

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SPONSOR FORM for BAPTISM

TO BE BAPTIZED: _____

TO BE SPONSOR: _____

Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it. Therefore, being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of our Catholic Faith, a lifestyle that proclaims the truth, and a sense of responsibility toward the adult or child being baptized.

PLEASE READ THE CHURCH REQUIREMENTS TO BE A SPONSOR BEFORE SIGNING

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that, at the celebration of the sacrament of baptism, a sponsor is present. The sponsor functions, together with the celebrant who baptizes, as a representative of the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church and to assist the person in Christian initiation and lifelong Christian discipleship. Canon 873 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church lists these requirements for a valid and lawful sponsor in the Sacrament of Baptism:

1. There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.
2. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:
 - a. Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
 - b. Have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
 - c. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
 - d. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
 - e. Not to be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
3. (In addition) a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the Baptism. (A non-Christian may not serve as a sponsor or official witness but is welcome to be present at the ceremony.)

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor is one who "leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." This phraseology means that the candidate for sponsor a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently, those Catholics who a) are not actively affiliated with a Catholic parish community, b) are invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace or, without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi, c) are divorced and invalidly remarried, or d) who have not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist; do not qualify to be admitted as a sponsor.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSOR

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a sponsor and are convinced that you qualify in accord with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following solemn affirmation:

I, _____ (PRINT FULL NAME), a practicing Catholic who seeks to be admitted as a sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic Faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor.

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

SPONSOR'S PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE _____

SPONSOR'S HOME PARISH _____

BAPTISM SPONSOR FORM R5/13

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSOR'S HOME PARISH

I certify that _____ (PRINT FULL NAME) is a member in good standing at _____

CATHOLIC CHURCH NAME, CITY, STATE

PASTOR'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PARISH SEAL: