

# St. Joseph Catholic Parish

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135 North Liberty Street • Galion, Ohio 44833 • 419-468-2884

## Sacramental Sponsor Requirements

Thank you for being willing to serve as a sacramental sponsor. Hopefully you were asked not simply because you are a relative or friend of the person receiving the sacrament, but because you will help the person to know, love, and live the Catholic Faith. It is an honor to be asked to fulfill such a role, but there are responsibilities that accompany the privilege. Fulfilling these responsibilities is what will help the person grow spiritually and to joyfully live God's teachings and commandments.

Since sacramental sponsors are much more than ceremonial persons, the Catholic Church has established minimum requirements as to who can effectively serve in this important role. Such a person must be a Catholic who lives according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and prays daily for the person being sponsored. This is because the sponsor needs to teach and inspire through personally living the Catholic Faith.

For the sacrament of Baptism, two sponsors are recommended – a male as the godfather and/or female as the godmother. If only one godparent is possible, a non-Catholic Christian can be a “witness” whose function in the ceremony is simply to testify that the baptism took place.

Other Christian people, as good as they might be, cannot be a sacramental sponsor because there are differences between Catholicism and other Christian denominations. This is not to take away from the importance of non-Catholic family and friends helping with growth in virtue and morality by word and deed. It is important to remember that everyone at the baptismal ceremony is encouraged to participate in the prayers and responses, however, the role of the sponsor(s) is greater and goes beyond that of others in attendance.

The Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if that person is a Catholic who...

- Is at least 16 years of age
- Is not the father or mother of the person receiving the sacrament
- Has received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- If married, has done so according to the laws of the Catholic Church
- If single or divorced, is not living with someone with whom he/she is in a romantic relationship
- Regularly participates at Mass on Sundays and Holydays
- Contributes to the well-being of the parish at which he/she is registered
- Does not contradict the Catholic Church in serious matters of faith and morals.

## Paperwork needed for those who meet the above criteria

1. Complete the attached Sacramental Sponsor Eligibility Form.
2. Prepare a stamped, addressed envelope to be sent to the parish at the top of this page with the return address being that of your registered parish.
3. Take the completed form and addressed envelope to your parish office.
4. The parish priest will complete his portion of the eligibility form, and then, using the prepared envelope you gave him, he will mail it to St. Joseph parish.
5. St. Joseph parish will notify the person receiving the sacrament, or parent(s) if a youth, of your eligibility or ineligibility to be a sacramental sponsor.

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## Sacramental Sponsor – Eligibility Form

### Sponsor Information (please print)

Name:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

Registered Parish:

### Candidate Information (please print)

Baptismal Name:

Sacrament Date:

Parent's Name:

### Check each box to agree

- I am at least 16 years of age.
- I have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I regularly participate at Mass on Sundays and Holydays.
- I contribute to the needs and well-being of my parish.
- I receive the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion regularly.
- If married, I have done so according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- If single or divorced, I am not living with someone with whom I am in a romantic relationship.
- I will encourage and support the person I am sponsoring with daily prayer and by witnessing, through word and action, to the truth of the Catholic Faith.
- I will not publicly contradict the Church in serious matters of faith and morals, such as abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, pornography, etc.
- I realize that I am responsible before God and the Church in faithfully fulfilling these obligations and for assisting the person I am sponsoring to be a faithful Catholic Christian.

By my signature, I attest that the information I have given here is true and that I fully intend to live the Catholic Faith and fulfill the obligations of my role as sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Printed Name & Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

### To be completed by the Sponsor's Parish

This is to certify that the above mentioned person, to the best of my knowledge, (please check if apply)

\_\_\_ is a registered member of your parish, who

\_\_\_ attends Mass weekly – monthly – yearly (circle one), and that

\_\_\_ the information given above is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Priest's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seal)