

## RCIA Godparents & Sponsor Info

### What are they?

Godparents and sponsors are practicing Catholics who serve as mentors and guides for those receiving the sacraments. They agree to a lifelong spiritual relationship with their candidate. They are concerned for the candidate's spiritual well-being and keep them in prayer. During the process towards the candidate's reception of the sacraments, the godparent or sponsor serves as a resource for discussion, questions and concerns.

For those to be baptized, there may be one godfather and/or one godmother. For baptized Christians receiving the sacrament of confirmation, there is one sponsor.

The godparents or sponsor may be picked by the candidate. If a candidate doesn't have one, we will try to match them with a parishioner. The pastor has the final say whether or not a person may serve in either capacity.

### What are the requirements?

1. Be a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church.
  - e.g. a practicing Catholic attends Sunday Mass and frequents the sacraments.
  - e.g. someone *not* in good standing would be one who is in an irregular marriage situation, or has an occupation contrary to Catholic faith or morals.
2. Have already received the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, first communion and confirmation.
3. Not be a parent of the candidate related by blood.
4. Be at least 16 years old.
5. Not be in a non-binding romantic relationship with the candidate.
6. Inasmuch as possible, attend RCIA classes with the candidate.
7. Be present for the liturgical ceremonies of the candidate.
  - a. for the unbaptized, particularly at the Rite of Acceptance, Rite of Election and the Easter Vigil.
  - b. for the baptized, particularly at the Rite of Acceptance and the Reception of the Baptized (or the Easter Vigil, if received then).