

# **Parish Policy**

## **Choosing Baptismal Sponsors (God Parents)**

*(The Code of Canon Law, #872-874)*

### **Role of Baptismal Sponsors**

The role of a baptismal sponsor is, together with the parents, to present the child for baptism and to help the child to live a Christian Life befitting the baptized and faithfully to fulfill the duties inherent in baptism.

### **Number of Sponsors**

There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor, or one of each. The gender of the child has no bearing on the gender of the sponsor.

### **Qualifications to be Baptismal Sponsor**

Sponsors must

- have completed sixteenth year of age\*;
- received the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation\*\*;
- lead a life of faith in keeping with the responsibilities taken on.

### **Christian Witnesses**

A baptized person (16 years or older) who belongs to another Christian ecclesial community may serve as a Christian witness of the baptism along with a Catholic sponsor.

- In such a case the confirmed Catholic serves as the sponsor, the non-catholic as a Christian witness.
- The Christian witness should not be someone who left the Catholic Church
- The baptism certificate will indicate the person is a Christian witness rather than an official sponsor.

### **Notes**

\*The pastor of St. Mary Parish has the authority to make an exception to the age requirement for just cause.

\*\* The pastor of St. Mary Parish has the authority to make an exception for a person participating in a confirmation program preparing to be confirmed.