

REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS FOR YOUR CHILD

As stated in Canon 874

- Only one godparent is necessary.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be a baptized Catholic who has completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- May not be the parent of the child being baptized.
- If married, must be married in the Catholic Church, regularly attending Mass on Sunday, and living their faith. The two godparents do not have to be married to one another.
- A baptized non-Catholic may not be a godparent, but may serve as a witness along with a Catholic godparent.
- Non-baptized persons may not serve as witnesses or godparents.
- If they are from another parish, the pastor of that parish will need to attest that the godparent(s) is a Catholic in good standing (Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit).

Choosing a Godparent

Prayerfully consider a few things:

1. Does the person truly exemplify the faith, by living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church?
2. Does the person live a life in harmony with the Church?
3. Does the person regularly practice their faith by participation in the sacramental life of the Church?
4. Godparents should not be chosen because of family expectations or pressure.
5. The role of the godparent(s) is to be a presence, specifically a spiritual presence, in a child's life.

The Role of a Godparent in the child's spiritual life

Godparents are a very special part of the Sacrament, as they support and bolster the mission of the parents to bring up their child in the faith and to know God. The Godparents have two primary responsibilities:

1. To accept the responsibility of helping the parents to raise the child in faith.
2. To represent the entire Church.

Expectations of a Godparent:

1. To be part of the child's lifelong journey of faith.
2. To be a model of faith through the lived example of life in harmony with the Catholic Church.
3. To be a good example to the child.
4. To practice the Catholic faith regularly.

NOTE: A Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit must be completed for each godparent and/or witness and returned to the church office prior to scheduling baptism.