

GODPARENT SELECTION FORM 2026

1. Please carefully review the Church's qualifications for Godparents.
2. Discuss these qualifications thoroughly with perspective Godparents.
3. Select only Godparents who meet all of the qualifications.
4. Complete the reverse side of this form and return it to St. Mary's Rectory, 8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS During the Catholic Ceremony of Baptism, the parents of an infant or minor child promise before God that they will raise that child in the practice of the Catholic faith. On a practical level this promise means bringing the child to Sunday Mass each week starting the Sunday after Baptism; bringing the child to Religious Education once they reach the first grade; and teaching the child by word and example at home to love God and neighbor as Jesus taught.

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS Raising a child in the practice of the faith is so important, that the Church provides all parents with "God-parents" - a man and woman other than the parents, who will assist them with the child's faith formation. To qualify for this important role, the perspective godparents need to be not just good people, and not just people of faith. They need to be people of *visible* faith so as to serve as Catholic role models and guides for the child. Godparents who already have faith as a visible priority in their own lives are much better equipped to help parents raise a child in the *practice* of the faith.

GODPARENT QUALIFICATIONS The following qualifications apply to all Godparents. They are mandated by the Code of Canon Law, and apply universally to Catholic parishes. They are not meant to restrict, but to help in selecting the most effective and appropriate persons possible for this very specific role in the Church. In good faith we rely on parents to honestly and prayerfully make certain these requirements are met.

- I Only one male and one female may serve as Godparents.** It is possible to have just one Godparent, but two Godparents (one male and one female) are the norm in Catholic tradition. No more than two Godparents are allowed, and never two of the same sex. *Parents may not serve as Godparents to their own child.*
- II Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.** This requirement may be waived by the pastor only if the perspective Godparent has already been Confirmed and meets all other qualifications. The role of Godparent is an important one, and a certain level of maturity and faith experience is therefore necessary.
- III Godparents must be Catholics who have received all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.** Before Confirmation, a Catholic has not been fully initiated into the Church, and cannot therefore sponsor a new member to join the Church at Baptism. Only a fully initiated Catholic has this privilege.
- IV Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing whose lifestyle is in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic faith.** Minimally, this means that they should be attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis and are living a life in harmony with the faith. Remember – a Godparent is not just a good or faith filled person. They are asked to serve as a visible role model of Catholic faith and moral teaching.
- V Provided at least one Godparent is a qualified Catholic, the other may be a baptized member of a different Christian religion.** Such an individual is referred to as a "Christian Witness". A Christian Witness is a *non-Catholic* member of another Christian religion. (*Catholics who are non-practicing, not Confirmed, or otherwise do not qualify to serve as Godparents may not serve as a Christian Witness*). During the Baptism Ceremony, Godparents and Christian Witnesses publicly renew their own Baptismal Promises and commitment to Christ. Therefore non-Christians (Jews, Muslims, etc.) may not serve as Christian Witnesses. To ask them to do so would not be respecting their own faith choice and traditions.

GODPARENT SELECTION FORM

Full Name of Child being baptized: _____

Baptism Preparation Date: _____

Baptism Ceremony Date: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name & Maiden Name: _____



PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE GODPARENT QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND DISCUSSED THEM WITH PERSPECTIVE GODPARENTS. PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO ST. MARY'S RECTORY, 8 CHURCH ST., HOLLISTON, MA 01746. THANK YOU!

Name of Godfather (or male Christian Witness): _____

Religion of Godfather (or male Christian Witness): _____

Name of Godmother (or female Christian Witness): _____

Religion of Godmother (or female Christian Witness): _____

TESTIMONY OF PARENTS

We, the parents of _____, hereby testify that we have carefully reviewed the Catholic Church's requirements for Godparents as found on the reverse side of this document. We have thoroughly discussed these requirements with the Godparents named above, and have made certain that they qualify in every way for this sacred trust and privilege.

I so swear before God. _____
(Father's Signature)

I so swear before God. _____
(Mother's Signature)

[If parents are unmarried, please include a photocopy of the child's Birth Certificate to this form.]