

Choosing Godparents

Purpose & Functions of Godparents:

Some consideration should be given to this role, as it is more than a merely symbolic role. The Godparent(s)/Sponsor(s) are invited to invest themselves in the upbringing of the child. Here are some examples:



1. The child is being welcomed into the family of God and into the community of faith. The Godparent represents the community, the family of God, the faith. As one person once put it, the reason God parents should be practicing Catholics is because they cannot offer what they do not have.
2. The Godparent is invited to model what it means to be a disciple of Christ, someone invested in their community. The role of the godparents is not symbolic, ceremonial or temporary. It is for life. The Godparents is called to be present to the needs of the child, especially the child's faith upbringing.
3. While parents remain the primary religious educators of their child, Godparents are invited to support the parents in their commitment and faith.

Who may be a Godparent?

- There may be one or two Godparents. When there are two Godparents, one is to be male and the other female.
- One Godparent must be a baptized Roman Catholic who...
 - ...has received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation (fully initiated Catholic).
 - ...has completed their sixteenth (16th) year.
 - ...is actively practicing their Catholic faith.
 - ...is not the child's parent/guardian.
 - ...if married, must be married in the Church.
- If your circumstances are such that you only have one Catholic Godparent available, a Christian witness may be named. A Christian witness is...
 - A baptized Christian.
 - Actively participates in their church community.
 - Is not the child's parent/guardian
- Non-baptized persons are not able to serve as witnesses.
- If choosing two Godparents, they need not be married to each other.
- While it is not necessary that Godparents live nearby, it is encouraged to choose Godparents who are able to be close and invested in child's life. Proximity may play a role in this.