

## **Guidelines for Choosing Sponsors/Godparents**

Sponsors/Godparents embody the responsibility shared by the entire Catholic Community to nurture the faith and to share in the religious development of children. In carefully choosing sponsors/godparents who are good examples of Catholic living, parents share the primary duty to nurture the child's faith.

Being a sponsor/godparent is not just an honor to be given to a good friend or relative. To be a sponsor/godparent means having a real appreciation of the Catholic Church's faith, a practice of the same and a sense of responsibility toward the one to be baptized.

As a Godparent, your responsibility is to foster the faith of your godchild and to reflect to your godchild the meaning of life of Catholic discipleship.

### **Requirements for Godparents for your child, as stated in Canon Law 872-874.**

(All of the following is required of a proxy if one of the Catholic sponsors/godparents is unable to attend the Sacrament of Baptism.)

Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who... together with the parents, present an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it. In short, the sponsor/godparent helps the godchild get to heaven.

Only ONE Godparent is required. If TWO are chosen, they should be one of each gender: one male and one female. The two do not have to be a married couple.

#### **Godparent(s) must:**

- ❖ Be 16 years of age or older
- ❖ Be baptized, received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation
- ❖ Be a practicing Catholic (a life of prayer, following the teachings of the Catholic Church, attend Mass on a regular basis, receiving the Sacraments regularly, etc.)
- ❖ If married, be married in the Catholic Church (This means that those married outside the Church or those living together without marriage are not eligible.)
- ❖ Be a person(s) who will have some part in the child's faith development
- ❖ Not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized

-If the Godparent is not a member of Christ the King Parish Family, he/she must have the "Letter of Eligibility" from their home parish at least 10 (ten) days prior to the date of baptism.

-A baptized non-Catholic may not be a godparent but may serve as a witness along with a Catholic godparent.

- A non-baptized person may not serve as a Godparent or a witness.

In order to avoid any embarrassment or hurt feelings, it is advisable that you contact the parish office prior to choosing godparents. Your godparents will be asked to have their parish priest provide a "Letter of Eligibility" testifying that they fulfill the requirements of Canon Law. Thank you for your cooperation and may Almighty God bless you and your family