

GODPARENTS: Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements to be a Godparent?

- A Catholic who has received all 3 sacraments of Initiation: Baptism , Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- They must be at least 16 years old.
- A practicing Catholic who attends Mass weekly.
- If married, a person who was married in the Catholic Church. (Please note that being separated and/or legally divorced does not in itself prevent a person from serving as a godparent. However, one who is separated or divorced must be living as a single person and not living with someone else.)

Must we have both a godfather and a godmother?

No. While it is customary to have both a godfather and a godmother, the sacrament of Baptism requires a minimum of one godparent. (Note: it is not possible to have two males or two females as godparents.)

Do Godparents have to attend the Baptism class?

This is highly recommended! They will be your child's godparents forever, so it is great for them to show that commitment from the very beginning! If they cannot attend the class here at *Sacred Heart*, they are encouraged to attend an equivalent class offered at their own parish.

Can I just have a Christian witness instead of a godparent?

No. Remember that a baptized non-Catholic is not precisely a godparent. Thus a Christian Witness may be chosen only if a Catholic godparent has already been chosen for your child. A Christian Witness is chosen *in addition* to a Catholic godparent *not in place of* a Catholic godparent.