

NEEDED DOCUMENTS

For your meeting w/priest or deacon, please bring the following documents with you if pertinent:

- If you are not civically married it is necessary to see the child's *Birth Certificate* to validate our listing of the father's name on our certificate of Baptism.
- If your child is adopted, we will need to see the child's *Birth Certificate* as well as *the Final Decree of Adoption*- stating that you have been granted *Full Parental Rights* in regard to this child and therefore have the legal right to baptize the child as a Catholic.

GODPARENTS

Godparents should be present at the baptism, as it is always a communal celebration (no private celebrations ... *other than unique situations**) to profess their faith as representatives of the child's extended spiritual family and of the whole Church. During the liturgy, they declare their readiness to help the parents "in their duty as a Christian mother and father." A Godparent should: be at least sixteen years old; have received all three of the sacraments of initiation- Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation; be a member in good standing of the Catholic Church; leading a life in harmony with the faith and Laws of Jesus; married in the "eyes of the Church;" and have the knowledge to understand and accept fully their role as a Godparent. Catholic godparent(s) need to provide us with a Sponsor Certificate from their home parish; we ask the one who is the non-Catholic Christian to ask their Pastor to write a letter of affirmation for you: affirming your faithful living of the faith.

Normally there are two individual Godparents; a godfather and a godmother. However, there can be just one. A baptized Christian may serve as a Christian Witness but there must always be one Catholic Godparent. As for persons who are not baptized, while we fully respect their beliefs and moral living, they are not able to be a Godparent since they are not in a position to profess the faith into which your child is to be baptized.

A Christian Witness is a baptized non Catholic, who not in the fullness of communion with us *but* affirms and shares with us the creedal statements of belief and thus are permitted to be a godparent.

A Non-Christian (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, etc.) cannot be a godparent as they cannot in any way affirm as their belief the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior; we agree that they can be very holy and moral people and by all means have them be a part of the environment in which your child will mature but again they cannot share in our Creedal Profession of Faith and therefore are not permitted to be a godparent.

At times, we will encounter families of a different culture who might have the custom of several (two) sets of godparents at the font save yourself a headache and tell them "Sure, you can have two sets or two of one at the font, and all their names will be mentioned but only two (2) names can be entered in the Baptismal Record Book and therefore only two (2) names on the Certificate of Baptism ...

**Unique situations* are those caused by distance, military service, medical emergencies / needs- we celebrate the Baptism privately. Also, if the named Godparent can not be present for the reasons above, he/she may ask a proxy to stand in their place. We would need the Godparent to write a letter stating that he/she can not be there in person and has appointed and named a Proxy. We need to know that in order for both names to be recorded in our Register.