



Holy Family Catholic Church

Sponsor Verification Form

Name of Sponsor: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name of Candidate: _____

For the Reception of:

Baptism

Confirmation

OCIA Rituals

Meaning and Role of Sponsors

A sponsor accompanies someone on their faith journey before, during, and after the reception of the Sacrament(s). Canon Law requires that sponsors meet certain criteria to ensure that they will provide a living witness to Catholic discipleship. In accepting this important role, you are urged to reflect upon the importance of this commitment and pray about the responsibility you will be fulfilling in someone's spiritual journey. After reflection, check off each line and provide information as needed so as to verify that you fulfill the requirements. Then sign the sponsor covenant below.

- I am a fully initiated Catholic, having personally received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church.
- I am at least 16 years of age.
- I am not a parent of the candidate.
- If single, I am living a chaste life (not cohabitating with someone in a romantic sense) OR
If married, I was married in the Catholic Church or with proper dispensation of the Church.
- I participate in Holy Mass every weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- I receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season.
- I participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, and as necessary to remain in the state of grace for the reception of Holy Communion.
- I regularly provide for the needs of the Church, according to my abilities and God's blessings.
- I am a registered and active member parishioner at _____.

Sponsor Covenant

I hereby declare before God that I meet the above requirements. I have given witness to my faith in Jesus Christ in word and deed and strive to live out my commitment to the Gospel message by living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals. I intend to continue practicing my Catholic faith. I accept the role of sponsor and promise to accompany this candidate in living the Christian life as a faithful Catholic to the best of my ability. I promise to support him/her by my prayers, my continued interest in his/her Catholic growth, and by the example of my daily life.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

What if I do not meet one or more of the above Requirements?

Please speak to your pastor about your specific circumstances and how they can be resolved.

Can you be a sponsor more than once?

Yes, you can be a sponsor for more than one person, even at the same celebration. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility equally for all individuals that you sponsor.

Unable to be Present?

A proxy, who also fulfills the criteria for sponsors, can stand in on your behalf if you will be absent from the celebration. If this will be the case, include your proxy's name: _____

Godparents for Baptism

Sponsors are commonly called godparents when celebrating Baptism. The church only requires one sponsor for Baptism, however candidates may have two godparents. If choosing only one sponsor, you are free to choose a male or female. However, if you wish to have two godparents, there must be one male and one female. They need not be married to each other.

Christian Witnesses for Baptism

If only one sponsor is chosen for Baptism, a baptized, non-Catholic Christian may serve as a "Christian Witness" alongside the sponsor. The sponsor and Christian witness must be of opposite genders. The Christian witness should be an active and participating member of his/her church community, living an upright life, and be at least 16-years old. A Christian witness cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church, even if they are active in another Christian church community. A Christian witness cannot be a parent of the candidate. A Christian witness may never be a non-baptized person. If there will be a Christian witness in addition to you as sponsor, include his/her name: _____

Return completed form to:

Holy Family Catholic Church
129 W. Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150

Sponsor Verification forms must be submitted *at least two weeks* prior to the celebration of the Sacraments (and sometimes earlier, depending on the preparation process). Check with your candidate for a specific date and to whom to send the form.