



Requirements to be a Godparent for Baptism

The purpose of a godparent is to aid the person they sponsor in leading a Catholic Christian life as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and His Church. To do this, they themselves must be living the Catholic Faith. A godparent should also be someone who will be a part of the person's life after Baptism. Even if they are unable to attend the actual Baptism, a proxy could stand in for them.

The following criteria are required by Church law. A godparent must:

- 1) Be a practicing Catholic.
- 2) Be at least 16 years of age.
- 3) Have already been Baptized and Confirmed and receives the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- 4) Lead a mature life of faith. While this does not mean they have to be perfect, it does mean that they:
 - Believe in God and all that He has revealed to us and all that His Holy Catholic Church proposes for our belief.
 - Attend Mass weekly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.
 - [If married,] must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
 - Have a faith that is alive through works of charity.
 - Strives to commit their entire self to God.

Only one Catholic godparent is required. If there are two godparents for Baptism, they must be of the opposite gender (godfather and godmother).

The following are not eligible to be sponsors (see Canon law # 874):

- 5) The father or mother of the person who will receive the sacrament.
- 6) One who does not practice the Catholic faith on a regular basis.
- 7) One who does not accept the authority of the Church.
- 8) One who does not accept all the teachings of the Church on faith and morals.
- 9) One whose current marital status/situation does not conform to the laws and morals of the Catholic Church (for example, if married, then married within the Church; if single, not living with a romantic partner).

A faithful, baptized, non-Catholic Christian (provided they were never Catholic) may act as a Christian witness for Baptism if alongside a Catholic godparent.

Catholic Godparent's Statement of Faith

I, _____, affirm on my honor before God that I meet the above requirements to be a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism. I believe in God and all that He has revealed to us, and all that the Catholic Church proposes for our belief. I strive to commit my entire self to God and seek to know and do God's will. I seek to keep my faith alive through works of charity and obedience to God's commandments.

I recognize that as a sacramental godparent for

I must be a living example of faith. I express my faith by loving God and my neighbor, through private prayer and weekly worship with God's people at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, by regularly receiving the Eucharist, by regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by accepting and living the teachings of the Catholic Church on faith and morals, and by giving good example.

I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, of at least 16 years of age; I am a registered member of

_____ parish;

[if married] I have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church; I actively support my parish with my gifts and talents and treasure (according to my means); and that all the above statements are true.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Please present this form to the parish office to receive a Sponsorship Letter from the parish.