



## What is a Sponsor or godparent?

A sponsor / godparent is a practicing Catholic who will accompany you on your journey of faith as you prepare for full initiation into the Church. They offer encouragement, prayer, and guidance, and they stand beside you during major rites as well as the daily practice of your faith.

**“A godparent, however, chosen by the catechumen for his or her example, gifts and friendship, delegated by the local Christian community and approved by a Priest, accompanies the catechumen on the day of Election, at the celebration of the Sacraments, and during the Period of Mystagogy. The godparent’s task is to show the catechumen in a friendly way how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to help at times of doubt or anxiety, to bear witness to and watch over the catechumen’s growth in baptismal life.** Chosen before the “Election,” the godparents exercises his or her office from the day of Election, testifying to the catechumen in the presence of the community. The godparent’s task remains important to the neophyte, having received the Sacraments, needs to help to remain faithful to the promises of Baptism.” (OCIA 11)

The Church sees this as a traveling companion for the way of faith you are walking. This is a lifelong relationship and a commitment on their part to be present to you during your journey to the Sacraments.

## What is required to be a sponsor?

- Must be at least **16 years old**
- Must be a **fully initiated Catholic** (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist received)
- Must be **actively practicing** the Catholic faith (attending Mass, striving to live a life of virtue and follow the Church’s teaching)
- Must be **able to serve as a spiritual role model**
- Must be in a **valid Catholic marriage** (if married), or living **chastely** (if single or not married in the Church)
- **Must not be the parent** of the candidate
- Must not be in a romantic relationship with the candidate.
- Must be an active member of Most Holy Trinity or willing to become so for the duration of your journey in the catechumenate.

## Who should I choose?

Please choose someone you admire and trust in the faith. Think about people that you want to be like, people whose faith you admire and want to imitate. Bring to mind people who you can be comfortable having vulnerable conversations with about faith. If you’re unsure who might be a good fit, your OCIA coordinators can help guide you.

## What are the expectations of the Sponsor?

- They will attend Sunday Mass with their candidate. (If there’s extenuating circumstances please speak with OCIA team)
- The Sponsor is asked to attend monthly meetings in inquiry, catechumenate, and Sunday Dismissals during the Lent after the Rite of Election for their candidate.
- The Sponsor is present during the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome, the Rite of Election, All Sundays of Lent before Baptism, also all of the liturgies of Holy Week. (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil)
- The Sponsor will pray for the candidate, by name, every day.

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor’s Full Name (if already chosen):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Sponsor (e.g., family friend, sister, uncle etc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sponsor Agreement

To be completed by sponsor

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am honored to serve as a sponsor for  
\_\_\_\_\_ in their journey to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

I affirm that I meet the following **requirements** to serve in this role (please check all that apply):

- I am at least **16 years old**
- I have been **fully initiated** into the Catholic Church (received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)
- I am **actively practicing** the Catholic faith (attending Mass regularly and striving to live a life of virtue and in accordance with Church teaching)
- I am able to serve as a **spiritual role model** for the candidate
- I am in a **valid Catholic marriage** *if married*, or living **chastely** if single or not married in the Church
- I am **not the parent** of the candidate
- I am **not in a romantic relationship** with the candidate
- I am an **active member of Most Holy Trinity** or **willing to become so** for the duration of the catechumenate journey

**Regarding my marital status (check one):**

- I am **not married** and am living a chaste Christian life.
- I am currently **married in the Catholic Church** (a valid sacramental marriage).
- I am **married outside the Catholic Church** and understand that I am **not currently eligible** to serve as a sponsor.
- I am **divorced and not remarried**, and living a chaste Christian life.

If you are unsure about your situation, please speak confidentially with the OCIA coordinator or the pastor before signing.

**I understand the responsibilities of this role:**

I understand that a sponsor is a practicing Catholic who serves as a companion on the journey of faith, offering encouragement, prayer, and witness to the Gospel through their example. By serving as a sponsor, I am committing to walk with the candidate as they prepare for full initiation into the Catholic Church. This includes being present for key moments in their formation, supporting them through prayer, and helping them live out the call to discipleship in daily life.

- I will attend Sunday Mass at Most Holy Trinity with my candidate.**  
*(If there are extenuating circumstances, I will speak with the OCIA team.)*
- I will attend monthly OCIA meetings with my candidate during:**
  - The Inquiry phase
  - The Catechumenate phase
  - Sunday Dismissals during Lent (after the Rite of Election)

**I will be present at key liturgical celebrations, including:**

- The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome
- The Rite of Election
- All Sundays of Lent leading up to Baptism
- Holy Week liturgies: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil

**I will pray for my candidate by name every day.**

**Sponsor's Parish Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Name (Printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_