

Qualifications to serve as Sponsor (Godparent) at Baptism

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

The role of the sponsor or Godparent is, “together with the parents, to present an infant at baptism, and help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it” (Canon 872). Thus, the Church has established the following norms governing the qualifications needed to be a sponsor or Godparent. The sponsor must:

- Be designated by the parents of the one to be baptized
- Be at least sixteen (16) years old
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- Leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on
- Not be the father or mother of the one being baptized
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty
- If married, must be married in the Catholic Church

Please note, even though one may be Catholic, he or she may be restricted from exercising the office of sponsor if he or she does not live the faith in a manner that is in keeping with the responsibilities of the office, for example:

- Not participating regularly at Holy Mass
- Living in a marriage not recognized by the Church (invalid marriage)

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. (*At least one Godparent MUST be Catholic*).

Each sponsor must provide a letter (or sponsor certificate) from his or her parish priest (Pastor) to attest that the sponsor is a Catholic in good standing and has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation).

This can be mailed to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist:
Attn: Director of Christian Formation
120 Broad Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401