

What are the duties and responsibilities of Godparents?

According to Canon law;

- Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a godparent/sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents present 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. 872*)
- There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each. (*Can. 873*)
- To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must: (*Can. 874*)
 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. be 16 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 baptized 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, (i.e. not be in mortal sin and must be attending Mass faithfully every Sunday)
 5. can 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** of the baptism.

Please make sure that godparents fulfill all of the above criteria. They also must turn in an “*Eligibility Form*” signed and dated by their pastor and must attend a baptismal class.