayers, good example and involvement in the spiritual life.

I will do all in my power to personally bear witness to Jesus Christ by striving to live a holy life according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church.

I am a registered parishioner in _____ Parish

Address _____

in _____,
(City) (State) (Zip)

I affirm that everything above is true.

(Sponsor/Godparent First & Last Name – Please Print)

(Sponsor/Godparent Signature) Date _____

(Pastor's First & Last Name – Please Print)

(Pastor's Signature) Date _____

Church NAME _____

in _____,
(City) (State) (Zip)

PLACE CHURCH SEAL
HERE

Dear Godparent / Baptismal Sponsor,

Congratulations. You have been chosen to be a baptism sponsor / Godparent because of the high esteem the baptismal candidate or their family has for you. But it is an honor that has several requirements and responsibilities that go along with it.

To be a Godparent you must have been baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. You must be at least 16 years old and be actively practicing your Catholic faith. This means that you should at least be attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. If you are married, you must be validly married in the Catholic Church. And there should be a sincere effort to keep all the Commandments given by God and His Church.

Being a Godparent also means that you are willing to be an active participant in the spiritual life of the person for whom you are a sponsor. You should pray frequently for him or her. Pray that God will protect him or her from all harm, especially those things that could harm their soul. Pray that he or she will know the vocation to which God is calling them and encourage them to consider that God may be calling them to a religious vocation. Remember important events in their spiritual journey – the anniversary of their Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation – with cards and prayers. Share your faith with them. Be someone that they would feel comfortable talking to, as they grow and mature in their faith.

Be a good example for the person for whom you are a sponsor. In addition to keeping the Commandments of God and His Church, practice charity in thought, word and deed. Show that living our Christian faith means more than just doing the minimum. We profess our faith more loudly by what we do rather than what we say.

Lastly, being a sponsor means being willing to intervene if the person for whom you are a sponsor goes astray from the practice of the Catholic faith in some way. At the Baptism, the priest may remind you that “no one wants to be ‘holier than thou,’ but there are spiritual works of mercy by which we are called to warn the sinner and instruct the ignorant.” This is not always easy and takes some courage and lots of prayer, but true love means helping others to avoid false belief and immoral behavior.

Being a Godparent is a time of grace for you as well. God will help you to carry out your duties and responsibilities toward the one for whom you are a sponsor. Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and praying the rosary are a few ways that you will be able to grow in your own relationship with God. May the Holy Spirit fill you with wisdom and grace to be a good sponsor.

GODPARENT / SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS (CODE OF CANON LAW 872-874)

1. **Must** have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
2. **Must** be at least 16 years old.
3. **Must** be a practicing Catholic:
 - **Must** attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.
 - If married, **must** be validly married in the Catholic Church.
 - Must be someone who is a good role model for the Catholic faith.
4. Can be either male or female.
 - Choose someone who will pray for the person for whom they are a sponsor. Someone who takes the spiritual well-being of the person seriously.
 - Choose someone who will provide a good example by being a good role model for the Catholic faith. A good role model is someone who is positive toward our faith and all teachings, not someone who believes the Church is right about some things and wrong about others. Someone who badmouths or talks negatively about a particular teaching would not be a good sponsor.
 - Choose someone who is able to reasonably explain and talk about their faith.
 - Choose someone who follows the Commandments and lives a good moral life.
 - Choose someone who goes beyond just doing the minimum and is a good witness to their faith in practice. Someone who practices charity both by what they say and do.
 - Choose someone who will, if necessary, intervene if they see the person for whom they are a sponsor go astray in some way. The Priest may remind the sponsors at the Baptism ceremony that no one wants to be “holier than thou,” but there are spiritual works of mercy to “warn the sinner,” and “instruct the ignorant.”
 - NOTE FOR THE FUTURE: It is desirable, but not necessary, that at Confirmation they should choose one of their godparents from their Baptism to be their Confirmation sponsor. This makes a nice connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The only exception is if the godparent is no longer practicing their Catholic faith, as they should be.