

# Role and Eligibility of Godparents

Godparents have an important role in the life of a baptized child, for they stand along with the parents of the child, presenting them to be baptized and promising to help the child lead a life that is united with Jesus Christ and His Body that is the Church. While godparents are often chosen simply to return a social favor or to honor a friend or relative, their place in the child's life is much more than that, as there is an expectation on behalf of the family and the Church that the relationship between child and godparent will deepen into something special, a relationship of love and support that transcends the circumstances of birth and foreshadows the relationships of the saints of heaven while here on earth.

With such a beautiful and noble task comes certain responsibilities, and to ensure that a person is prepared to undertake such a task in the life of a child, the Church has established the following requirements for a godparent, namely that the person is:

- Not a parent of the child to be baptized.
- 16 years of age or older.
- A Catholic, who has received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- If married, validly married in the Catholic Church.
- If there is a second godparent, not of the same sex as the other.

These requirements have their ultimate basis in the fact that the godparent is being presented as someone who is actively living and modeling the Catholic Religion and Christian values, someone who will teach the Faith not only by their words, but most of all by their life.

In order to make certain that someone is prepared for this important role as a godparent, there is an additional requirement of Sts. Simon & Jude Parish which is that the person:

- Attend a Baptism Preparation Class (online class is permissible)

This requirement too has its foundation in the fact that through baptism a child becomes a part of the community of faith that is the Church. As such, this community of faith, Sts. Simon & Jude Parish, wants to ensure that its newest members have someone who is prepared to walk with them along the sometimes difficult way to the evermore glorious Kingdom of God.