

PARENTS: A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING GODPARENTS

To choose and be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. Along with the parents who are the “First and foremost teachers of their children in the Way of Faith” (Rite of Baptism), godparents are entrusted with the responsibility to participate in your child’s Christian life and education.

Because of this important role in setting an example as a faithful Catholic, Mother Church requires, without exception, the following prerequisites:

- (1) A godparent must be at least 16 years of age and have themselves received all of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.
- (2) Therefore, only a practicing Catholic is permitted to be a godparent.
- (3) The godparent must be in good standing before God and the Church, that is:
 - a) Living the Faith by weekly participation at Holy Mass.
 - b) Regular confession of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - c) If married, the marriage must be a sacramental union in the Catholic Church.
 - d) If single, one must be living a chaste life. Co-habitation is contrary to the teaching of Christ.
- (4) A registered and active member of one’s parish, and so be able to provide to the church of Baptism, a “sponsorial letter” from one’s pastor that he or she is, indeed, living and practicing the Catholic Faith.

If someone requests a “sponsorial letter” and does not meet the above requirements, no letter will be given, and, therefore, they are not eligible to be a godparent.

Parents, please give careful consideration regarding the choice of a godparent. It will save you embarrassment and anxiety if you are sure that whomever you ask to be a godparent can and does fulfill the expected requirements.