

To be a Baptism Godparent or a Confirmation Sponsor, one must be a ‘Catholic in Good Standing’. What does that mean?

The Universal Church in its Catechism of the Catholic Church specifies precepts or norms of life (CCC 2041-2043) for all of its faithful. They are to:

- Honor the Lord Our God on Sundays by Mass attendance and rest from work;
- Participate in sacramental confession at least once a year;
- Participate in worthy reception of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season;
- Observe the Church’s Days of Holy Obligation;
- Observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence; and
- Support the Church in her needs (e.g., *Stewardship*: Time, Talents, and Treasures).

So what does this mean for us to live out our Catholic faith? Quite simply, we do not pick what we want or like to do and don’t like to do in practicing our faith – not if we want to be faithful Catholics. In other words, we are called not to live or be categorized as a “Cafeteria Style Catholic”. Therefore, to be in the good graces of God and His Church, one cannot:

- Support abortion;
- Support contraception;
- Support re-defining marriage;
- Support the erroneous belief that attendance at Christmas and Easter Masses alone are sufficient. (Honor the Sabbath means we need to be at Mass on every Sunday);
- Be just “living” with someone else or only civilly married; while engaging in intimate sexual relations (outside the Sacrament of Matrimony), and/or;
- Support the gravely erroneous belief that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is unimportant and therefore, need not be celebrated;

and then publicly or privately purport to **be a Catholic in good standing**. Sadly, they’re not! A baptized Catholic, who is *not* currently in *good standing* with the Church (e.g., naturally unable to receive Holy Communion), may *not* exercise the ministry of Baptism godparent or Confirmation sponsor.

Being a faithful Catholic in good standing means we have a moral and spiritual obligation to follow and give our full assent to the teachings and norms of the Roman Catholic Church.

As Christian Catholics, we believe that our faith and works save us; because of the salvific work promised us by Jesus Christ. Founded in and intertwined with God’s Ten Commandments, this is why we fully and actively participate in the Liturgy of the Mass on Sundays; celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; develop and maintain a personal relationship with God through daily prayer; and participate in the catechetical, sacramental, and communal life of our parish.

If we do not understand the faith – we are called to take the time to be informed about it; participate in the religious education opportunities of our parish; and/or meet with a parish priest. Learn *why* it is we believe, *what* we believe and *do*, what we *do*. Pray for the courage and perseverance, not only to live out the faith – but to proclaim it to a world – that so needs to hear the truth of God’s message – now more than ever! May God continue to bless you in your faith journey and good works, as we collectively evangelize the Good News of Jesus Christ!