

## ~ Criteria for Godparent and Sponsors ~

Being a godparent or sponsor is a special privilege in the Catholic Church and carries with it certain responsibilities and requirements. Those who wish to be a godparent or sponsor must have a Letter of Eligibility (Sponsor Form) from their home parish, stating that they belong to a parish and are practicing their Catholic Faith. Listed below are the prerequisites to a Godparent (for the Sacrament of Baptism) or a Sponsor (for the Sacrament of Confirmation) in the Catholic Church.

### Requirements for Catholic Sponsor/Godparent:

(Canon 874.1):

1. At least 16 years of age.
2. Received all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).
3. He/She is a practicing Catholic – regular Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
4. He/she believes and accepts the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church.
5. If married, he/she has been married in accord with Church Law (*married before a priest or deacon; married by another minister with proper dispensation; or had marriage validated by the Catholic Church*).
6. He/she is not bound by any canonical penalty imposed or declared (*i.e., if divorced and remarried, has received an annulment*).
7. Not the father or mother of the child to be Baptized/Confirmed.

Godparents and sponsors should strive to live out their commitments to Christ and to the communal life of the Church, by exemplifying a loving Christian character in their daily lives. They should support the person they are sponsoring, being an active part of their lives.

Forms should be obtained from the godparent/sponsor's home parish. If you are currently in school (college), you are still considered to be a member of the parish.