

SOME WAYS TO LIVE OUT
THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING
A SPONSOR OR CHRISTIAN WITNESS

- Pray for the child
- Pray for the parents
- Pray that you will be a good sponsor
- Ask the parents how you can help them
- Spend time with the child; develop a personal relationship over the years
- Help the child learn Catholic prayers, rituals and traditions
- Pray with the child
- Answer questions about faith
- Help them with their preparation for other sacraments
- Be a Christian role model; give a good example by how you live
- Continue to grow in your own faith
- Participate with the child in special religious celebrations
- Celebrate the child's anniversary of baptism each year
- Make part of your gift spiritual: a medal, crucifix, religious book, etc.



BEING

A

SPONSOR

Revised
01/11/2022

**St. Theodore's Church
Rochester, New York**

BAPTISM

Is a sacrament, a visible sign of God's invisible grace.

Baptism...

- Makes us a child of God
- Cleanses us of sin
- Gives us a share in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Celebrates our dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ
- Makes us a member of the Church, the community of believers

Through birth, a baby becomes a member of a family – and of an extended family of relatives and friends.

Through baptism, a baby becomes a member of a family of faith – a particular church community like St. Theodore's – and an extended family, the universal Church.

When parents value their faith and want to pass it on to their child, they bring their baby to the Church and ask for Baptism. They promise to raise their child as a Catholic.

WHAT IS A BAPTISMAL SPONSOR?

Parents have the primary responsibility for raising their child as a Catholic. To help them carry out this responsibility, they choose one or two persons to serve as sponsors.

The Catholic Church requires that at least one person be a baptismal sponsor.

A sponsor must be...

- At least 16 years of age
- A fully-initiated Catholic (has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- Someone who actively practices the Catholic faith (lives their faith in everyday life and attends mass regularly)
- If there are two sponsors, must be one male and one female

A Christian witness must be...

- A baptized Christian of another Christian denomination
- Someone who actively practices the Christian faith (lives their faith in their everyday life)

The primary role of a sponsor/Christian witness is to help the parents raise their child as a Catholic. They do this by:

- Being a role model...giving the child an example of faith by the way they live
- Supporting the child in living the faith and helping the parents raise the child Catholic
- Continuing to grow in their own faith

