



St. James Parish

94 Broad Street
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701
732-741-0500
www.sjredbank.org

Baptism Godparent and/or Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Letter

The role of the godparent/sponsor together with the parents is to present a child/adult for baptism or confirmation and to assist in the faith formation of the person being baptized or confirmed. With the parents, he/she helps the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with the grace of baptism. Parents should choose a godparent/sponsor who will take this role of assistance seriously through faithfully witnessing to their own baptism, confirmation and faith.

Honoring the importance and necessity of the role of the godparent/sponsor, the Church has established norms governing the qualifications needed to be a godparent and sponsor (Code of Canon Law nn. 872-874). There only needs to be one godparent/sponsor, if godparents are requested, there is to be one male and one female. A godparent/sponsor is:

- to be designated by the parents (or one to be baptized or confirmed)
- to have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function
- to have completed the sixteenth year of age,
- to be a Catholic fully initiated into the Catholic Church having celebrated the Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized or confirmed.
- to live a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. This means that a sponsor/godparent sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; regularly takes part in the sacramental life of the Church; and if married, is in a valid marriage in accordance with the requirements and teachings of the Catholic Church.

As a member of _____ Parish accepting the invitation to be a godparent/sponsor, I affirm that I fulfill the norms regarding the qualifications for assuming the role of sponsor/godparent.

Name of Candidate for Baptism/Confirmation: _____

Godparent/Sponsor Name: _____

Godparent/Sponsor Signature: _____

After signing, please forward this form to your Parish Office for affirmation by a parish priest.

Signature of Priest

date

seal