

Qualification to be a Godparent

11/6/22

1. Should be present at the Baptism
2. Be designated by the one being Baptized or their Parent(s)
3. Be neither the father nor mother of the one being Baptized
4. Be mature enough to fulfill the responsibility
5. Have the aptitude and intention to carry out the responsibility
6. Be initiated with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
7. Be a practicing member of the Catholic Faith
8. Attend a baptism preparation class
9. Cannot be under any ecclesial (church) canonical penalty

(A baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic church may be a witness and only together with a Catholic godparent)

Rational paraphrased from *The Order of Baptism of Children* approved by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Confirmed by the Apostolic See, pages 3-4; 2020 edition and *Catechism of the Catholic Church* Second edition as identified.

1. Should be present at the Baptism

- At the Baptism of a child a godparent should be present to represent both the wider spiritual family of the one being baptized and the role of the Church as mother and as circumstances suggest help the parents so the infant will come to profess the Church's faith in which the infant is baptized.

2. Be designated by the one being Baptized or their Parent(s)

- The pastor or minister of Baptism may in the absence of a godparent designate a person having the aptitude and intention to carry out the responsibility of godparent.
- There should be a godparent, male or female but there may be two godparents one of each sex.

3. Be neither the father nor mother of the one being Baptized

- Parents have their own set of responsibilities as the first and primary teachers of their Baptized children

4. Be mature enough to fulfill the responsibility

- Typically, 16 years old, if younger than 16 years old decision will be at the discretion of the pastor

5. Have the aptitude and intention to carry out the responsibility

- In the celebration of the Baptism the role of the godparent is to testify to the faith of the adult candidate or together with the parents profess the Church's faith in which the infant is baptized.
- in other words, can they and will they assist in leading the child to Christ and His Church?

6. Be initiated with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

- The role of the godparent is to testify to the faith of the child or together with the parents to profess the Church's faith in which the child is baptized. i.e. therefore, to be a godparent the need to be a practicing Catholic to lead by their own example

7. Be a practicing member of the Catholic Faith (CCC 2042)

- Attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation
- Confess your sins at least once a year
- Receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once a year
- Observe the days of Fasting and Abstinence
- Provide for the needs of the Church according to your ability

8. Attend a baptism preparation class

- A baptism preparation class is required for godparents. This instruction equips godparents in their responsibility to help the newly baptized grow in the life of grace.
- In person baptism preparation classes are highly recommended, but virtual catechesis is acceptable. A baptism preparation video is available on the Scioto Catholic website.

9. Cannot be under any ecclesial (church) canonical penalty

- Cannot be under any canonical (church) penalties (i.e. those who are in civil unions or those who are divorced and remarried without the benefit of an annulment; also couples living together without marriage in the Church).
- If married, must be married in the Church, or have received a dispensation prior to establishing a union.

NOTE In the situation where a non-Catholic is requested to be a "godparent" their title is not godparent but as a witness.

Therefore, the godparent(s) chosen must, in the judgment of the pastor be qualified to carry out the proper liturgical functions