



GODPARENT

Requirements

**Before you choose a Godparent/Sponsor, be sure they are qualified.
The conditions are listed below.**

Canon 872 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law lists those requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Baptism:

- The sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation.
- The sponsor's role is, together with the parents, to present the child for the sacrament and help him/her to live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

A Catholic Godparent:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three sacraments of initiation, namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. Must be not less than 16 years of age.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday, receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office (this would indicate that Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage or living in a relationship outside of marriage are ineligible).
6. Must not be the father or mother of the one baptized or confirmed.
7. If two godparents, they must be one male and one female or just one godparent.

Requirements for a proxy (someone who stands in for the godparent if they are unable to be at the ceremony) are the same as those listed above for a godparent, with the exception of number six.

Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. To be a sponsor or godparent means having a real appreciation of the Church's faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being baptized or confirmed.

You may also have a Christian Witness who can be a second sponsor for an Infant Baptism in addition to the Catholic Godparent. They must be a practicing Christian in a church that believes in the Sacrament of Baptism and the Trinitarian Formula. If you have any questions concerning your choice of Godparent, contact Melissa Hernandez at mhernandez@saintanne.org for clarification.

I have read the above qualifications, and am prepared to take on the responsibility of Godparent. It is my position to represent the Catholic Church and all her teachings.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

The child I am representing is: _____

I am a registered member of _____ Parish.

Please return this form to Melissa Hernandez.

Saint Anne Catholic Community

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