

Guidelines for Choosing Godparents for your child

Choosing Godparents is an important decision. The Church sees Godparents as people who are religious examples for your child. Although you as parents are the primary religious mentors for your children, Godparents are intended to be people who, in addition to you as parents, reinforce religious values in your child's life. For this reason, the worldwide Church sets qualifications for Godparents in order to help you choose people who will indeed be good religious examples, that is good Godparents.

The Church sets these qualifications for Godparents:

That the person be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

That they weekly attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

That are trying to follow the Lord in the way that they treat others.

That they are at least sixteen year of age.

If they are married, their marriage is recognized as valid in the eyes of the Church.

In addition to the qualifications spelled out by the Church, it is important that you choose someone who is likely to have some contact with your child so that they truly can be a mentor to your child.

We no longer require that Godparents get a certificate from their church attesting to these qualifications. We want you though to ask people who have these qualifications to be the Godparents. Hopefully, the idea that a Godparent is a religious mentor and the qualifications listed above will help you to choose a good Godparent for your child.

Some find it difficult to find two practicing Catholics to choose as Godparents. In that case, one Catholic Godparent and one Christian Witness may be chosen. A Christian Witness is a Christian of another denomination (Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, etc.) who practices that faith. A non-practicing Catholic does not qualify for being a Christian Witness or a Godparent.

Since we call Godparents by that name it is traditional to have one man and one woman as Godparents.