



# GOOD SHEPHERD

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

145 Jersey Avenue South + Golden Valley, MN 55426

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## GODPARENT FORM

I affirm that, having received the three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and living a life consistent with the faith and the responsibility of a godparent, I possess both the ability and intention to carry out the role of a godparent.

I affirm that I meet all of the necessary qualifications established within the *General Introduction to Christian Initiation* and the *Code of Canon Law*, which are included on the opposite side of this document.

I affirm my faith in Jesus Christ and my fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I affirm that I practice my Catholic faith by regularly participating in the celebration of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

I affirm, if I am married, that my marriage has been celebrated in the Catholic Church or is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.

I affirm, if I have children, that my children are being raised in the Catholic faith.

I do, therefore, solemnly affirm that I meet all the necessary requirements to act as a godparent (sponsor) in the Roman Catholic Church.

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Name (printed)

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Signature

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Date

## QUALIFICATIONS OF A GODPARENT

### *The General Introduction to Christian Initiation (8-10)*

In the baptism of children, as well, a godparent is to be present in order to represent the expansion of the spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as a mother. As occasion offers, the godparent helps the parents to lead the child to profess the faith and to show this by living it. ... In the actual celebration of baptism, the godparent's part is ... together with the parents, to profess the Church's faith, in which the child is being baptized.

Therefore the godparent, chosen by the catechumen or the family, must, in the judgment of the pastor, be qualified to carry out the proper liturgical functions mentioned [above], that is:

- Have the ability and the intention to carry out the responsibility of a godparent;
- Be mature enough to fulfill this responsibility (a person 16 years old is presumed to have the requisite maturity);
- Be initiated with the three sacraments of initiation, baptism, confirmation, and eucharist, and be living a life consistent with faith and the responsibility of a godparent;
- Be neither the father nor the mother of the candidate;
- Be chosen as godfather or godmother; but the candidate may have both a godfather and a godmother;
- Be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. A baptized and believing Christian not belonging to the Catholic Church may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic godparent, at the request of the parents.

### *The Code of Canon Law*

**Can. 872** 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. 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.

**Can. 873** There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

**Can. 874 §1.** To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- 1° be designated by the one to be baptized, 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;
- 2° 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;
- 3° 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;
- 4° not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- 5° not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. 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.