

**SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH**

11967 W Sunset Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90049 (310) 476-7403

**Guidelines for Baptismal Sponsors**

When a parent chooses you as a Baptismal Sponsor (Godparent) that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a Godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or a reward of friendship. The call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving spiritual witness to your godchild of how to live the Catholic faith in everyday life. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to the parents who commit themselves in Baptism to faithfully pass on the Catholic faith to their child.

The laws of the Catholic Church offer these qualities of a valid sponsor. At least one meet the requirements specified in 1b and 1c below. If there is a second sponsor, they must be of the opposite sex of the first sponsor and meet the requirements of 1c or 2 below. A non-baptized person may not serve as a baptismal sponsor or Christian witness.

1. A godparent must
  - a. be mature enough to undertake the responsibility (at least sixteen years of age);
  - b. be fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
  - c. be a baptized member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. [This would indicate that Catholics living in an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those who are cohabiting (living together without marriage) are not eligible in their current condition.]
2. A baptized, believing, non-Catholic Christian may act as a "Christian Witness" along with a Catholic godparent.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as a godparent. If you are unable to live up to these Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

Godparents should attend a pre-baptismal catechesis, either with the parents here at St. Martin of Tours or in their local parish.

**The form below is to be completed & returned to the address above at least one week before the scheduled Baptism.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ registered at \_\_\_\_\_ Church accept  
the invitation to be godparent to \_\_\_\_\_.

*If you are a Christian Witness (baptized, non-catholic), please scratch through this paragraph and continue below.*

\*\*I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, living my Catholic faith and in good standing with the Catholic Church. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide, and role model to my godchild especially by my own example and witness.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Your Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City/State)

Church of Your Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_  
(Only if Catholic) (Name) (City/State)

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ single \_\_\_\_\_ Married (if married and Catholic, were you married in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**To Be Completed by Priest/Minister of Sponsor:**

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is in good standing in this parish and that he/she meets the requirements for being a godparent.

\_\_\_\_\_ is registered in our parish as a practicing Catholic.

\_\_\_\_\_ lives in the boundaries of this parish, but is not a registered parishioner.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City/State)