

## **FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS FOR GODPARENTS & CHRISTIAN WITNESSES**

*(Based on the Code of Canon Law 857,861,873,874)*

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A GODPARENT?**

1. Must be 16 years of age
2. Must have received sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
3. If married, must be in a sacramental marriage recognized by the Catholic church
4. Must be practicing the faith by attending Mass regularly
5. It is tradition to have two godparents, *however only one is required*. If having two godparents, the two may not be of the same sex.

The Godparents must obtain a **Letter of Eligibility** from the parish in which they are registered that states that these requirements are satisfied. Godparents who are registered in our parish will not need a letter. Their eligibility will be verified through the parish office.

### **WHAT WILL PREVENT A PERSON FROM BEING A GODPARENT?**

1. A Catholic who does not meet the requirements listed above
2. A Catholic who is in an invalid marriage
3. A Catholic who by a formal act has left the Catholic church and joined another religion.
4. A Catholic who is not practicing their faith

### **ARE CHRISTIAN WITNESSES ACCEPTABLE?**

A Christian Witness is welcomed to be a witness to the baptism as long as there is one godparent.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHRISTIAN WITNESS?**

A Christian Witness must present a letter from their church stating that they are a practicing member of the church or a certificate of baptism from the non-Catholic church where they were baptized.

### **WHAT WILL PREVENT A PERSON FROM BEING A CHRISTIAN WITNESSES FOR BAPTISM?**

1. Someone who has left the Catholic Church may not be a Christian Witness.
2. An un-baptized person may not be a Christian Witness.
3. A non-Catholic who is not a practicing member of any Christian denomination.