

Congratulations on being asked to be a godparent or sponsor! Being a godparent or sponsor is an important responsibility. While it's an honor to be asked, being a godparent or sponsor also requires a lifelong commitment to helping the candidate live a faithful Catholic life, so it should not be entered into lightly.

The Code of Canon Law, the law of the Catholic Church, states several criteria that must be met (see Can. 872-874 and Can. 893) for someone to be eligible as a godparent or sponsor.

Eligibility Criteria (Can. 874)

1. Must be at least 16 years of age
2. Must be a Catholic who has received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation)
3. Must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." The role of a godparent or sponsor is to help the candidate live life as a faithful practicing Catholic. As such, a sponsor or godparent must give public witness to his or her faith through action and must meet the following criteria to be eligible:
 - a. Must regularly attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
 - b. Godparents or sponsors who are parents must educate their own children in the faith;
 - c. Must avoid giving scandal through public action that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic faith;
 - d. If single, must live chastely, according the teachings of the Catholic faith;
 - e. If married, must be married by a Catholic priest or deacon
4. Must "not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared" (This is an official restriction placed on someone by the Church. For example, a suspended cleric or someone who has been excommunicated can't be a sponsor.)
5. Must not be the parent or stepparent of the child

Once you have reviewed these requirements, please fill out the form on page 2 and have your parish priest or an authorized staff member of your parish sign it and emboss it with the parish seal.

Please mail the completed signed and sealed form on page 2 to the parish office:

St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Parish
807 Havens Corners Rd.
Gahanna, OH 43230

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Ryzenga (Baptism Coordinator) or Dorothy Allwein (Family of Faith Catechesis/Confirmation Coordinator). Thank you!

Katie Ryzenga
kryzenga@stmatthew.net
(614) 532-0620

Dorothy Allwein
dallwein@stmatthew.net
(614) 532-0620

Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor Statement of Eligibility

Godparent/Sponsor Full Name (please print): _____
First Middle Last

I have been asked to serve as (select one)

_____ Godparent for the Baptism of _____
Individual's name

_____ Sponsor for the Confirmation of _____
Individual's name

The Baptism or Confirmation will take place at

_____ Parish Name _____ Parish City/State

I have read the criteria for eligibility as a godparent or sponsor as defined in Canon 874 (listed on page 1 of this form). I confirm that I am eligible to serve as a godparent or sponsor:

Godparent/Sponsor Signature: _____

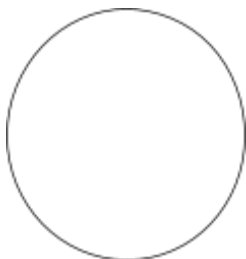
Date: _____ Phone number: _____

I am a participating member of the following parish:

_____ Parish Name _____ Parish City/State

If you are a St. Matthew parishioner, please return this form to the parish office to be signed. If you are a parishioner at another parish, please have your parish complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Parish.

Parish Seal



I am not aware of an impediment to this person
being a godparent or sponsor.

(Priest or Authorized Parish Staff)

(Date)