

Holy Family Parish

23 Forest Drive
Nazareth, PA 18064
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Requirements of Godparents for Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament of initiation into both union with Christ and membership in the Catholic Church. Those who sponsor others (godparents), therefore, must themselves share this union with both Christ and his Church.

The role of the godparent is twofold:

1. To represent the Catholic Church into which the child is to be initiated
2. To serve as model and provide support as the child grows in the faith.

The requirements of godparents are based on the above understanding of the sacrament and the responsibilities listed below.

- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old
- Cannot be the mother or father of the child
- He/She must have completed the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptized, Communion and Confirmation.
- The individual must be a registered member of a Catholic Church and be able to obtain a letter of good standing from their parish.
- The individual must be an active participant in their church by regularly attending mass.
- If married, must be validly married in the Catholic Church.

*A baptized non-Catholic who is a practicing member of another Christian Church may serve **along with** a Catholic godparent. As a non-Catholic, this person would be considered a Christian Witness as they cannot fulfill the role of representing the Catholic Church in the child's life, but can serve as a model and provide support to the child as it grows. A non-baptized person may not serve as a godparent or Christian witness since he/she could not fulfill either role.

This section must be completed by the Godparent or Christian witness:

Name _____ Age _____

Church name and location of Your Baptism: _____

Church name and location of Your Confirmation: _____

Name Of The Person You Are Sponsoring: _____

If married, were you validly married in the Catholic church? _____

I am a registered member of Holy Family Parish (circle one) Yes No

If No, Clergy Section below must be completed by your pastor or your parish priest.

By signing below I am acknowledging that I have read the requirements above, and I understand the role and responsibility of being a Godparent/Christian witness. I fulfill all of the requirements and have the intention of fulfilling the responsibilities.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Clergy Section: If the godparent is not a member of Holy Family Parish, this portion must be signed and affixed with a church seal by the pastor or priest of the parish of which he/she is a member:

- "I know this person to be an actively practicing Christian and feel that he/she can well fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a godparent listed above."
- This person has attended baptismal instruction classes: (circle one) Yes No

Signature of your Parish Priest: _____

(PARISH SEAL)