

Sponsor/Godparent Verification Letter

The intended godparent of the child to be baptized needs to carefully read both sides of this form, sign the back, and have his/her pastor sign below. **The GODPARENT/SPONSOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING THIS FORM RETURNED to St. Patrick. Please note, this is NOT to be filled out by the parent of the child to be baptized.**

I hereby verify as **Pastor** that, to the best of my knowledge,

_____ (write in name of sponsor/godparent) is a practicing member of our parish and meets the requirements (see back of this form for canonical requirements) for a Sponsor/Godparent, namely:

- 1) Has been designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place and has the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- 2) Has completed the sixteenth year of age,
- 3) Is a fully initiated Catholic (has received Confirmation) and leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on, meaning that:

The person whose name appears above

- attends mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receives the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Eucharist at least once a year, and professes the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- if married, was married in the Catholic Church, witnessed by a priest or deacon and has not attempted marriage *ex ecclesiae* (Outside the Catholic Church).

If the Sponsor/Godparent-to-be is married, please list the church where the marriage occurred and the name of the priest or deacon who witnessed the wedding:

Signed by Pastor of Godparent: _____

(Print Name and Church): _____

Please give this form to the Pastor of the Godparents' parish and return to St. Patrick.

Please scan and send to andalusiapat1@gmail.com

Or mail to:

St. Patrick Catholic Church

P.O. Box 249

Andalusia, IL 61232

Form Continues on Back Side

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What is a godparent really?

It is a unique honor to hold this role in the life of a fellow Christian believer. While the term *godparent* is used in a cultural sense. In the Catholic Church, the technical term is actually *sponsor*. Being a baptismal sponsor does hold cultural and familial value, but the spiritual value is of even greater significance. In the Catholic Church, a baptismal sponsor is expected to be a strong Christian example in the life of the one baptized and should likewise serve as a model in the practice of the Catholic faith.



For this reason, non-Catholic individuals cannot canonically fill the role of sponsor. A non-Catholic can, however, stand with the parents and the child at the baptism as a *Christian Witness*.

A Christian Witness is one who does not belong to the Catholic Church but is a practicing member of another Christian denomination and is a strong Christian example in the life of the one baptized.

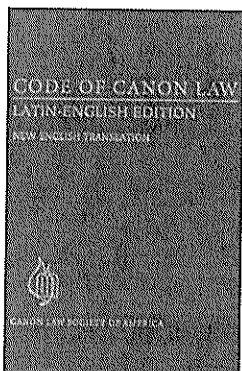
It is advisable that all the baptized have at least one fully-initiated Catholic sponsor at their baptism. If there are two sponsors, there must be one man and one woman. It is not permissible to have two men or two women.

- If after considering the information above and on the preceding page, you are morally eligible to serve as a baptismal sponsor, please provide the following information:
- Date of Baptism at which you will be sponsor/godparent:

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- Name of the Child's Parents for whom you will be the godparent:

I intend to be the sponsor at the baptism noted above and testify to the truth of the above statements:

Godparent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



The Code of Canon Law, revised by Pope John Paul II in 1983, is the book of laws that governs the Roman Catholic Church. Several laws are contained within pertaining to the suitability of sponsors (godparents) for baptism. Included among the laws are the following:

Can. 874 [A sponsor must] have completed the sixteenth year of age... 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.

** Living a life of faith assumes the-would-be-sponsor is validly married in the Catholic Church, if in a marital relationship, and has not sought marriage outside the Church.*

The Code of Canon Law may be accessed electronically in its entirety at this link:
https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM