



## Guide for Godparents

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. The essential role of a godparent in the Catholic Church is to witness to the Christian faith, support and guide the candidate's Catholic faith journey, and assist the parents in nurturing the candidate's faith life. Godparents must meet certain requirements, and in some cases, Christian Witnesses may also take part.

### Requirements for Godparents

- Fully initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).
- At least 16 years old.
- Actively practicing the faith (regular Mass, sacraments, parish involvement).
- If married, married in the Catholic Church or convalidated.
- If single, not living with someone outside of marriage.
- Registered member of a Catholic parish.
- Cannot be the parents or spouse of the candidate to be baptized.
- At least one godparent is required.
- Since two godparents are permitted, one must be male and the other female (*Can. 873*).

### Christian Witnesses

- A baptized non-Catholic Christian (e.g., Methodist, Baptist) may serve as a Christian Witness, provided there is a Catholic godparent.
- Must provide proof of baptism.
- Listed in the Sacramental Record as "official witness."

### Proxy Godparents

- If a godparent cannot attend, a proxy may stand in during the baptism.
- The proxy's name is recorded alongside the official godparent's name.

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## Guide for Sponsors

### Becoming a Sponsor in the Catholic Church

To be a sponsor is to take on a meaningful role within the Catholic community. A sponsor serves as a personal representative of the parish community, acting as a friend, mentor, and companion in faith for the Catechumen (someone preparing for Baptism). The sponsor's role is to accompany them on their journey of faith and help integrate them into the life of the parish community and the Church.

### Meaning of a Sponsor

A sponsor walks alongside the Catechumen, offering encouragement, prayer, and guidance. They also serve as a model of faithful living, representing the Catholic community that the Catechumen is joining.

### Traits of an Effective Sponsor

An effective sponsor strives to embody both faith and companionship. The following traits are especially important:

- Maintains a healthy and consistent prayer life.
- Practices active listening.
- Shows respect in all interactions.
- Brings hope and faith into everyday life.
- Serves as a bridge between the Catechumen and the broader Church community.

### Requirements to be a Sponsor

To fulfill this role, the Church sets certain requirements for potential sponsors. A sponsor must:

- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist).
- Be a Catholic in full *communion* with the Catholic Church.
- Regularly attend Mass on weekends.

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