



St. Matthew Catholic Church

Sponsor/Godparent Form

“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.” (Canon 872, Code of Canon Law)

The job of a sponsor is so important a job, that the Catholic Church gives guidance on those things necessary to fulfill it well. The following statements come from the requirements for sponsors and godparents as set down in the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church. The exact canons are on the back of this form for those interested.

I, _____, have been asked to be a sponsor/godparent for
Name of Sponsor/Godparent

Name of Candidate

Please initial by each true statement.

I am at least 16 years of age. _____

I am an active Catholic and have been baptized and confirmed. _____

I am canonically free to carry out the office of sponsor/godparent. _____

This means that Catholics in an invalid marriage (not married according to the laws of the Church) and those cohabitating (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a sponsor/godparent.

I am not the father, mother, step-parent, or custodial guardian of the candidate. _____

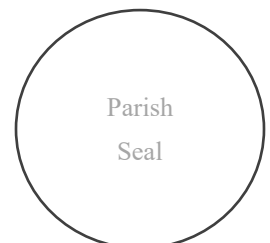
I, (print name) _____, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor/godparent, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor/godparent.

Sponsor/Godparent’s signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor/Godparent’s Phone Number _____

Sponsor/Godparent’s Pastor’s signature: _____

Name of Parish _____



Please drop off or mail to the address below.

8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy – P.O. Box 49349 – Charlotte, NC 28277-0077 – (704) 543-7677
office@stmatthewcatholic.org

SPONSORS/GODPARENT
CATHOLIC CANON LAW

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, 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;

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.*