

Choosing Godparent(s) for Infant Baptism

Dear Parent(s),

Godparents join the parents in presenting the child for Baptism and help the child to lead a Christian life in harmony with the sacrament. The Rite of Baptism for Children asks them,

"Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"

In helping the baptized child to lead a Christian life through word and example, godparents assist the parents "In their duty." The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains further that godparents "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized child ...on the road of Christian life." In choosing a person to serve as a godparent, parents should consider carefully his (her) capacity to provide this help, See additional requirements below.

Requirements for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors

Church Law (Code of Canon Law, can. 874 §1) requires that the godparent/sponsor be:

- **At least 16 years old**
- **Fully-initiated Catholic (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)**
- **Not bound by any canonical penalty (e.g. a person who is married must be in a marriage which is recognized by the Church)**
- **Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken [regularly attending Mass on Sunday and living the faith]**
- **Not parents of the child (for infant Baptism)**
- **May be parent of the candidate (for Confirmation)**

Use of the Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form for Baptism and Confirmation

These criteria reflect the Church's view that living the faith is taught best by example. **Your chosen Godparent(s) /sponsor are asked to give witness to meeting these requirements by completing the Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form.** Please provide them with this form in a timely manner so that it can be returned to the parish of Baptism prior to the celebration of the sacrament.

NOTE: Form and all Confirmation Information is available for download at www.sjnpowhatan.org