

# WHO CAN BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR?

## According to the teachings and guidelines of the Catholic Church:

1. ***A Godparent/Sponsor represents the Church, not the parents; nor does it have anything to do with being legal guardians and just merely nice persons.*** It has to do with exhibiting a true, vibrant, and current commitment to the Catholic Church. That means coming to the Eucharist every week. It means living a lifestyle that honors the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. It means being a model of the Catholic faith right now in their lives.
2. Therefore, one must be a currently registered parishioner. Just because someone grew up in this parish or went to the school or was a parishioner years ago, does not make them a current parishioner. Any adult who has completed schooling must be registered in his/her own name. Their parents' membership does not make them a member.
3. One must be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass weekly, not sporadically, not once in a while, or not just years ago. Right now they must be a committed, practicing Catholic ***here in this parish.*** The pastor must sign these certificates. He has to witness their practice of the faith. The pastor cannot do that with people he never sees practicing their faith and does not know.
4. One must be at least 16 years old and Confirmed.
5. One must be able to receive the Eucharist. This means that if they are married, their marriage was celebrated as a Sacrament within the Catholic Church. If they are not married, they are living a chaste life as a single person and not cohabitating.

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ is the one who established the Church and who made it clear that the pathway to God is always in and through the community of faith. Jesus called for integrity of faith and robust commitment. A Godparent or Sponsor is to be a model of this kind of faith and commitment.

**If you are a currently registered parishioner, you may request a certificate by calling the pastor at 814-774-4108 ext. 3 or by emailing the pastor at [pastor@stjohngirard.org](mailto:pastor@stjohngirard.org).**