

Choosing Godparents

Does it make any difference who you ask to be Godparents for your children? It sure does!

People often want to ask their best friends or favorite relatives to act as Godparents for their children; they usually do this as a way of honoring someone. Of course, we all would like to honor those who are dear to us, but the Baptism of your child may not be the right time to do so.

Would you ask your best friend to perform heart surgery on your child? Of course not, unless he/she were a competent heart surgeon. So, if the role of Godparent is to help the parents to raise the child in the good practice of the Catholic faith, then it stands to reason that you should ask someone who shows, by their own knowledge and practice, that they can help someone else follow in their footsteps.

Helping a child to become a good Catholic Christian is an important undertaking; it is therefore, equally important to ask someone who regularly prays with the community at Sunday mass and who, in other ways practices his/her faith and shows commitment to Christian values.

None of this is to suggest that your dear friends or relatives are not good people. They will surely be with you to help you in many ways. But, a teacher of mathematics may not be a good teacher of English grammar and a good friend or close relative may not be the best model of Catholic Christian practice.

A few things to prayerfully consider when choosing Godparents:

- Does the person truly exemplify the faith, by living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church?
- Does the person live a life in harmony with the Church?
- Does the person regularly practice his/her faith by participation in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Godparents should be a presence, specifically a spiritual presence, in a child's life.

Requirements to be a Catholic Godparent:

- Each person must have one Catholic Godparent; if there are two godparents, they must be a man and a woman
- The Catholic Godparent must have received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation, be at least 16-years old, and living their lives in communion with the teachings of the church.
- If a person is a baptized and a believing Christian, but not Catholic, they must accept the full responsibilities of a godparent and may act as a Christian witness.

If you have questions about choosing godparents, please contact the parish office.