

Guidelines for Sponsors

- **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, to serve as a godparent:
 - The person has to be a fully initiated Catholic i.e. baptized, confirmed and having received the Eucharist. If married, a fully initiated sponsor has to be married in the Catholic Church to be considered in good standing.
 - A baptized Catholic, not fully initiated, or a baptized person from a Christian community will be listed as a Christian witness.
 - A person who is not baptized in the Christian faith cannot serve as sponsor even as a witness.
 - A child needs to have at least one fully initiated sponsor in good standing with the Church.
- If a godparent cannot attend the baptism, a Catholic proxy may stand in for them.
- A donation that supports our Church, usually \$50, can be given at the time of the Baptism.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Deacon Larry Bertrand
Baptism coordinator
(916) 772-4717
larryb@stclareroseville.org