ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THOSE WHO ARE ASKED TO BE GODPARENTS OR SPONSORS

MOUNT SAINT PETER CHURCH

Godparent info

"Minimum" Requirements for Godparents or Sponsors

1. are at least 16 years of age
2. are fully initiated, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church
3. are registered in a Catholic parish
4. support their parish by participating in Sunday Mass every week
5. support their parish financially according to their means
6. if they are married, have done so according to the law and teaching of the Catholic Church

In accepting the invitation to become a godparent or sponsor, you affirm that these requirements have been, are being, and will continue to be met.

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The priest asks the godparents,

"Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mother and father?"

And the godparents respond,

"We are!"

With this simple question and answer, godparents become a special part of the family whose infant is being baptized into the Christian community. In the two words – **We are!** – godparents make a promise to God, to the *parents*, to the *child* and to the *church*. They proclaim aloud their promise to live as Christ teaches and to be witnesses to his life in all of their relationships.

Becoming a godparent should make the person accepting the responsibility to take a look at his/her life and ask these two questions,

1) "Am I living to the best of my ability the teachings of Christ?

2) "Am I a witness to God's love, mercy, justice, peace ?"

IDEAS FOR GODPARENTS

- Celebrate the anniversary of your godchild's baptism along with his/her birthday.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters or gifts which celebrate holy events.
- Pray for him or her daily, asking for the prayers of the child's patron saint(s), and the saint(s) whose feast day is celebrated on his or her birthday.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- Prepare yourself to be able to answer his/her questions about Christ and His Church.
- Become a model of Christian living for your godchild through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in your parish community.