

Guidelines for Selecting Baptismal Sponsor(s) ("Godparents")

The following are some guidelines to help you in the selection of a Baptismal Sponsor for your child. Being a sponsor for Baptism is an important role in the Catholic Church and therefore certain requirements must be met.

According to Canon Law (#873) there is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Canon #874 specifies the following requirements for sponsors:

1. They are to be chosen by the parents or guardians of the infant and they must agree to accept the role of sponsor.
2. They must be at least 16 years old
3. They must be a fully initiated practicing Catholic. (That includes reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, regular Mass attendance, and if they are living with a partner, also the Sacrament of Marriage)

At St. Dominic Parish, all sponsors for baptism must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class within one year before the date of the Baptism and show proof of attendance at the class.

If the sponsors live here, they must be registered at St. Dominic Parish.

Sponsors who live elsewhere must provide a proof of eligibility for taking on the role of sponsor. The parish where the sponsors are registered can provide this proof.

A faithful practicing Christian of a non-Catholic ecclesial community can be admitted as a witness to Baptism together with one Catholic Sponsor.