



St. Martha Catholic Church

Godparents Requirements

Be for this child and his or her parents someone special, someone who cares enough to be part of an important ritual of welcome into the faith, someone whose presence means more than presents, someone this child's—your godchild's—parents can trust, can turn to, can be honest with, can count on no matter what else is going on in the world. That, more than all the ceremonies in the world, characterizes the faith of baptism and the sense of true godparenting.

— Tom Sheridan, *The Gift of Godparents*

Requirements of Canon Law for being a Godparent in the Catholic Church

Canon Law #874 to be admitted to the role of godparent, a person must:

- 1. be designated 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 their sixteenth year;**
- 3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;**
[This means that the Catholic person is a fully initiated catholic (having celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist) and actively practices their Christian faith in their way of life and in their participation in their Catholic parish and the sacraments of the Church.]
- 4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;**
[This means that if the intended sponsor is married, this marriage must be a recognized valid marriage in the Catholic Church. Catholics who are either civilly married, married by common law or living together are not in a valid Church marriage, and thus, by law, have a canonical penalty imposed upon them. The penalty is that the person may not participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. Specifically, they may not receive communion, nor may they act as a godparent at Baptism.]
- 5. Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.**
- 6. There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.**
- 7. 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.**

Godparents at St. Martha are required to take a baptism class, they can take the class at their local parish if they live outside our boundaries. They would need to show proof of class taken if they take the class at another parish.

Jan 2018