Saint MIchael Parish
1208 11th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

The Role of the Godparent/Sponsor – A Call to Integrity

Dear Godparent/Sponsor,

The role of a Godparent at Baptism or a Sponsor at Confirmation is far more than ceremonial. To stand at the altar is to make a public profession of faith — not only in words, but in the way one strives to live as a disciple of Christ.

The Church does not ask for perfection or sainthood, but it does ask for integrity. Each potential Godparent or Sponsor should prayerfully reflect: *Can I, with honesty, stand before God and this family as a witness of the Catholic faith I profess?*

Sometimes, those who have stepped away from regular practice of the faith are invited to serve as a sponsor. If this describes your situation, consider this invitation a moment of grace — a call to renew your practice of the sacraments and to grow deeper in your relationship with Christ. Meeting with a priest, deacon, or pastoral staff member may be a good first step toward recommitment.

If you discern that you are not able at this time to take on this responsibility with integrity, we encourage you to be honest and decline the role. Doing so is itself an act of integrity and respect for the sacrament.

Guidelines for Godparents and Sponsors

According to the Archdiocese of Seattle, a sponsor must:

- Be designated by the candidate, a parent, or the pastor/minister of the sacrament, and intend to fulfill this role.
- Be at least **16 years old**, unless the pastor grants an exception.
- Be a **Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist**, and who lives a life of faith consistent with this role.
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty.
- Not be the **father or mother** of the person receiving the sacrament.

The sponsor should be a practicing Catholic:

- Participates in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
- Receives Holy Communion at least once during the Easter season.
- Observes the Church's days of fasting and abstinence.
- Offers prayer and support for the Church and its mission.

Sincerely,

Fr. John Patrick DePalma

Fr. John-Patrick DePalma, Pastor
Saint Michael Parish Sacramental Staff

Godparent Eligibility Form

Bring this form **AND** sacramental documentation to **YOUR PARISH OF REGISTRATION** for signature and parish seal confirming your eligibility to be a godparent.

I, _____ have been asked to be a Godparent for Baptism

(please *PRINT* first and last legal name legibly)

for:_____ who will be baptized at Saint Michael Parish in Olympia, WA.

By signing this document, I affirm that *(initial all that apply)*:

____ I am **at least 16 years** of age

____ I am fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the **Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation** *(provide a copy of Confirmation Certificate or newly issued Baptism Certificate with full notations from your Church of Baptism to the church rep signing this document)*

Marriage *(Select One Option):*

____ I am not married either civilly or sacramentally

____ *I am married in the Catholic Church

____ *My civil/christian marriage has the blessing of the Catholic Church (convalidation)

**provide a copy of your sacramental marriage certificate to the church rep signing this document, not needed if included in notations on newly issued baptism certificate*

____ I **regularly participate in Sunday Mass** and am striving to live a life in union with the Church

____ I am **not the father or mother** of the one to be baptized into the Catholic Church

I will support my godchild through prayer and Christian example in my daily life and promise, to the best of my ability, to serve as an example in encouraging the child to participate in the sacramental life of the Church.

_____ _____

Godparent's Signature Date

Parish Certification (for parish personnel use only)

Return this form to: Saint Michael Parish, Attn: Sacramental Records, PO Box 766, Olympia, WA 98507

I certify that the person named above is a registered parishioner in good standing and, to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to serve as a godparent.

_____

Priest or Designated Representative Signature

_____

Parish, City, State

_____

Parish Seal Date

This form expresses the spirit of the law supported by Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.