

Dear Sponsor:

Congratulations! You've been given this form because you have been asked to be either a Godparent (sponsor) for Holy Baptism, or a Sponsor for Confirmation.

The role of sponsor is more than merely ceremonial. It is a ministry and a responsibility. A sponsor stands for the Church and this representation must manifest an authenticity.

The Church has requirements that must be fulfilled in order to act as a godparent or sponsor. The first question is not whether the Church will permit you to be a sponsor, but whether you can allow yourself to be one! Can you say you live your faith and model Christ-like behavior?

Each one must ask, *"Does my integrity allow me to stand at the altar and make a public profession that the faith I proclaim in word is a faith that I practice?"*

The sponsor's role does not demand perfection, for **all** of us have need of God's mercy as we make our Christian journey. However, it may happen that we are asked to be a sponsor even though we are not actively practicing the faith. People may feel compelled to ask you because of tradition, friendship, or family ties.

If you find yourself in that situation, we invite you to use this time to grow in your faith and to speak with a priest if necessary.

If you feel you do not meet the requirements or cannot commit to a renewed practice of the faith, please be honest by simply asking your relative or friend to excuse you from this role.

If we can be of any assistance in your decision-making or in helping you respond to the grace that this occasion provides, please contact us. A request to be a sponsor opens the door to a sacred responsibility as you become a Catholic and Christian role model for the candidate.

Remember, the issue here is not whether you are "a good person with moral values", but whether you practice the Catholic faith in accordance with the basic requirements listed on the following page.

Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration.



REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A SPONSOR IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- At least 14 years of age and fully initiated in the Catholic Church having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- Sponsor may be either female or male.
- Sponsor may **not** be the parent of the candidate to be baptized/confirmed.
- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation to the best of your ability.
- Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion with regularity.
- Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church in your daily life.
- If married, married validly according to Catholic teaching.
- If single, living a celibate life, not cohabitating with another person.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, please sign this form and return to the parish priest.

PARISH
SEAL