

# Requirements for Godparents

The role of the Godparents is to ensure that the child is being brought up in their Catholic faith by their parents. This means that they make certain that the child is attending Mass regularly and is making their sacraments on time. A Godparent should not be chosen because they are a close family member or friend if they do not practice their Catholic faith. Instead, they should be someone who actively participates in their Catholic faith, as examples to follow. Their faith should be grounded and should encourage the child to continue their journey to a mature Catholic faith.

**Please ensure that you Godparents/Christian Witness meet the below requirements before selecting them.**

- A Godparent must be a practicing Catholic, registered at a Catholic Church, and be in full Communion with the Catholic Church. This means that in addition to being baptized in the Catholic Church, they have made their Confirmation in the Catholic Church and if applicable, been married in the Catholic Church. If they were not married in the Catholic Church, but had a marriage convalidation , they may serve as a Godparent.
- If someone was baptized as a Catholic, but has not been confirmed and/or married in the Catholic Church, they may not be a Christian Witness.
- A non-Catholic Christian may not be a Godparent but may serve as a Christian Witness to the Baptism. A Christian Witness will be listed on the baptism certificate and recorded in the baptism book as such.

- **There are three options for Godparents: one Godparent, two Godparents, or one Godparent and one Christian Witness. Please see next attachment for list of valid and non-valid baptisms that are recognized by the Catholic Church.**
- **If two people are chosen, they must be male and female.**
- **A Godparent should be registered in a parish and attending Mass weekly. A Christian Witness must be actively involved in his/her ecclesial community.**
- **A Godparent and Christian Witness must be at least 16 years old.**
- **A Godparent must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
- **A Godparent can be married to a non-Catholic Christian, but the marriage must have taken place in the Catholic Church.**
- **A Godparent, if married, need not be married to the other Godparent.**
- **A civil marriage, by itself, is not considered a valid marriage for a Catholic.**
- **A Christian Witness, if married, must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church.**
- **A Godparent or a Christian Witness should not be cohabitating with someone they are not married to.**
- **A Godparent may not be the mother or father of the child.**
- **Any Catholic who has abandoned the Catholic faith of their own choice, even if they are now active members in another Christian Church or community, may NOT serve as a Godparent or a Christian Witness. They have separated themselves from the Catholic Church and cannot serve.**