

Saint Mary's Rectory

83 Central Street, Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035 ~ (508) 543-7726

Choosing a Godparent for Baptism

We are asked what the requirements are for serving as a Godparent. We hope this information helps you decide on the best choice of godparent for your child. Godparents cannot be changed later so please make your decision with care.

The requirements of serving as a godparent:

- Cannot be a parent of the child;
- Must be at least 16 or older;
- At least one godparent must be a Confirmed Catholic. The other serves as a Christian Witness but must be a Baptized Christian. A Catholic may not serve as a Christian Witness;
- There may be one or two godparents. No more than two. If there are two godparents, one must be male, and one must be female. This is to emulate the Holy Family;
- Must attend Mass regularly.

A person who has not been baptized cannot be a godparent. At the Baptism, the godparent RENEWS his/her promises that were given at his/her own Baptism. If someone has not been baptized they cannot renew.

In order for a Catholic to serve as a Godparent, he/she must meet all the requirements of a Catholic. Someone who has left the Church or who has not been Confirmed cannot sponsor a person in the Catholic Church's teachings.

During the Baptism, the Celebrant will ask the godparents specific questions. Some of these questions are:

Do you believe in the God the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

A godparent must be able to answer YES to ALL these questions.

A godparent who cannot be at the Baptism may still serve as a godparent. A proxy may stand for the godparent on the day of the Baptism. The proxy must follow the same requirements as the godparent as stated above.

We hope this helps you understand the requirements of choosing a Catholic Godparent.