

BAPTISM SPONSOR INFORMATION FORM
ST. LEO THE GREAT
FAIRFAX, VA

CANON LAW:

CAN. 872 – Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

CAN. 873 – There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

CAN. 874 –

§1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1. Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
2. Have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

IN SUMMARY:

A sponsor must be a:

1. Baptized Catholic:
 - a. At Least 16 years **and** has received the Sacrament of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
2. In good standing with the Church and practicing the faith:
 - a. If married, they **MUST BE** married in the CHURCH
 - i. Civil weddings are **NOT** the same as SACRAMENTAL Marriages. If the intended sponsors are civilly married, contact a Priest or Deacon to get their marriage Convalidated (Will take a minimum of 6 months – no exceptions).
3. Christian witness is **NOT THE SAME AS A SPONSOR**, but was **baptized in another denomination** and may witness the Baptism. A Christian witness may be selected together with a Sponsor. A fallen away Catholic does not qualify as a Christian witness.

I have read and understand the information presented in this form:

SIGNED:

DATE: