

# **Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Parish**

## **Requirements to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor**

The Church takes the role of godparent and Confirmation sponsor very seriously. These are not meant as honorific titles to be bestowed gratuitously or indiscriminately on a favorite relative or friend. The role of godparent or Confirmation sponsor should only be offered to someone who is living his or her Catholic faith and is ready, willing, and able to assist the candidate for baptism or Confirmation to live his or her Catholic faith.

Canon Law (cf. Canons 874 and 893) provides that a godparent must be Baptized in the Catholic Faith (or have made a profession of faith) and have received First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Official written evidence of these sacraments must be provided. The godparent or sponsor must “[lead] a life of faith in keeping with the responsibility to be carried on.” Accordingly, the person must be duly registered in a Catholic parish, support the parish, and give evidence of regular Mass attendance. If married, the person must be married in a marriage recognized by the Church. The person may not be cohabitating outside of marriage. If the person has school age children, the children must attend Catholic school or be enrolled in an approved religious education program, and have made all of his or her sacraments.

If you think you are being considered as a godparent or sponsor, and if you do not satisfy one or more of these criteria, we would be glad to work with you to complete them. Obviously, this usually cannot be done overnight. That is why it is important to think about these qualifications as soon as possible if you hope or expect to be called upon to be a godparent or a sponsor. In good conscience, it is unfair to ask a priest to certify that these qualifications have been met when, in fact, they have not been, or to expect a priest or deacon to accept as a godparent or sponsor someone who has not met these qualifications.

A godparent or Confirmation sponsor is expected to serve as a role model for the candidate, before, during, and after the sacrament is received. One cannot give what one does not have. It stands to reason that a godparent or sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church, in order to qualify.

If you have any questions, please feel free to make an appointment to speak with one of the parish priests.