

GODPARENT/CHRISTIAN WITNESS COMMITMENT FORM



You have been asked to serve as a **Catholic Godparent** OR **Christian Witness** by the parents whose names appear below for the Baptism of their child. As a Catholic Godparent OR Christian Witness to this baptism, you are a spiritual role model, an example of the Christian life. You are agreeing to support these parents in leading their child to Christ and celebrating this faith according to the teachings and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We ask you to reflect on your responsibilities, then **FILL OUT** and **SIGN** this commitment form. Please return it to the parents of the child to be baptized.

CATHOLIC GODPARENT

Catholic teaching requires at least ONE and up to TWO baptism sponsors with the qualifications listed on the second page of this form can be eligible as a Godparent.

QUALIFICATIONS – check the corresponding boxes:

- ☐ I am at least 16 years of age.
- ☐ I am a **practicing** Catholic and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

I was confirmed at _____
Name of Parish
on _____ (Canon 874, #1,2).
Date of Confirmation

☐ **If Married:** I received the sacrament of Marriage on _____
Date of Marriage at the parish, _____
Name of Parish
in _____ (Canon 874, #3,4).
City, State of Parish

- ☐ I regularly participate in Sunday Mass, I believe in the faith of the Catholic Church and I am prudent in living a moral life.
- ☐ I promise to give my support to the godchild and to their parents through my prayers and the daily practice of my Catholic faith.
- ☐ I will help encourage my godchild and their parents by celebrating their Baptism anniversary.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Catholic teaching requires that if there is a Christian witness, they will be accompanied by ONE Catholic Godparent that meets the qualifications listed on the left side of this form.

QUALIFICATIONS – check the corresponding boxes:

☐ I am a baptized member of another Christian tradition. I was baptized at _____
Name of Church
in the _____ faith tradition.
Name of Denomination

- ☐ I regularly participate in church, I believe in the faith of Jesus Christ and I am prudent in living a moral life.
- ☐ I promise to give my support to the child and to their parents through my prayers and the daily practice of my faith through Jesus Christ.
- ☐ I will help encourage my godchild and their parents by celebrating their Baptism anniversary.

I have read and understand the qualifications described by the Church and the subsequent responsibilities. I solemnly affirm my adherence to all of these by my signature below:

Signature of the Catholic Godparent/Christian Witness

Date

Printed Name (First, Middle, Last as it will appear on Baptism certificate)

I am a participating member of _____
Name of parish/church City, State

Name of the child to be baptized: _____

Names of the child's parents: _____

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Choosing Godparents

The responsibility assumed by a Godparent is not one to be taken lightly, and parents are encouraged to choose carefully. The Church requires that Godparents be practicing Catholics who have completed their sixteenth (16th) year, have been Confirmed, have received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and who are in good standing with the Church. If a sponsor is married, the marriage must be valid and recognized by the Church. Parents may not be Godparents for their own children. It is encouraged that both parents and Godparents attend pre-baptismal classes either at Sacred Heart or at their own parish.

Ideally, both Godfather and Godmother should be Catholics. On a practical level, sometimes there is only one Catholic who fulfills all of the above requirements. If the other sponsor is not a Catholic, he/she should be a Baptized Christian and in regular attendance at a church. This person will be listed as a Christian Witness. The godparent / Christian witness should fill out the form in its entirety, sign it and return to the parents of the child.

Godparent's Role

- Will take the role seriously and be present at the rite so that they make their commitment publicly.
- Will be part of a special bond with the family and be ready to help parents in the Catholic Christian formation of the child.
- Will be a source of guidance, support, prayer and inspiration for the child on his or her journey toward God.
- Will be ready to speak for the Church, an assembly of baptized people, as well as for themselves.
- Will be willing to have a special relationship with the Godchild and to enjoy the child's own developing faith and gifts.
- Will pray for the child, especially when separated.

Canon Law for Choosing Godparents

Can. 872 Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor (Godparent) who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism and to fulfill the obligations connected with it.

Can. 873 Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed.

Can. 874 To be admitted to the role of sponsor (Godparent), a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents of the one who takes their place or in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
2. have completed the sixteenth (16th) year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for just cause.
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
4. not to be bound by any penalty legitimately imposed or declared (i.e., married in the Church);
5. not to be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.
6. a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial (Christian) community may not be admitted except as a (Christian) witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.