

## **Godparent Guidelines for Catholic Baptism**

The godparents are the link between the family and the Church. In addition to representing the Christian community, godparents help parents bring up their children in the faith by their witness and prayers. To be a godparent is a privileged service in the Church and a special ministry of the faith.

The Code of Canon Law 872-874 which is Church law, says that a Catholic godparent be:

- At least sixteen years of age.
- Has received the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Leads a life of faith in harmony with the duty he or she is undertaking.
- The godparent may not be one of the parents or the person being baptized.

Only one godparent is required for Baptism, with a maximum of two, one male and one female, to be recorded in the baptismal record.

If chosen, a second godparent must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic OR a Christian baptized in a Christian faith in communion with the Catholic Church. If the second godparent is not Catholic, he/she will be recorded as a Christian Witness.

Further information about godparents will be presented at the Baptism Preparation Meeting.