

ST. MARY MAGDALEN **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

17775 North Bay Road, Sunny Isles Beach, Florida 33160.
Parish Office Phone: (305) 931-0600. Fax (305) 931-0601
E-mail: parishoffice@stmmsib.org
www.stmmsib.org

Godparent Information **An Important Decision**



Being chosen as a godparent for baptism is an honor, for the godparent traditionally becomes a spiritual companion to the one being baptized in a journey of faith. *Please decide if your faith life makes you ready to publicly pledge that you have been leading a life in harmony with the Catholic tradition.* Godparents should be both role models and resource persons, individuals who are at ease with the practice of their faith and would normally be considered as “active Catholics.” They should be people who are comfortable with answering questions about their personal relationship with God as experienced in the Catholic Communion, even if they are unsure of all the technicalities. Godparents should be people who are interested in and will continue to spiritually support the “godchild” in the years ahead.

Catholic Church Requirements

To be a godparent, a person must be:

1. A baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and is practicing the Catholic faith.
2. Mature enough to undertake the responsibility.
3. A member of the Catholic Church canonically free to carry out this responsibility. If a person is married, the marriage must have been a Catholic marriage, not just a civil marriage. Catholics currently living in a marriage not considered valid by the Catholic Church or cohabitating are excluded from being a Godparent.
4. Someone other than the father or mother, spouse or fiancé of the one who is to be baptized.

In you accept the responsibility of being godparent, please complete the “Godparent Commitment Form”, have it signed by your parish priest and return it to the child’s parents who will forward it to St. Mary Magdalen Church at least *one week before* the baptism.

What if I do not meet all the criteria to be a godparent?

The role of “godparent” is not merely that of patron— it is that of mentor. Sometimes emotional conflicts occur in a family when relatives or close friends who are held in esteem are considered as possible godparents but are technically not qualified either because they are not Catholics or because they are Catholics who do not practice their faith regularly, or whose religious status is “problematic” because some situations, for example, a civil marriage.

Conflicts can occur between loyalties to family and friends and the demands of liturgical and religious authenticity. Baptism and Confirmation are sacraments of faith, and the major ministers of the Church, including the godparents, should be examples of faith for those gathered in prayer. Not every relative or friend is appropriate to serve as “godparent”.

The parent’s of the child might wish to consider you, not as an official godparent but as an “honorary” godparent if you are deeply committed to the spiritual well-being of the child and are attempting to remove the obstacles that prevented you from being formally designated as a godparent.

In special cases, the advice and wisdom of the local priest can be very helpful.

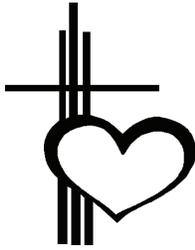
What if I am not Catholic but I am a Christian?

The child’s parents are very lucky to have you as a friend or relative. You can certainly act as “Christian Witness” for their child since you have already been a witness of Christian life and values to them. But they are baptizing their child into the Catholic community so it makes more sense for them to have a godparent who is committed to the Catholic community and its beliefs.

What if I have other questions about being a godparent?

Ask your parish priest. He will answer any other specific questions that pertain to your situation.





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GODPARENT COMMITMENT PLEDGE

I solemnly pledge to act as a loving godparent for

_____ (Name of Child to be Baptized)

I pledge to assist the parents in raising their child in the Catholic faith. I pledge to be an active practicing Catholic who will, with God's help, be a role model of Catholic values to guide the spiritual development of my godchild.

I testify that I meet all the requirements of the Catholic Church:

- 1. A baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and is practicing the Catholic faith.**
- 2. Mature enough to undertake the responsibility.**
- 3. A member of the Catholic Church canonically free to carry out this responsibility. (Catholics currently living in a marriage not considered valid by the Catholic Church or cohabitating are excluded from being a godparent.)**
- 4. Someone other than the father or mother, spouse or fiancé of the one who is to be baptized.**

Godparent's Name _____ (Signature)

_____ (Print clearly Godparent's name)

Godparent's Address _____

I certify that the above named person is a parishioner in good standing.

I testify that he/she is qualified to serve as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Church of Sponsor: _____

Church's Street: _____

Parish Seal

Church's City, State, Zip: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Date: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____