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Godparent Eligibility Form for Sacrament of Baptism

Please fill out and return to Baptism Coordinator, Josiah Lester (Josiah.Lester@dor.org)

The Catholic Church requires that all of those who assume the responsibilities and obligations of godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism, practice their faith and take seriously their discipleship in Jesus Christ as a Roman Catholic Christian. As such, the expectation of the Church is that someone seeking to fulfill the role of godparent will be:

___ Roman Catholic

___ At least sixteen years old

___ Have received all three Sacraments of Initiation: *Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation*

___ Attend Mass regularly and strive to “actively practice the faith”

- *For an understanding of what “actively practicing the faith” looks like, please see the reverse side of this form*

___ If married, in the Catholic Church

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Last

First

Middle

Promise of the godparent

I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a godparent. I promise to give support and guidance to my godchild through prayers and my own lived example of “actively practicing the faith” as a Catholic Christian

By signing this form, I acknowledge the above statements.

Godparent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Godparent’s Printed Name: _____

Last

First

Middle

Every child is required to have one godparent. A child may have both a godfather and a godmother. It is possible to have a non-Catholic Christian serve as a “Christian Witness” in lieu of having a second godparent. Please contact the Baptism Coordinator for more information.

An Active Practice of the Catholic Faith Explained

Within the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, the godparent promises to help the child in their journey of intentional discipleship. In serving as a godparent, he or she accepts the *responsibility* of pursuing an active practice of the faith. It is the duty of the godparent to assist and help teach the child to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. The best way for godparents to do so is by actively practicing the faith *themselves*, setting an example for their godchild to follow.

So what does the active practice of the faith look like?

As an essential minimum, someone who actively practices the Catholic faith follows the Precepts of the Church:

- Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- Confess serious sins *at least* once a year.
- Receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) *at least* once per year during the Easter season.
- Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church, which include fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.
- Help provide for the material needs of the Church according to your ability.
- For those who are married, “§1 Only those marriages are valid which are contracted in the presence of the local Ordinary or parish priest or of the priest or deacon delegated by either of them... in the presence of two witnesses.” [Canon 1108, CIC]

Questions? Contact Josiah at Josiah.Lester@dor.org