



The Role and Responsibility of the Sponsor (Godparent) for Baptism

The sponsor is to be a model and example of what it means to be a faith-filled practicing Catholic, for the child who is to be Baptized.

Being a Catholic role model means being an active Catholic and living a Christian lifestyle, such as:

- Being fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- Tries to live up to the laws of Christ and His Church.
- If married, married according to the laws of the church.
- Receives the other Sacraments frequently.
- Attends Mass on Sunday (Saturday) and Holy Days of Obligation.

The sponsor may not be the Mother or the Father of the Child. They are already the primary role models in the practice of the Faith, and the sponsor assists them in that duty. The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.

Only one sponsor is necessary. That person must be a practicing Catholic, as mentioned above, and have a letter of eligibility from his/her proper pastor. If there is another sponsor, that person must be of the opposite sex (Hence Godmother and Godfather.) If that second person is a Catholic, he/she must be a practicing Catholic, as mentioned above, and have a letter of eligibility from his/her pastor.

The second person may be a non Catholic, however they cannot have been a former Catholic, and they need to faithfully practice another Faith Tradition. In this case they are called a Christian Witness rather than a sponsor.

Sacred Heart Parish
Lewisburg PA
Last Revised September 2015