**Godparents Qualifications**

**Godparents** (The Pastoral Companion pages 53-56)

There should be a godparent for the person to be baptized as far as this is possible. In adult baptism, the godparent assists in Christian initiation. In infant baptism, the godparent, with the parents, presents the child for baptism and helps the baptized lead the Christian life in harmony with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent to it (can. 872). There may be one godfather, one godmother, or one of each (can. 873). The godparents are to be chosen by the adult who is to be baptized or, at infant baptism, by the parents or the person who takes their place. When this is not possible, the pastor or other minister should choose the godparent or godparents. The godparents must have the qualifications for and intention of carrying out this duty (can. 874, §1, 1°).

If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other female. A single godparent may be of either sex. It may happen that parents want two persons of the same sex to be godparents, but this not possible!

*Qualifications.* To be admitted to the role of godparent, one must:

1. Be at least sixteen years of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age or unless, in an exceptional case, it seems to the pastor or minister that there is just cause to admit a younger person;
2. Be a Catholic who is already confirmed and have received the holy Eucharist;
3. Be leading a life of faith in harmony with the duty undertaken;
4. Not be under a lawfully imposed or declared canonical penalty;
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized (cc. 874, §1, nn. 2-5; 893)

The godparent’s duty is not only to be present for the celebration of the sacrament, but it is a lifelong responsibility to help the baptized lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it (can. 872).

The parents and the godparents of the candidate must attend baptism classes or have attended baptism class in the past year.

The parents and godparents are encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation prior to the date of baptism and receive holy Eucharist during the Mass of baptism.

A $10.00 stipend for the baptism class is due at the time the parent(s) register for the class.

The parent(s) and the godparent(s) must attend four Masses in a row prior to the child being baptized. A Mass attendance card for the parent(s) and godparent(s) will be provided at the time that the child is registered for baptism.