



Baptismal Godparent Eligibility Form



Per Canon Law 874 & 893, a godparent must be a Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; lives a life of faith fitting for the role; and, if married, must have been married in the Catholic Church.

Godparent's Information

*if there two Godparents, they must be a male and a female, *at least sixteen (16) year of age, *practicing Catholic by living a life of faith, ***must be a registered member of their parish for at least one year.** *If married, the godparent must have been married in the Catholic Church and must provide a copy of the marriage certificate.

*Parents may not serve as godparents for their own child.

If you do not meet all these requirements, please let the parents know immediately.

Name of child: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Place of Baptism: _____

Godparent's Parish: _____
(Parish Name and place) (Parish Phone #)

Eligibility Requirements

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I am fully initiated Catholic(I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. I am at least 16 year of age. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. I attend Mass on Sunday and on Holy Days of obligation, and regularly receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation | ☐ | ☐ |
| I am a registered member for at least one year of _____ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. Godparent must be in good standing with the Catholic Church: | | |
| • If single , must be living according to Church teaching. NOT living with someone outside of marriage. Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Church? _____ | ☐ | ☐ |
| * If Married , must be married in the Catholic Church: | | |

**attach confirmation certificate copy*

Date: _____ Church Name: _____ **attach marriage certificate copy*

☐ I have truthfully answered the above questions and declare that I fulfill the Catholic Church's requirements of a godparent. I Commit to the responsibility of acting as a Godparent.

Godparent's Signature

Date

The person who has signed this form above has testified that they fulfill all canonical requirements to serve as a godparent in the Catholic Church. To be signed and sealed by the godparent's Parish of Record.

Priest's Signature

Date

The Requirements of Godparents

The role of a *godparent* is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the *godparent* as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction. Because of the seriousness of this ministry, the Church has the following requirements:

- The godparent must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- The godparent must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- The godparent must have an active life of faith in the Church and provide a good example by attending Mass regularly and receiving the Eucharist.
 - Someone married outside the Church is not able to receive Communion and is not able to be a godparent.
 - Also, a Catholic who has left the Church is not able to be a godparent of a new member into the Church.
 - Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a godparent and cannot be a “Christian witness” if they join another Christian communion.
- The godparent cannot be either parent.
- When there are two godparents, they are “spiritual parents” and are to be a godfather and godmother.

Christians Witness – (A baptized non-Catholic Christian)

Provided there is one Catholic godparent, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may serve as a Christian witness for Baptism only. This person is a *Christian witness* and **not** a *godparent*.

- Requirements to be a Christian Witness:
 - At least sixteen years old
 - A validly baptized Christian
 - Living an upright life
 - Cannot be either parent
 - Cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church
- A Christian witness may never be a non-baptized person. For example, Jewish or Muslim godparents are not permitted by universal church law.
- The notation “Christian witness” is placed under the name of the non-Catholic Christian witness in the baptismal register.