



Easter Vigil Sponsor Eligibility Form



Candidate's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female and is to be sufficiently mature and fully initiated Catholic having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. If married, the Sponsor has been married in the Catholic Church, and received the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony. The Sponsor should be a practicing sacramental member of the Church over the age of 16 and an active member of a Catholic parish community. Mothers and fathers are not permitted to be Godparents/Sponsors for their own child. (Canon 893 and 874)

SPONSOR INFORMATION

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

Address: _____ Phone#: _____
(Street #) (Street Name) (Apt #)

(City) (State) (zip code) Email: _____

Godparent/Sponsor's Parish: _____
(Parish Name and Place) (Parish Phone #)

(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Eligibility Requirements

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I am at least 16 years of age. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I am a practicing Catholic and lead a life in harmony with the faith. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I am a fully initiated Catholic (I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Please initial one: _____ I am single _____ I am married
If married, I am married in the Catholic Church _____ Yes _____ No | | |

(Name and place of Catholic Church of Marriage)

The Pastor of the potential godparent/sponsor's parish must sign this statement and affix their Parish Seal. By doing so the pastor affirms that the information given above is true and this person is eligible to serve as a godparent/sponsor.

(If you belong to Blessed Sacrament Church, please attach a marriage certificate copy and confirmation certificate copy)

Godparent/Sponsor's Signature

Priest's Signature

Date

Date

Please return to:

Parish: _____

Parish mailing address: _____

Church Seal

Attention: _____

The Requirements of Sponsor

The role of a *sponsor* is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The Church sees the *sponsor* 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 sponsor must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- The sponsor 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 sponsor.
 - Also, a Catholic who has left the Church is not able to be a sponsor of a new member into the Church.
 - Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor and cannot be a “Christian witness” if they join another Christian communion.
- The sponsor cannot be either parent.
- When there are two sponsors, they are “spiritual parents” and are to be a godfather and godmother.

Christians Witness – (A baptized non-Catholic Christian)

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

- 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.