

St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

Rev. Joseph MPR Cocucci, KHS, Pastor

11211 Beauchamp Road

Berlin, Maryland 21811

Godparent Eligibility Certificate

I, _____, a registered member of
(please print name here)

_____ Parish, have been asked to
(please print name of church, city, state)

stand as Godparent for _____.
(please print name of person to be baptized)

In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully state the following:

- *I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in the Catholic Church.*
- *I attend Mass weekly (Saturday vigil Mass or Sunday) and I receive the Sacraments of the Church (Eucharist and Reconciliation) according to the Church's teaching and discipline.*
- *I am at least sixteen years of age.*
- *If married, my marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church according to Church law.*
- *I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers, by my continued interest in his/her Christian growth, and by my example as a mature Christian. I promise to pay special attention to this person in his/her efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church.*

Signature of prospective Godparent: _____

I certify that the prospective Godparent is a member in good standing of this parish and is eligible to assume the duties and responsibilities of Godparent according to canon 874 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

Signature of Pastor

Date

Seal of Church

St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church

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Rev. Joseph MPR Cocucci, Pastor

11211 Beauchamp Road
Berlin, Maryland 21811

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Dear Friend in Christ,

Congratulations! A member of St. John Neumann Parish has asked you to serve as Godparent! That means that someone trusts you very much and sees in you a person committed to living out the Catholic faith. That's quite a compliment in today's society!

How does one actually serve as a good Godparent? Here are some thoughts:

Live the Catholic life and practice the Catholic faith in a happy and faithful way. If the way you practice the faith is not what it should be, then it's important to make the commitment here and now to get it together; otherwise it would be appropriate to decline the invitation.

Spend some time in prayer each day, praying for the person for whom you will serve as Godparent; ask God to prepare him/her for the reception of the Holy Spirit. Pray for yourself, too, for the graces needed to be a good Godparent.

Be a big part of the life of your Godchild. Share your faith with him or her along the way. You're not just another "special" person in someone's life – you're actually standing there *for* your Godchild and *with* your Godchild as he or she goes from being a creature made in God's image and likeness to being a son or daughter of God Himself! That's a big deal, one not to be undertaken lightly.

The point of all this is not to "honor" a Godparent on a special day; it's to help those being baptized to grow in holiness and grace in this life and to enjoy Heaven in the next.

IMPORTANT: In order to serve as a Godparent at St. John Neumann Church, you'll need to have the form on the other side of this page completed as soon as possible. To do that, ***you'll need to meet with the pastor of the parish in which you are registered.*** Explain to him that you've been asked to serve as a Godparent, ***attest to him that you meet the requirements listed on the other side, sign the document in his presence and ask him to complete the bottom section*** of the form. ***The seal of the parish in which you are registered must be applied*** after the priest has filled in the appropriate sections. Then return this form to St. John Neumann Parish ***no later than two weeks prior to the date of the baptism.***

Thank you for your willingness to serve. May God bless you, and may He bless the person whom you are preparing to sponsor!

In Christ Jesus,

Rev. Joseph MPR Cocucci, KHS
Pastor