

A Brief Explanation Concerning Sponsors (Godparents) For Baptism in the Catholic Church

The role of a Sponsor (Godparent) is, “together with the parents, to present an infant at baptism,...to help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it” (Catholic *Code of Canon Law*, can. 872).

At the very beginning of the *Rite of Baptism*, you will be asked: “Are you ready and willing to help these parents in their duties as Christian parents?” Your affirmative answer permits the ritual to proceed.

A Godparent who is a confirmed Catholic and who is currently practicing the Catholic faith is called a Sponsor. For the sacrament of baptism to be valid and recognized in the Catholic Church, there must be at least one Catholic Sponsor for each candidate.

To be admitted to the role of Sponsor, a person must:

- Have completed their sixteenth year;
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;
- Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

According to the Catholic Church law (or Canon Law), only one male OR one female Sponsor OR one of each gender is to be employed;

A person who is baptized in another Christian faith, is called a Christian Witness. We welcome Christian Witnesses and thank them for their participation. Christian Witnesses may not be admitted except as a witness to the baptism and only together with a Catholic Sponsor. If you are a Christian Witness, you will be asked to renew your promises of baptism along with the parents and the Sponsor. When you make your profession of faith, saying that you believe in the “holy catholic Church,” this does not mean that you are professing the Roman Catholic faith, only that you believe in the universal Christian faith founded by Jesus Christ.

If a Sponsor is unable to be present for the ceremony, any confirmed adult may function as a **proxy** for that person.

There is room in the Baptismal Register for recording the name of only one male Sponsor and one female Sponsor. [If the parents wish to invite other persons to witness the baptism as “honorary Sponsors,” that is just fine, but since the “honorary” names cannot be recorded in the Register, their names will not appear either on any official certificate of baptism.]

FORM FOR SPONSORS/GODPARENTS

AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO BAPTISM please return this form to:

Church of the Holy Family, Attention: Sacramental Records, 5900 W Lake Street,
Saint Louis Park, MN 55416 or e-mail to staff@hfcmm.org

Name of child to be baptized

Date of Baptism

To be completed by the Sponsor (please print):

Your name: _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (Must be 16 years or older)
Month Day Year

1. Are you confirmed in the Catholic Church? YES _____ NO _____ (If No, go to #4 below)

2. If **YES**, Name of the parish you attend: _____
City and State: _____

3. If you are married, was your marriage witnessed by a priest or deacon, or did you receive
a dispensation to be married in another church? YES ____ NO ____ N/A ____

If **NO** (to number 1 above);

4. Christian faith in which you were baptized: _____

5. Name of your church of baptism: _____
City and State: _____

I recognize that by accepting the role of godparent/sponsor, I become responsible to be a model and example of a committed and active Catholic and to be a support to his/her parents in the practice of our mutual faith.

I hereby assure that I am committed to my Catholic faith, that I am myself baptized and confirmed in it, that I received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and that I am not married outside the Church or otherwise compromised in my own sacramental life.

I meet my fundamental obligations as a Roman Catholic by participating in Sunday Mass weekly, by receiving the Eucharist as often as possible, the Sacrament of Reconciliation as necessary, and supporting the temporal needs of the Church. I seek to integrate the Catholic faith in my life by being open to the Word of God as revealed in Scripture and taught by the Catholic Church, by witnessing to the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by seeking to be of service to others for love of Him.

I further confess my complete loyalty and fidelity to our Holy Father, the Pope, as the Vicar of Christ and the successor of Saint Peter.

I solemnly promise to give my full support to the person that I am sponsoring, by the Christian example of my daily life as a Roman Catholic.

Godparent/Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parish Priest where Godparent/Sponsor is registered _____