

All Saints Catholic Church

2443 Mount Vernon Road, Dunwoody GA 30338

BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

I. Some Basic Church Rules Concerning Sponsors

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of baptism or confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation.

In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if, a) he or she is not less than sixteen years of age; and b) is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and c) is not either the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This phraseology means that the candidate for sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently,

1. Those Catholics who are not actively affiliated with a worshipping community,
2. Those Catholics who are invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi,
3. Those Catholics who are divorced and invalidly remarried, and
4. Those Catholics who have not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist; do not qualify to be admitted as a sponsor.

II. Affirmation of the Prospective Sponsor

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a sponsor and are convinced that you qualify in accord with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following solemn affirmation:

I, *(print full name)* _____, a practicing Catholic who seeks to be admitted as a sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic Faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor.

(Please print)

Date of the ceremony

Name of the candidate

Signature of Sponsor

Sponsor's Parish Name and City/State

Date

Signature of Pastor

CHURCH SEAL