

Church of St. Mary

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801
203-744-5777

Being a Godparent or Sponsor For the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation

The role of Godparent or Sponsor is more than merely ceremonial. It is a ministry and a responsibility. The Godparent or Sponsor stands for the Church and this “standing” must manifest an authenticity.

The Church has requirements that must be fulfilled in order to act as a Godparent or Sponsor. However, the first question is not whether or not the Church will permit me to be a Godparent or Sponsor, but whether I can allow myself to be one! Each one of us must ask, “*Does my integrity allow me to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith I proclaim in word is truly a faith I practice?*”

The role of Godparent or Sponsor does not demand we be a Saint, and all of us have need of God’s mercy as we have miles to go on our Christian faith journey. It often happens that we are asked to act as a Godparent or Sponsor even though we may not be actively practicing our faith. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in your faith. You could sit down with a Priest, Deacon, a practicing Catholic family member or a friend to help you take a new path in your faith.

Perhaps you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then please be honest enough to simply ask the relative or friend who asked you to excuse you because you are not able to fulfill this role properly. This is what is meant by a *call to integrity*.

If we can be of any assistance in your decision making or in helping you respond to the grace that this occasion provides for you, please contact us.

Thank you for giving this your best consideration and your prayers. This will help you make the best decision and respond well to this call of integrity. If you need a certificate for being a Sponsor or Godparent, please contact the Rectory at (203)744-5777. ***Please note that you must be registered as a parishioner here at St. Mary for at least 3 months before we can issue a sponsor certificate.*** In an emergency situation where a certificate is needed before then, you must speak directly with one of the priests.

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Catholic Church Requirements for Being a Godparent or Sponsor

- ❖ At least 16 years of age.
- ❖ Received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on the Holy Days of Obligation.
- ❖ Receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) and Holy Communion regularly.
- ❖ Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ If married, was married in the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Not be the parent of the child to be baptized or confirmed.