



GODPARENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements to be a Godparent?

- A Catholic person, who is not the parent or the one being baptized, who has received all three sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- A practicing Catholic who attends Mass weekly.
- If married, a person who was married in the Catholic Church. (Please note that being legally separated and/or divorced does not in itself prevent a person from serving as a Godparent. However, one who is separated or divorced must be living as a single person and not living with someone else unless the prior marriage was annulled by the Church.)

Must we have both a Godfather and a Godmother?

No. While it is customary to have both a Godfather and a Godmother, the Sacrament of Baptism requires a minimum of one Godparent who meets all the requirements listed in the paragraph above. Note: it is not possible to have two males or two females as Godparents.

Can a non-Catholic be a Godparent?

If a person is not Catholic, but is a baptized Christian who belongs to a non-Catholic denomination and a good example of Christianity in practice, he may participate, together with a Godparent who meets all the requirements above, as a Christian Witness of the Baptism (Canon Law, Can. 874.2). They would not be listed as a Godparent, but as a Christian Witness.

Do Godparents have to attend the Baptism class?

This is highly recommended, but not required at St. Rita. They will be your child's Godparents forever, so it is great for them to show that commitment from the very beginning! If they cannot attend the class here at St. Rita, they are encouraged to attend an equivalent class offered at their own parish/area.

Can I just have a Christian witness instead of a Godparent?

No. Remember that a baptized non-Catholic is not the same as a Godparent. Thus, a Christian Witness may be chosen only if a Catholic Godparent has already been chosen for your child. A Christian Witness is chosen in addition to a Catholic Godparent not in place of a Catholic Godparent.