

Baptismal Preparation

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A SPONSOR

Canon Laws 873 and 874 require the following:

1. The sponsor must be baptized and confirmed, have the use of reason and the intention to be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation.
2. He/she must not be the father, mother, wife or husband of the one to be baptized or confirmed.
3. He/she must be in their 16th year or more.
4. He/she must know the fundamental truth of the Faith and be a Practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday and Holy Days, receives the Sacraments according to the minimum requirements and sees to the religious instruction of his/her own family.
5. He/she must not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
6. Sponsors must be one male and/or one female. You cannot have two Godmothers or two Godfathers.

It is important to realize that being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being baptized/confirmed. Therefore, one should not ask relatives to be sponsors simply because he/she is a relative.

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

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St. Francis de Sales Parish - Godparent Certification

(Must be on file prior to Baptism)

Dear Baptismal Sponsor:

When a parent chooses you as a Baptismal Sponsor (Godparent), that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a Godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or friendship rewards. The call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving a spiritual witness to your Godchild of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. As a confirmed adult Catholic, you are a guide and model of how a mature Catholic ought to live. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to parents who commit themselves, in Baptism, to faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility which you take on as a Godparent. If you are unable to live up to Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

I, _____ of _____ Parish accept the invitation to be a Godparent to _____ for the sacrament of Baptism at St. Francis de Sales Church, Vernon, NJ.

I affirm that I am a **baptized** and **confirmed Catholic**, living my Catholic faith and that I **am in good standing with the Catholic Church**. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide and role model especially by my own example and witness.

(Signature of Godparent)

(Date)

Godparents' Pastor's Certification

This is to certify that _____

_____ Is in good standing in this parish and that he/she meets the above requirements for being a Godparent.

_____ Is registered in our parish as a practicing Catholic.

Parish: _____

Parish Seal

City: _____

Telephone: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____ Title: _____

This certification must be completed at the Godparent's Church Parish and returned before the Baptism.