

## GODPARENT ELIGIBILITY FORM NON-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

Catholic Godparents will need to provide a certificate of eligibility from the pastor of the Catholic parish where the Godparent is a registered, active member. The certificate of eligibility needs to confirm that the Godparent is a Catholic in good standing and eligible to be a Godparent. The certificate of eligibility should state the date of the baptism. The certificate should be mailed to the parish.