

Qualifications for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors

A sponsor is someone who is a fully initiated Catholic who is faithful to Christ and His Church.

While being asked to be a sponsor is certainly an honor, it is also a responsibility that should be given serious thought. No one expects sponsors to be perfect and they are not expected to have all of the answers, but this is more than just an honorary title and sponsors do need to be fully active, practicing Catholics. Whether you have been asked to be a Godparent or a Confirmation Sponsor, you are expected to be a role model for the one you are sponsoring.

So...who is a fully active, practicing Catholic? It is someone who seeks to deepen their own faith and develop a closer relationship to Jesus by becoming involved with and helping to support the parish at which they are registered. It is someone who follows and strives to live out the teachings of the Church and who actively participates in the Sacraments given to us by Christ Himself. Participating at Mass on Sundays and holy days and receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. This is the call to all Catholics so it would only make sense that someone seeking to sponsor another in the Catholic faith would be a true and honest example and role model for that faith.

Now if we struggle from time to time or fail in our efforts to live out our baptismal commitment in some way are we excluded from this role? No, but the whole purpose of the sacramental life of the church is to nourish us on our journey of faith. As Godparents or Confirmation Sponsors, we need to be nourished properly in order to lead others.

If you feel spiritually inadequate to be a sponsor, consider this as an invitation from God to grow in your own faith. He loves you, after all. If something has been separating you from God, maybe now is the time to bring that to Confession. Something spiritually admirable was seen in you; that is why you were asked to be a sponsor. God may be calling you to this role for the sake of examining your own heart as well as guiding the one you've been asked to sponsor.

With so many people at different points of their faith journey, it became necessary for **all** sponsors to complete a Sponsor Eligibility Form. This includes completing the form for the parish where you are registered as well. If you are experiencing any difficulty in getting your form signed or have struggled at all with your faith commitment in the past, perhaps this could be a time to rediscover the call and invitation of Jesus to live your faith more fully. Bring your eligibility form to your parish priest and discuss whatever issues may be standing in your way. **Please don't wait.** Some eligibility impediments may take significantly longer to correct than others.

Congratulations, and may God guide you as you discern about your sponsorship role and bless you as you witness and share the faith with the one whom you were chosen to sponsor.

