

## GODPARENTS FOR A CATHOLIC BAPTISM

### ***What is the role of a godparent?***

The role of godparent (or, more accurately, “sponsor”) has changed throughout history. Today, sponsors are adults who give witness to the Catholic faith by their words and actions. Sponsors commit themselves to assisting parents in instilling and nurturing the Catholic faith in their child.

### ***What are the requirements to be a godparent?***

A godparent should be a baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation; who is at least 16 years old; and who faithfully practices and believes in the Catholic faith as a participating member of a parish community.

### ***How many godparents should there be?***

Church law requires only one godparent (of any gender); however, it is tradition to have two.

### ***May the same godparents have responsibility for more than one child in a family?*** Yes.

### ***May a non-Catholic serve as a godparent?***

A baptized non-Catholic may serve as an “official witness” to the baptism if there is also a Catholic sponsor who meets the requirements of a godparent.

The non-Catholic witness should be an active member of his/her church community. At the baptism, a witness may perform all the parts of the ceremony that a godparent does. The witness’s name is entered into the Sacramental Record Book as an “official witness” along with the name of the godparent.

### ***May someone stand in for a godparent at the baptism if the godparent is unable to attend?***

Yes. The representative’s name will be entered as “proxy” in the Sacramental Record Book, along with the name of the missing godparent.

### ***What paperwork is required of godparents at St. John Chrysostom Parish?***

Godparents who are registered parishioners of St. John Chrysostom should print out, complete and sign the “Sacramental Sponsor Form” at the bottom of <http://www.sjcparish.org/baptism>.

Godparents who are members of other Catholic parishes must obtain a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish, stating that they meet the criteria.

### ***Questions?***

Please contact Michelle O’Hanlon at [mohanlon@sjcparish.org](mailto:mohanlon@sjcparish.org) or (610) 874-3418 x 102.

