

WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REQUIRES OF GODPARENTS AND/OR SPONSORS

The Church requires that those who take on the obligation of godparent/sponsor at Baptism or Confirmation practice their religion faithfully and live lives that set them apart as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic Church requires that godparents/sponsors....

1. Be mature enough to undertake this responsibility (over the age of 16).
2. Have received all three Sacraments of Initiation themselves (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).
3. Are members of the Catholic Church and are canonically free to be a sponsor.

The following are canonically disqualified from serving as a godparent/sponsor:

1. Those married outside the Church without dispensation.
2. Divorced persons who have attempted to remarry outside the Church.
3. Person who habitually misses weekend Mass.
4. Parents who neglect the religious instruction of their children.
5. Those who fail to fulfill their Easter Duty (that is, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season).
6. Those who have not been both baptized and confirmed.
7. Those whose lives give public scandal.

STATEMENT OF GODPARENT/SPONSOR

I recognize that in accepting the role of sacramental godparent/sponsor, I pledge myself to be a model of example to the candidate as a committed and active Catholic. If I am sponsoring a child, I will also be a support to his/her parents in the practice of our mutual faith.

I testify, on my word of honor, that I am committed to my Catholic faith, that I am baptized and confirmed in it, and that I meet my fundamental obligations as a Catholic by attending Mass regularly, by receiving the Eucharist as often as possible and penance as necessary, by being open to the Word of God as revealed in Scripture as taught by the Church, by witnessing the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and by seeking to be of service to others for the love of Jesus.