

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Guidelines for Choosing a Godparent

Parents, when a parent chooses a godparent, that person should be a committed Catholic. Being called to be a godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or friendship rewards.

The call to be a godparent bears the responsibility of giving a spiritual witness to your child of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life.

As a confirmed adult Catholic, the godparent is a guide and model of how a mature Catholic ought to live. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of the parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living the Gospel values, the godparent can render tremendous personal support for you in faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to your child.

Requirements:

The law of the church lists these requirements for a person to be a valid and lawful godparent in Baptism:

The godparent's role is, together with the parents, to present the child for the sacrament and help him/her to live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

There may be only one male godparent or one female godparent or one of each.

To be permitted to take on the function of godparent a person must:

1. Be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has received the three sacraments of initiation namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;
2. Be at least 16 years of age;
3. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared by the Church; If married, the Godparent must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Person may not be cohabitation, or living together without sacramental marriage.
4. Must not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

A Christian Witness:

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic Christian community may not be admitted as a godparent but as a witness to the Baptism and together with a Catholic godparent.

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