

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS / GODPARENTS

“It is a very ancient custom of the Church that at the Baptism of Children, Godparents be present to add spiritually to the family of the one to be baptized and to represent the Church. Godparents are to help the parents bring up their child to profess the faith and to show this by living it.”

(From the Instruction on Baptism)

- Sponsor (Godparent) must be Catholic who is in good standings with the Church and who have themselves received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. And, they must lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
- Sponsor / Godparent must be at least sixteen years old.
- Sponsor / Godparent must not be the mother or father of the one to be baptized.
- The one to be baptized must have at least one Sponsor and may have two. If two, then one must be male and the other female. **The practice of multiple Sponsors (more than two) is not permitted** They serve as Spiritual Parents; hence the name “Godparents”. This symbolism is lost when there are multiple sets of Godparents.
- Should the sponsor/godparent not be able to attend the baptism, a proxy may be named to stand in for them.
- Members of other ecclesial communities (Protestant) may not serve as Sponsors but may serve as a “Christian Witness” to the Baptism, provided that there is at least one Catholic Sponsor/Godparent.

PLEASE TAKE THE ABOVE POLICY INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE ASKING INDIVIDUALS TO BE GODPARENTS OR CHRISTIAN WITNESS FOR YOUR CHILD.