

# Choosing Godparents

## *SPONSORS:*

*(Code of Canon Law #'s 872-874)*

The responsibility of choosing godparents is a serious one that should be thought and prayed about. The Godparent must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.

The qualifications of godparents are:

1. They must be 16 years of age.
2. They must have been confirmed and have received the Blessed Eucharist and lead a life of faith in harmony with the duty they are undertaking. If a godparent is married, he/she must have been married validly according to the requirements of the Church.
3. A godparent may *not* be the father or mother of the person being baptized.
4. A godparent must not be under a canonical penalty.

Only one sponsor is required for Baptism, male or female, but there may be two, one of each sex.

There cannot be more than two sponsors.

The person must fulfill all of the canonical requirements for this role.

When pastoral circumstances warrant, in company with the Catholic sponsor, there may be a baptized non-Catholic Christian as a witness to the Baptism.

If a godparent cannot be present at the Baptism, with the consent of this godparent, a proxy may stand in his/her place.