

Godparent Form

Godparents must fill out form, have their pastor sign, then return to St. John's.
FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO SETTING DATE OF BAPTISM



I, _____, phone number _____,
(printed full name; first middle last)

have been asked to be a Godparent for _____.
(printed child's name)

A godparent is an important person in the life of a person to be baptized. They are: 1) a spiritual role model, 2) an example of the Christian life and 3) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which an individual is being baptized. They are to be a source of guidance, support, and inspiration to this child on his or her faith journey and, when appropriate, help the parents in the Christian formation of this child.

Please circle either YES or NO for each question:

- YES NO Are you a baptized Roman Catholic? If NO, what denomination are you? _____
- YES NO Are you at least 16 years old?
- YES NO Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?
- YES NO Do you attend Mass regularly on Sundays and receive the Sacraments of the Church regularly?

Answer the following only if married:

- YES NO Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest, or deacon or in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop? *(If not, provide explanation.)*

Answer the following only if unmarried:

- YES NO Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

See reverse side for clarifications on godparent qualifications.

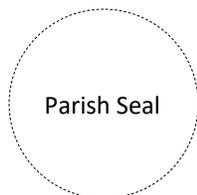
I affirm that I meet the qualifications, and accept the responsibilities, of being a godparent. I am an active and participating Catholic and promise to the best of my ability to serve as an example in encouraging this child to participate in the Sacramental life of the Church.

Godparent's signature _____ Date _____

Below portion must be filled out if you are Catholic by the pastor at your parish of registration.

Pastor's Signature (Godparent's Pastor) _____

Name of Parish _____ City/State of Parish _____



Drop off or mail to:
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
4525 Arlington Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
or scan/email (parish seal MUST be visible) to
FrPaolo@SaintJohnFortWayne.com
Questions? Call 260-744-4393

Because of the great responsibilities of a godparent, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. These are set forth in the Code of Canon Law:

SPONSORS/GODPARENTS

Can. 872 *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.*

Can. 873 *There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.*

Can. 874 §1. *To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:*

- *Be designated by the one to be baptized, or 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;*
- *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;*
- *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;*
- *Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;*
- *Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.*

§2. *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.*

Regarding the Questions:

1. **RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION:** A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness. A baptized Catholic who is no longer practicing their faith or considers themselves a non-Catholic Christian is ineligible to be a Godparent or Christian witness.
2. **MINIMUM AGE:** A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. (Exceptions by pastor may be made with reason.)
3. **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:** A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
4. **FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS:** The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.
5. **MARITAL STATUS:** A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage celebrated or convalidated by the Catholic Church. *Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a godparent.*
6. **UNMARRIED STATUS:** If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.