

Guidelines for Godparents

(Information is taken from the Sacramental Guidelines of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

1. Each child may have a Godfather and a Godmother, but only one Godparent is necessary.
2. Each Godparent must register for a Baptism Preparation Class. If the class attended is at another Catholic Church, then a letter acknowledging their attendance is required.
3. If the Godparent or Godparents are not members of St. Mary's Parish, a letter of "Good Standing" is needed from their parish of attendance. This letter should be received in the church office a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled Baptism.
4. The Godparent or Godparents must be at least 16 years old.
5. To be a Godparent, one must be a fully initiated Catholic (baptized, confirmed, and received Eucharist).
6. A Godparent must be leading a sacramental life in harmony with the church. This means they are attending Mass regularly and receiving the sacraments.
7. If married, the Godparent must be married according to the norms of the Catholic Church. If single, a Godparent may not be cohabitating (i.e., "living together" in a marital manner) with a partner.
8. The Godparent must be willing to accept the responsibility of assisting the parents in developing the faith life of the child.
9. The Godparent may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
10. Although people of some cultures sometimes choose multiple Godparents, only two names can be entered in the Baptismal record.
11. If you are a parishioner at St. Mary's and need a letter of "Good Standing" to act as Godparent at a baptism celebrated in another parish, please contact Shannon Henson at shenson@stmarych.org or 903-893-5148.