

## HOW TO CHOOSE GODPARENTS according to the GUIDELINES OF THE CHURCH

1. The ideal is to have two active and committed Catholics....firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road to Christian life. *The Church says that being a godparent is truly a ministry in the Church, and not simply an honor.*
2. Only **one godparent is necessary**. A godmother and a godfather are preferred.
3. **If one godparent is not Catholic** but belongs to a Christian Religion such as Methodist, Lutheran, etc., then this godparent is a Christian witness. Please note that a ***Catholic who is not practicing the faith or has left the Catholic Church for another Christian denomination cannot be a witness or a godparent.***
4. Church Law says that a godparent must be at least **16 years old** (for maturity sake), **fully initiated ( having received baptism, confirmation and Eucharist)**. This person must be someone other than the legal parents and one who leads a life in harmony with the church; including in a valid marriage, if married.
5. Asking someone to be a godparent can be a prayerful experience. Pray about the person that you want to ask. A good question to ask a potential godparent to pray about is: *Can you carry on the light of Christ for my child? Will you be a good example to them?*
6. Ask the person who is going to be the Catholic Godparent to ask their parish for a sponsor certificate. This certificate says that they know you and can attest to the fact that you are a practicing Catholic.
7. If possible ask them to attend a baptism session with you or in their parish church.

*Read the Catholic Update: Godparents and Sponsors.*