

Godparents

Ancient custom in the Catholic Church teaches

that all of the baptized are sponsored by a godparent, or godparents (one godfather and one godmother). Sponsors must be fully initiated members of the Catholic Church, who themselves have been baptized, confirmed and have received their First Holy Communion, and who believe and practice the Faith. If married, they must be in a marriage recognized by the Church.

A godparent assists in the preparation for baptism, and the religious and moral formation of the baptized person, according to the Way of Life revealed to us by Jesus Christ and his Church. A godparent helps the baptized person persevere in faith, grow in the holiness, and cooperate with grace of the Holy Spirit that is received in Baptism. Furthermore, the godparents help the baptized person prepare for first Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

A godparent becomes a spiritual member to the immediate family of the baptized person. Good example — being a living witness to the Faith — is the most important duty of a godparent. In this way, godparents help the parents guide the baptized person to Eternal Life, in the Way that Jesus taught us.

Requirements to be a Godparent

- Sixteen years of age (minimum).
- Mature enough for the responsibility.
- Example of Christian living.
- Received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion.
- Regular practice of Catholic faith, including weekly Mass attendance.
- Married within the Church (if married).
- Cannot be a parent.



Certificate of Eligibility to be a Godparent

St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1910 N. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22207
703-525-1166, www.saintagnes.org

This is to certify that I,

_____/_____/_____
(First) (MI) (Last)

am a member of _____ parish
(name of parish)

in _____,
(city and state)

have the read this form, and that I all meet the Requirements to be a Godparent, as listed on this certificate.

I accept the invitation to be a Godparent for (name of person to be baptized)

_____/_____/_____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Signature _____ Date _____

Priest/Deacon Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above-named person is a member of the aforesaid parish, is in good standing with the Church, and fulfills the requirements to be a Godparent, in the ways mentioned on this certificate.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Parish seal (must be present)

