


# Saint Andrew

Anchored in Faith  Catholic Church and School

## Baptism and the guidelines for sponsors/godparents

The role of the sponsor/godparent at the Sacrament of Baptism and assistance to the baptized on their journey of faith overtime requires that the parent(s) consider very seriously the faith and religious practice of the person proposed for this role. The sources for accessing the qualifications for the role of the sponsor/godparent are The Code of Canon Law (1983) and The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994) promulgated by His Holiness, John-Paul II. Selection and responsibility criteria are outlined below.

At Saint Andrew Catholic Church, the pastor is responsible for certifying the proper qualifications of those participating as sponsor/godparent in the sacraments. To aid in this regard, an affidavit of sponsorship is provided. The instrument will help document the sponsor's certification criteria and provide confirmation from the sponsor's parish priest if outside of the Church of Saint Andrew.

The pastor and designated staff are here to help ensure the proper opportunity for instructions in the Catholic faith regarding the Sacraments of Initiation. Further, proper formation, catechesis (religious instruction) is provided for the parents and sponsors to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the role and responsibilities of passing on the Catholic faith. The following provide the churches guidance to the usual questions that arise when parents or candidates who are discerning a person(s) for these roles.

### Sponsors/godparents selection and responsibilities:

- 1) Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism.
- 2) A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.
- 3) There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.
- 4) To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:
  - a. be designated by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function (see #2);
  - b. have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
  - c. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
  - d. not be bound by any [canonical penalty](#) legitimately imposed or declared;
  - e. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

Further, a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

### Source - CODE OF CANON LAW/CHAPTER IV. SPONSORS:

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic\\_lib4-cann834-878\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4-cann834-878_en.html)

The Sacrament of Baptism – Catechism of the Catholic Church

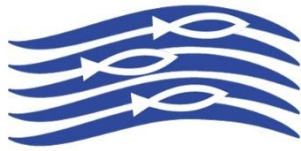


### Questions? Please contact:

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Parish Office Phone: (763) 441-1483



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## Affidavit of sponsorship for the Sacrament of Baptism

(Fill one out for each sponsor.)

**Name of the person being sponsored:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of the Sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of the Sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home parish of Sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a believer in the Gospel of Jesus and am trying to live

*Sponsor's Printed Name*

a life in fulfillment of that Gospel as taught by the Catholic Church. Through prayer, discussion and example, I promise to assist the newly baptized/confirmed in his/her own growth in faith to the best of my ability.

### Eligibility for Sponsorship requires *all* of the following obligations:

I hereby state that I am: (✓ *those that apply and fill in the blanks*)

\_\_\_\_\_ a baptized and confirmed Catholic of at least sixteen (16) years of age

\_\_\_\_\_ a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish

\_\_\_\_\_ a weekly participant at Sunday Mass

\_\_\_\_\_ Single **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ Married by a Catholic priest at \_\_\_\_\_ Church

in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_,

*City, State*

*Date of Marriage*

and that the statements I have checked are true.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Sponsor's Signature Date*

.....  
**DO NOT DETACH. Prior to the Baptism, this portion is to be completed ONLY by the Sponsor's Parish Priest and returned.**

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_, to the best of my knowledge is:

(✓ *those that apply and fill in the blanks*)

\_\_\_\_\_ a registered member of this parish

\_\_\_\_\_ a weekly participant at Sunday Mass

\_\_\_\_\_ a Catholic canonically in good standing

\_\_\_\_\_ and is qualified to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism and/or Confirmation.

(Rev.) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Priest's Signature Required* *Date*

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)