

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BAPTISM SPONSORS

Being a sponsor is an official responsibility in the Church. The Church, in the Code of Canon Law – the Universal Law of the Church – has established certain requirements.

The requirements are:

1. That the sponsor be a Baptized Catholic who has made First Communion and Confirmation.
2. Be practicing Catholics. At a minimum, this means that they normally go to Mass on days of obligation, and confess at least once a year and go to Communion at Easter time. Needless to say, people married outside the Catholic Church or who are living together without marriage cannot be sponsors.
3. Be at least 16 years old (the pastor can excuse from this requirement for a good reason).
4. Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children.
5. A child may have one sponsor of the same sex, or two sponsors, each of a different sex.

In our parish, the sponsor is asked to attend the pre-Baptismal class, unless they have attended within the last three years.

- If a sponsor is from another Catholic parish, they must bring permission from their pastor, stating that they fulfill the requirements of the Canon Law and their own parish.
- If the sponsors cannot be physically present for the baptism, proxies may stand in their place. There is no requirement concerning who is the proxy.
- A Protestant or Eastern Orthodox Christian may stand as a “CHRISTIAN WITNESS ONLY”, together with a Catholic Sponsor.