

# REGARDING GODPARENTS

As you begin to select a godparent for your child, we ask that you select one who is actively practicing in his/her faith, someone who will be actively involved in the ongoing faith formation of your child, offering support and guidance and giving a strong example of faithful living for the child to imitate as he/she grows in the faith.

It is for this reason that the church sets the following requirements for godparents:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have already received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.).
- Living in a way that demonstrates one's faith is strong enough to be able to fulfill the responsibilities of a godparent.
- If married, be married in accord with the laws of the Church.
- Not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.

Each Catholic godparent must be of opposite sex (one man and one woman).

It is acceptable to have just one Catholic godparent.

If not registered members of St. Joseph York, a *Certificate of Eligibility to be a Catholic Sponsor* is required for each Catholic godparent from his or her home parish.

It is also acceptable to have one Catholic godparent and one Christian witness provided that:

- The Christian witness is registered and practicing in his or her own Christian faith.
- The Christian witness obtains a letter signed by the pastor of that church stating that the Christian witness is a member of that church in writing.

If a person was baptized Catholic but either no longer practices Catholicism (by regularly attending Mass) or has joined a church of a different denomination, he or she is not eligible to be a sponsor or a Christian witness.

If a Catholic godparent is unable to be physically present for the Baptism, a proxy can stand in his or her place. The same required documentation listed above also applies to any proxy.