



Our Lady Of Czestochowa Church

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Godparents' Sponsor Certificates Requirements:

Catholic Godparents must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from the Catholic Church they belong to and attend.

Role of the Godparents:

The godparents, together with the parents, must be willing to help the baptized grow in love for Christ and neighbor. By word and example, the godparents will encourage the candidate to live the Christian life and fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 872).

Church law permits two godparents for Baptism. Only one is necessary. If one godparent is chosen who has been baptized but belongs to a non-Catholic Christian community, they may act as a **Christian witness** at a baptism, provided there is also one **Catholic sponsor**.

However, a baptized Catholic who does not meet the below mentioned requirements may not act as a Christian witness. A Catholic not in good standing with the Church (for example, one who does not attend Mass, divorced and remarried, or has left the Catholic Church to practice another religion) may not serve as a Christian witness. In addition, a baptized Catholic under the age of 16 years or a baptized Catholic who has not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation cannot serve as godparent.

If two Catholic godparents are chosen, there must be one of each sex (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 873). If both godparents are Catholic, original sponsor certificates must be submitted by mail or delivered to Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, one week prior to the actual Baptism. **No exceptions.**

Please keep in mind the following requirements for Baptismal sponsors when choosing Catholic Godparents:

- A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. That is, they have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- A Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.

- Since the sponsor is seen as a faith role model, a person who has been asked to be a sponsor should be living according to the codes, canons, laws and teachings of the Church. For example, if the person is married, it should be in a marriage that is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor should be a participant in the community life of the Church. This means he or she must be registered in a parish, receive the Eucharist regularly, and lead a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken.
- A sponsor for Baptism cannot be the mother or father of the one to be baptized.
- The minister of Baptism shall require a testimonial letter (sponsor certificate) from the pastor of the sponsor.

Registration is required in order to obtain a Sponsor Certificate.

In the course of the year, many people who have been asked to serve as a sponsor for the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation call or come to the rectory to request a sponsor certificate. Most of the time there is no problem. However, there are times when we are not able to give a certificate to someone.

In order to obtain a sponsor certificate from our parish the person requesting the certificate must be a practicing catholic and an active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa parish. You must also be a registered member of the parish for at least three (3) months prior to the request.

Having received the sacraments here years ago, or having attended St. Mary's School does not qualify you to be a sponsor, if you are not also currently registered and active in the parish.

We would like to thank all who are registered members of the parish, who participate at Mass and support our parish on a regular basis.