

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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GODPARENT / SPONSOR GUIDELINES

Being a sponsor for Baptism and/or Confirmation is a both a great honor and a great responsibility. To be a sponsor means that the person will serve as a companion, guide, model and witness to the Catholic Faith. Because of the beautiful but serious nature of the role of sponsor, the following policy, flowing from the Church's universal law, is to be observed.

- ❖ For Baptism, ideally there should be two godparents (one male, one female) and both godparents should be Catholic. However, only one godparent is necessary but that godparent must be Catholic.
- ❖ For the sacrament of Confirmation, one sponsor is required and must be Catholic.

ALL CATHOLIC GODPARENTS AND SPONSORS MUST FULFILL ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Be a baptized, practicing Catholic (a practicing Catholic is one who attends Mass regularly and is sincerely devoted to his or her faith in Christ and his Church.)
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Has received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- If married, the marriage must have been witnessed by a Catholic Priest or Deacon, according to the laws and teaching of the Catholic Church and/or the Bishop having granted any required dispensation.
- Cannot be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized or confirmed.
- Cannot be under any canonical penalty whether imposed or declared.

The above requirements must be certified by a signed letter, called a Sponsorship Letter, containing the parish seal, from the pastor of the prospective godparent/sponsor. A baptismal or confirmation certificate is not sufficient.

Please note the following:

- A person baptized in a non-Catholic Christian church, may serve only as a Christian witness to a Baptism together with the Catholic Godparent. He or she is not a godparent, but a Christian Witness. This person must submit a certificate of baptism from the church in which he/she was baptized. A non-baptized person may not act as a Christian Witness.
- *A baptized Catholic, who has left the Catholic Church and joined another ecclesial community, or who has fallen away from the practice of the faith, or who is not married validly in the Church can be neither a godparent/sponsor nor a witness.*

Godparent/Sponsor paperwork must be received in the St. Rose Rectory two weeks in advance of the celebration of the sacrament or the celebration of the sacrament may be postponed.