

GODPARENT/SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM REGISTERED MEMBERS

One of the many benefits of being a Catholic is the opportunity to be a sacramental sponsor. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who baptizes, to represent the Church in receiving the person into communion with the Church; and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation. Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony. In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if:

- He or she is not less than sixteen years of age.
- He or she is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received Holy Communion and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
- He or she is not either the father or the mother of the person.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This phraseology means that the candidate for sponsor sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS

The parish is happy to provide active, participating members of the parish with certificates of eligibility if the following conditions are met:

- Individuals must be registered here for at least three months prior to seeking a certificate. If the individual is newly registered, a letter from the individual’s former pastor stating they are a Catholic in good standing may be required in order to provide a certificate.
- The individual should be involved in the life of the parish.
- Individuals must attend weekly Mass on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURE FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS

1. Complete the Certificate of Eligibility form and take it to the parish office for review and priest signature.
2. Upon review, the parish will mail the certificate to the parish listed on the eligibility form. If the sponsor does not meet the above criteria, a letter will be sent to the sponsor regarding the reason(s) for ineligibility.

** If the godparent is a member at another Catholic church, they must contact their parish to receive a certificate of eligibility **