

## Godparents/Sponsors

To be chosen as a Godparent/Sponsor is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education. This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship—one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

**It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of baptism or confirmation, a Godparent/Sponsor is present. The functions of the Godparent/Sponsor are:**

- Together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church;
- To assist the person in Christian initiation

**In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of Godparent/Sponsor if,**

- He or she is not less than sixteen years of age; and
- Who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and
- Is not either the father or the mother of the person

*At least one of the Godparents/Sponsors must be an active, registered parishioner in good standing with a parish.* Given the functions and role a Godparent/Sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a Godparent/Sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony.

**Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a Godparent/Sponsor must "live a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." This phraseology means that the candidate for Godparent/Sponsor:**

- Sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church;
- Regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

**Consequently:**

1. Those Catholics who are not actively affiliated with a worshipping community,
  2. Those Catholics who are invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi,
  3. Those Catholics who have not received Confirmation and the Blessed Eucharist;
- DO NOT QUALIFY TO BE ADMITTED AS A SPONSOR.**

\* Godparents/Sponsors from other parishes must bring Sponsor letters stating that they are active registered parishioners in good standing of that parish.

**\* There is to be only one male or one female Godparent/Sponsor. Alternatively, you can have only one Godparent/Sponsor if you so desire.**