



GODPARENTS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Godparents have an important part to play in the formation of a child's faith. The Godparent's responsibilities are much more than simply being present on the day of the Baptism.

The Godparent needs to be ready to help the child in their "faith formation". They "walk with" the child as they mature. The Godparent helps the child to understand the way of Christ and serves as a "model" of what it means to be a person committed to Christ.

Being a Godparent is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. A godparent must have a real appreciation of the faith and be a person who lives an authentic Christian life.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Be mature enough to undertake this responsibility. Must be 16 years of age or older.
2. Be fully initiated in the Sacraments of the church – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
3. Practice the faith by participating in Sunday Mass and receiving the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.
4. Must live in harmony with the Church and be free to carry out this office according to Canon Law. If the Godparent is married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
5. Canon Law requires one Godparent. There may be two, one of each sex.
6. If a Godparent cannot be present for the actual Baptism, a proxy may be chosen. The proxy must fulfill the same qualifications as the Godparent.
7. A Godparent certificate (Letter of Eligibility or Sponsorship Certificate) must be obtained from the church of the sponsor affirming the above qualifications. **NOTE:** *This letter must be received at the Parish Office two weeks prior to the Baptism Ceremony.*

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

A person of another Christian community of faith may stand as a "Christian Witness" along with one Catholic godparent. A Christian Witness is a person who was baptized in a Christian Church and continues to practice that faith. If someone was baptized Catholic and subsequently joined another denomination and left the Catholic Church they are not eligible to be a Christian witness.