

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

St. Luke the Evangelist Mission

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM**

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The role of godparents is vital to the life of the Christian. More than just a reliable relative or friend, the godparent is meant to be a teacher of the Catholic Christian faith. They teach with their words and example. They should possess a personal relationship with Jesus and love the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus, knowing them well enough to pass them on to their godchild.

### **The requirements for parents in choosing godparents:**

- There is to be only one male godparent or one female godparent or one of each.
- Only Catholics can be designated as godparents.
- They must be at least 16 years old.
- They must be fully initiated Catholics – this means that they have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.
- They must practice the Catholic faith and be good examples of Catholic Christians.
- They cannot be bound by any penalty imposed by Church law, such as being married outside of the Catholic Church without the proper sanctions.
- A non-Catholic Christian cannot serve as a godparent. However, a person baptized in another Christian community may participate with a Catholic godparent as a witness of the baptism.

### **Why would someone have a non-Catholic Christian serve as a witness to the Christian faith?**

- A person who is not a Catholic but is an active member of a Christian community with a valid baptism and who has received that valid Baptism in their own church can act as a Christian witness.
- This is chosen for complementarity of having one male and one female, in imitation of parents.
- A Christian witness must also be at least 16 years old.
- A person baptized Catholic cannot serve as a non-Catholic Christian witness, they must fulfill the requirements for a godparent to be eligible.
- Someone who has left the Catholic Church for another Christian community cannot serve as a Christian witness.

**Both Catholic godparents and Christian witnesses are required to present a letter of suitability from their parish/Christian community prior to the Baptism.**

Please consult with a member of the clergy before asking the person you want as a godparent to be certain that you have the correct information in order to make an appropriate choice.