



Sponsors (Godparents)

Diocese of Lafayette Guidelines

To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must: *(Code of Canon Law 874.1)*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

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. *(Code of Canon Law 874-2)*

Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed. *(Code of Canon Law 873)*

“Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?” *(Rite 78)*

1. Sponsors must have celebrated their 16th birthday.
2. Sponsors should be encouraged to attend the baptismal catechesis provided for the parents.
3. Sponsors are to understand their responsibility to fulfill faithfully the obligations of their role to help the parents of the infant in their duties as Christian parents. *(Code of Canon Law 872)*
4. Sponsors or a designated proxy must be present at the Baptism liturgy.
5. Potential sponsors from a parish different from the parish of baptism must provide a certificate of verification from their pastor prior to the baptism. This certificate verifies that the sponsor is a fully initiated Catholic and in good standing with the Church.