

Baptism



The Catholic Communities of Southeastern Allegany County

Criteria for Selecting a Godparent

1. Godparents must be Baptized Confirmed Catholics who are practicing their faith receiving the sacraments on a regular basis.
2. A divorced and remarried Catholic may not serve as a Godparent unless the previous marriage was officially annulled by the Church. A divorced person who has not remarried may serve as a Godparent provided they meet the qualifications of item #1.
3. One non-Catholic person may be a Christian Witness to the Baptism; however, that person may not be a former Catholic. In other words, you may not choose someone who was Baptized Catholic but no longer practices the Catholic faith or has chosen to practice another Christian faith. The Christian Witness does not need a letter of recommendation to be a sponsor.
4. Catholic Godparents must have a letter of recommendation from their current church. This letter states that the person is a member of that parish, is a practicing Catholic (meaning he/she receives the sacraments regularly) and, therefore, qualifies as a worthy sponsor.

Registered parishioners (for three or more months) of St. Mary's Church do not need a letter of recommendation from us. However, the same regulations apply to them; i.e., they must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics.

5. Occasionally a Godparent may not be able to be present at the Baptism ceremony. If this should occur, a proxy may be used. The Godparent will still need the letter of recommendation and will be the person listed in our records. The Godparent will also need to send a letter to us stating that the person who will serve as proxy for him/her is acceptable to the Godparent.

If you have any questions regarding these rules and regulations for the selection of Godparents, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be glad to clarify anything that may confuse you.