



ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Guidelines for Godparents

The following guidelines are based on the requirements laid out in the *Code of Canon Law*, canons 872-874.

1. Only one godparent is necessary. No more than two godparents are allowed. If two are chosen, they may not be of the same sex.
2. A godparent must be a practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years old and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
3. If married, the godparent must be in a valid, Catholic marriage, i.e. married in a Catholic Church or had his or her current marriage blessed by a Catholic priest or Catholic deacon.
4. A suitable member of an Eastern Orthodox Church may serve as a godparent but only together with a Catholic godparent.
5. A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be admitted as a Christian witness, but only together with a Catholic godparent.
6. Persons not meeting the requirements above, but whom the parents wish to involve in their children's lives in a significant way, can stand up at and participate in the baptism of the child, but will not be listed on the Baptismal Certificate or in the parish record book.