**Question & Answer Sheet: Choosing Godparents**

**What is the role of the Godparent in the child’s life?**

Godparents represent both the extended spiritual family in which the child is baptized and the role of the Church as mother. Godparents help the parents of the newly baptized child so that the child will profess the Christian faith and lead a Christian life. Godparents, therefore, need to be strong Christians who by word and deed exemplify a life based upon the Gospels.

Godparents are person, other than the parents of those to be baptized, whom the parents or the guardians of an infant of young child designate.

**What are the requirements to be a Godparent?**

Those designated to be Godparents must have the capability and intention of carrying out the responsibility of a Godparent, and be free from any canonical impediments:

* Godparents must be Catholic and have received the sacraments of initiations: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.\*
* Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.
* If married, Godparents need to be in a sacramental marriage. (Catholics are bound by the laws of the Catholic Church. They are to be married in the Catholic Church in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses or with the written permission of the Bishop of the Catholic party and a dispensation from Canonical Form.)
* Godparents must be living a life consistent with the faith and with the responsibilities of a Godparent. They should attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day, regularly receive the Sacraments, and exemplify Christian faith, justice and charity.
* Godparents are to be suitably prepared for their role by participating in baptismal preparation.
* All Godparents must provide a Letter of Good Standing. Links for those are provided on our website.

\* *At the request of the parents, a baptized and believing Christian not belonging to the Catholic Church may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic Godparent for baptism, but you must have at least one Catholic Godparent.*

**How many Godparents can I choose?**

At most there can be two Godparents but you don’t have to have two. You can have one Godfather, one Godmother, or one of each. If choosing two Godparents, one must be male and the other female. You cannot choose two males or two females.

If there are more than two people who you wish to fill this role in the life of your child, only two will be officially designated as Godparents. The others can still stand up with the child during Baptism and be part of the ceremony.