

Who Can Be a Godparent?

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 godparent be at least sixteen years of age, have received the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and lead 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 and a maximum of two, one male and one female, can be recorded in the baptismal record. When pastoral circumstances warrant it, one of these sponsors may be a baptized non-Catholic Christian and act as a witness of the Baptism and they are recorded as such in the baptismal record.

Further information about godparents is presented at the first baptism preparation meeting and we provide parents with a handout to share with godparents to help them understand their role. We strongly encourage parents to be clear on the requirements of godparents prior to formally choose one or both.