

# Guidelines for Godparents

**I. In our Rite of Baptism**, it is usually the parents who hold the baby, answer most of the questions and clothe the child with the Baptismal garment.

**II. However, the Godparents still have a role in the Celebration.**

*1. At the beginning, the Godparents are asked if they are ready to assist the parents in their duty as Catholic parents.*

*2. Together with the parents, the Godparents renounce sin and evil and profess their faith in God.*

*3. They light the Baptism candle.*

*4. They are expected to support the parents in their faith.*

**III. When choosing Godparents, choose well, because it is a great responsibility.**

*1. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic, committed to the Church, at least 16 years of age, who have been confirmed and are receiving Holy Communion.*

*2. Godparents need to be willing to help the child lead a Christian life and be, themselves, good examples, living a life in harmony with the Church. For example, if they are married, they need to have been married in the Catholic Church.*

*3. You only need one Godparent. It may be a Godfather or Godmother, or one of each. You cannot have two Godmothers or Godfathers.*

*4. Godparents can be represented by proxy if they are unable to attend the Baptism celebration.*

**IV. A Non-Catholic** who is validly baptized may be admitted as a Christian witness to a Baptism along with a Catholic Godparent.