

CHOOSING A GODPARENT FOR YOUR CHILD

The following are the qualities needed for someone to serve as a Godparent or Witness/Sponsor:

1. The Godparent(s) are to be chosen by the parents or legal guardians.
2. A Catholic Godparent must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
3. A Catholic Godparent must be at least 16 years of age and be mature enough to understand, accept, and carry out the duties of a godparent.
4. A Catholic Godparent is to be actively practicing the Catholic faith, one who participates in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays and attends Mass weekly.
5. A Catholic Godparent must be living an exemplary life consistent with the faith and morals taught by the Roman Catholic Church.
6. A Godparent may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
7. If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other must be female.
8. The two Godparents do not have to be married to each other. The Godparents can be single, but if they are a married couple, the marriage must be seen as valid in the eyes of the Catholic Church.
9. **Non-Catholic Witness/Sponsor.** A baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic ecclesial (church) community may function as an honorary Godparent at the baptism, but only along with at least one Catholic Godparent. The non-Catholic is not formally called a Godparent but will be referred to as a **Christian Witness/Sponsor.**
10. There may be no more than two Godparents.
11. If both Godparents are Catholic, both must meet all the above criteria.

Catholic Godparents must present the following to be included in the information given to the Director of Religious Education prior to the scheduling of a Baptism.

1. *Verification of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation*
2. *If not a member of St. William, must also present a 'Letter of Good Standing' from the parish they are actively attending.*