

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING SPONSORS

Being a godparent for Baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation is an important role in the Catholic Church. You are asking to represent the Church's teachings and practices in the life of a child. You are also promising to lift that child up in prayer, and to serve as a mentor and guide throughout life.

Precisely because it is important, there are certain requirements that must be met for those seeking to be sponsors or godparents. In response to several inquiries about the qualifications for sponsors, St Edward's parish has produced these guidelines in order to help people choose sponsors more wisely.

Someone who serves as a sponsor represents the Church, and because of that, there are inquiries made about the spiritual life of the individual before allowing that person to fulfill that role. Parents, please consider these guidelines when choosing potential sponsors. Ignoring these regulations could be embarrassing for your sponsor, especially if that person is not approved for the role.

The following guidelines are meant to assist parents in assessing suitability for the role of sponsor (godparent) at Baptism or at Confirmation

1. A sponsor must have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the pastor grants an exception for a lower age, provided there is a just cause.
2. A Catholic who has not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist **may not** be a sponsor. We encourage that person to complete Christian Initiation at an appropriate time.
3. A Catholic who has left the Catholic Church **may not** be a sponsor. A non-practicing Catholic may be admitted as a sponsor only if the pastor or minister of the sacrament can determine that the person is in the process of returning to the regular practice of the faith.
4. **A Catholic who does not attend Mass weekly and does not participate in the life and support of the Church is considered non-practicing, and should not be a sponsor.**
5. A person who has left the Catholic Church may not be a Christian witness, nor may a non-baptized person serve in this capacity.
6. A parent is not to be the sponsor for his or her child. An adoptive parent is to be discouraged from exercising this function.
7. If a sponsor is married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church. If you are a Catholic who is not married with the blessing of the Church, you may not serve as a sponsor.

If you have any further questions, please call Fr. Nick Cirillo at St Edward the Confessor parish (203) 746-2200.