

## INFORMATION FOR GODPARENTS

Godparents will fulfill an important role in the life of your child. With regard to God and the parish community they are undertaking the task of helping your child to lead a true Christian life and to fulfill its obligations. Godparents must therefore be faithful examples of Christian life - examples for you and your child. Choose your child's godparents wisely and do not be influenced by such criteria as: "because our aunt does not have any godchildren yet," or "because we are their child's godparents, it is appropriate for them to be our child's godparents," or "our uncle can afford nice gifts for our child" etc. Beyond just being good examples of Christian life, canon law describes the criteria of being a godparents.

A godfather or godmother:

- \* must be at least 16 years of age,
- \* be Catholic and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- \* leads a faithful life in line with Church teaching, that they will be able to pass on to the child as a godparents
- \* is free of any penalties or punishments under Canon (Church) Law
- \* cannot be the father or mother of the child being baptized

You may choose one godfather or godmother, or both a godfather and godmother. If you would like to choose someone who does not belong to the Catholic Church, they may act as a Christian Witness along with a catholic godparent.

If a godparent cannot be present at the baptism and would like to be represented by someone else (a proxy) please let the Parish Office know and a proxy letter will be provided. Once completed, please submit it to the Parish Office no later than the Thursday before the planned Baptism.

If you have any questions that were not answered in this document or in the "FAQ for Baptism" please contact the Parish Office. We are here to help.