

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GODPARENTS

You have been asked to serve as godparent for _____ in a Roman Catholic Baptism. This is a responsibility which should be accepted only after careful reflection and prayer.

Godparents in the history of the Church have had a very important role in maintaining the faith tradition of our Church by helping to pass on our faith to those new in faith. The godparents were members of the local Christian community who spoke in favor of the person seeking initiation. They vouched for the integrity and sincerity of the person seeking baptism. In years past, the godparent was the person who presented an infant for baptism and answered for the child.

The Rite of Infant Baptism and the Code of Canon Law reminds us that the godparents pledge to support the parents in their duties as Christian mothers and fathers. As a godparent you serve as an official witness representing the faith community.

The Church has described the necessary qualifications of a potential godparent to ensure that they are able to fulfill this important role in the life of the child and of the Church. These qualifications are as follows:

1. Only one godparent is required but no more than two may be designated as a godparent.
2. At most two godparents are allowed whether they are both godparents or a godparent and Christian witness. If two people are chosen, one must be female and the other male.
3. Because only one godparent is required, the second person, if desired, may be designated as a Christian Witness. This person must be an active, practicing member in good standing with another Christian denomination. A baptized Catholic may not serve as a Christian witness.
4. A godparent must be 16 years old and fully initiated (i.e., having celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).
5. A godparent must be an active and practicing Catholic. This generally means that the person is an active member of a Catholic parish attending Mass regularly. This also means that if the person is married, the marriage took place within the Catholic Church. Persons who are divorced and remarried do not meet this requirement unless they were granted an annulment prior to remarriage.

If you are willing to accept the responsibility of supporting the parents in raising their child in the practice of the faith, please affirm this by stating that you understand and meet the qualifications set by the Church and by signing and returning the second page of this document to the parish Office of Liturgy and Sacraments.



INFORMATION FORM FOR GODPARENTS

I have been asked to serve as godparent for _____,
Name of child
 who is the child of _____.
Name of parent(s)

I have read and understand the Church's requirements for godparents as follows:

- Only one godparent is required but no more than two may be designated as a godparent.
- Because only one godparent is required, the second person, if desired, may be designated as a Christian Witness. This person must be an active practicing member in good standing of another Christian denomination.
- At most two official sponsors are allowed whether they are both godparents or a godparent and Christian witness. If two people are chosen, one must be female and the other male.
- A godparent must be 16 years old and fully initiated (i.e., having celebrated baptism, confirmation and Eucharist).
- A godparent must be an active and practicing Catholic. This generally means that the person is an active member of a Catholic parish attending Mass regularly. This also means that if the person is married, the marriage took place within the Catholic Church. Persons who are divorced and remarried do not meet this requirement unless they were granted an annulment prior to remarrying

If married:

I am a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church having been baptized, confirmed, and admitted to Eucharist. I am married in accordance with the laws and teachings of the Church and actively practice my faith through frequent participation in the Liturgy of the Church.

1.) _____
Signature *Date*

Print name: _____

2.) _____
Signature *Date*

Print name: _____

If unmarried:

I am a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church having been baptized, confirmed, and admitted to Eucharist. I actively practice my faith through frequent participation in the Liturgy of the Church.

1) _____
Signature *Date*

Print name: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ST. IGNATIUS OFFICE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS.