Diocese of Richmond | 7800 Carousel Lane | Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201
(804) 359-5661

Godparent/ Sponsor Eligibility Form

You have been asked to be a Godparent/ Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and/ or Reception into the Church. Such a person assumes the responsibility for supporting the person's faith so that he/ she may flourish in a life of committed discipleship. In accepting this role, you are urged to reflect upon the importance of this commitment. Please read the following and pray about the responsibility you will be fulfilling in someone's spiritual life. The requirements provided below are based on the law of the Church and are not arbitrary expectations of any particular parish. The pastors of the Church have a duty to ensure that those serving as Godparents/ Sponsors can live a life in harmony with the faith and in keeping with the function to be undertaken (cf. canons 874, 893). Pastors and other ministers **do not** have the authority to add additional requirements beyond those of the law.

After reflection, please **initial** each line, where applicable, sign the statement of eligibility **in front of** your parish priest, deacon, or other pastoral minister authorized to witness this form in your local parish. Please ensure he/ she signs and seals the bottom portion of this form. Individuals who present incomplete forms will **not** be accepted to serve as godparents or sponsors.

I am asked to serve as:

☐ Godparent for Baptism

☐ Sponsor for Confirmation and / or Reception into the Church

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Church and Address where sacrament will take place:

_____

_____

Requirements for a Godparent/ Sponsor (please initial on the lines below, if you agree):

___ **I have been appointed by the candidate (or his/ her parents) for Baptism and/ Confirmation/ Reception into the Church;**

___ **I am at least sixteen years of age or older** (*Please contact the Chancellor for possible exceptions*);

___ **I am a Catholic who has been Confirmed, has received the Holy Eucharist, and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;**

___ **I am not laboring under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;**

___ **I am not the father or the mother of the person to be Baptized;**

If you belong to an Eastern Catholic Church (Maronite, Melkite, Ruthenian, Byzantine, etc.):

___ **I am not the spouse of the Candidate for Baptism/ Confirmation**

___ **If married, I am in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church**
*(If unclear how to respond to this question, please speak with the individual who is to witness this form)***;**

___ **If single, I am not living with a partner outside of marriage;**

___ **I promise to give support to** _____ **by my prayers, my continued interest in his/ her Catholic growth, and by my example of living the Catholic faith.**
[*Name of person to receive sacrament or be received into the Church*]

Godparent/ Sponsor Agreement: I do hereby solemnly swear that I fulfill all the requirements to act as a Godparent/ Sponsor for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and/ or Reception into the Church.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This portion is completed by the Parish of the Godparent/ Sponsor:

This certifies that the above-named person is known to me as a person in good standing with the life of the Church. I testify that he/ she is qualified to serve as a Godparent/ Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and/ or Reception in the Church.

Parish Seal

Name of Church: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Pastor/ Delegate's Name: _____
Pastor/ Delegate's Signature: _____
Date: _____

Questions regarding this form should be directed to the Chancellor: chancellor@richmonddiocese.org.