

WHO CAN BE A GOD PARENT FOR A CATHOLIC BAPTISM?

An adult seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church is called a **catechumen**, and should have a godparent or godparents. Any Catholic of good standing can be a godparent though there are the following exceptions/requirements:

1. There may only be two godparents, one of each sex.
2. Non-catholics cannot be godparents.
3. Godparents may not be under the age of 16.
4. Godparents can not be the father, the mother, or the spouse, of the person who is to be baptized.
5. A godparent cannot marry their godchild unless given a dispensation.

Godparents enter into a spiritual relationship with the one to be baptized and are responsible for helping him/her grow in Faith which cannot be accomplished if the godparents themselves do not know the faith of the Church. A godparent may also be the sponsor for Confirmation of a **candidate** and should be able to sign the statement below.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

It is highly recommended that, if possible, one of the godparents be the sponsor of a **candidate** for Confirmation, and **candidate** can have only one sponsor. With that one exception in mind all of the above requirements apply to being a sponsor.

The sponsor must solemnly affirm:

“ I am a registered participating member of the Catholic Church. I have received the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. (If married) I am married according to the regulations of the Catholic Church and any school age children are receiving religious formation. I weekly participate in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by receiving Eucharist and Reconciliation as often as possible. I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and the community by my loving response to those with whom I come in daily contact. I realize the great responsibility of becoming a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, and I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the Christian example of my daily life.”

Signed _____
(please print name after signature)

(circle one) **Catechumen** or **Candidate** Name _____

The duties of the sponsor are to witness to his/her Catholic faith by the life he/she leads. Should the parents of the **candidate** not attend Mass, the sponsor would be obliged to bring the **candidate** with him/her (as that is a witness to the faith.). The sponsor must assume the duties of the parents (ie: should the **candidate** “go astray” or wander away from the Church, he/she must seek to bring the **candidate** back.