

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Shrub Oak, NY

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE A GODPARENT

Asking someone to be the godparent/sponsor for your son or daughter's Baptism or Confirmation celebration is a very serious matter. **It is not an "honorary title" given to a relative or a friend.** It is the beginning of a life-long, spiritual relationship. Choose carefully!

EXACTLY WHAT IS A GODPARENT/SPONSOR?

A person who serves as a godparent/sponsor for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation is a **visible representative of the Catholic Church**, the Body of Christ. Obviously, this person must be a **Catholic role model of the highest order**, who is able and willing to influence his/her godchild on his/her journey of faith. So the life of a godparent/sponsor must lovingly and accurately **reflect the spirit and teachings of our Faith Community**. Once the Sacrament has been celebrated, sponsors may not be changed.

OBTAINING A SPONSOR *CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY*

Church Law requires the godparent/sponsor to **briefly meet his priest at the church he/she attends regularly**, to validate his/her competency and willingness to take on this **sacred responsibility**. The pastor will gladly issue a *Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility* when he is certain the sponsor:

1. is **in good standing with the Church**
2. is a **practicing Catholic**
3. has **received Confirmation**
4. (if married,) is **in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church**
5. is sufficiently **mature in faith** to guide another human being in the practice of his/her faith.
6. is at least **14 years of age**

There may be one godfather and one godmother, or just one godparent. A baptized **non-Catholic Christian** may act as a **Christian Witness**, alongside the Catholic godparent/sponsor.

Naturally, a non-Christian is incapable of sponsoring a child into the Catholic Church.

THE ORIGINAL SPONSOR *CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY* MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE RECTORY BEFORE THE BAPTISM DATE.