

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church Godparent Form



I, _____ have been asked to be a Catholic Baptismal godparent for _____ who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Coeur d'Alene, ID on _____.

As a CATHOLIC GODPARENT I affirm that:

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church. |
| YES | NO | I will be at least sixteen years of age on the day of the Baptism. |
| YES | NO | I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and receive the Holy Communion as a practicing Roman Catholic. |
| YES | NO | I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the Church through my loving response to those with whom I come in contact daily. |
| YES | NO | I fulfill my obligations to my parish to the best of my ability in response to the Gospel message. |
| YES | NO | My current marital status/living arrangement conforms to all laws, norms and principles of the Roman Catholic Church. |

Full Legal Name of Catholic godparent (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

I am Married _____ I am Not Married _____

If married and a Catholic godparent:

_____ I have celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church

Date/Church of wedding: _____

_____ I am working with a Catholic Priest or Deacon to have my marriage blessed in the Catholic Church.

Name of Priest or Deacon: _____ Phone Number: _____

My relationship (aunt, grandfather, friend, etc.) to the one to be baptized is _____

My present parish/church: _____

I promise to give my support to the one to be baptized by my prayers, my continued interest in his/her growth as a Catholic, my personal fidelity to the teachings of and practices of Christ & His Church, and the Christian example of Christ in my daily life. I do hereby solemnly declare that I fulfill all the above requirements to act as a Baptismal Godparent.

Godparent's signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PASTOR OF CATHOLIC GODPARENT

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information above is correct.

(Parish Seal)

Pastor's signature (Godparent's pastor) _____ Date _____

Because of the great responsibilities of a godparent, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all godparent to fulfill in order to serve in the role. These are set forth in the Code of Canon Law:

Sponsors/Godparents

Can. 872 - *Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.*

Can. 873 - *There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.*

Can. 874 - §1. *To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;*

- *Have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocese has established another age, or the pastor or minister had granted an exception for a just cause;*
- *Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;*
- *Not be bound by any canonical penalty imposed or declared;*
- *Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.*

§2. *A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor, and then only as a witness of the baptism.*

Regarding the questions:

1. **RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION:** A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is the official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.
2. **MINIMUM AGE:** A godparent must 16 years of age by the date of the baptism.
3. **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:** A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
4. **FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS:** the godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.
5. **MARITAL STATUS:** A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a godparent.
6. **UNMARRIED STATUS:** If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.