

How to Choose a Godparent



WHAT IS A GODPARENT?

A godparent promises to provide an example of faith to “help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it” (Canon 872). If the baptized is an infant or child, the godparent assists the parents, who are the primary teachers of the faith.

WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER IN CHOOSING A GODPARENT?

Godparents are to serve a special role in your child’s life and must be selected carefully. One should not be selected simply because of a blood relationship or as a way to acknowledge a deep friendship. The godparent should be someone who is living their life in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, and who is willing to share that faith with your child.

ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS?

Yes. The following requirements must be met in order to function as a godparent:

- Has the aptitude and intention of fulfilling the role of a godparent.
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Be a fully initiated Catholic (baptized, Confirmed, and First Communion) and living their life in accordance with the teachings of the Church.
- If married, married in the Catholic Church.
- Parents may NOT be godparents of the child.



✉ Sonia@stmichaellivermore.com

☎ 925.667.4052

📍 458 Maple St. Livermore, CA

HOW MANY GODPARENTS ARE WE TO SELECT?

No more than two. You may have a godmother and/or a godfather.

ARE GODPARENTS THE SAME AS LEGAL GUARDIANS?

No. Godparents, together with the parents, help encourage the spiritual life of a child. They are not obligated to take custody of the child in the absence of the parents.

CAN A NON-CATHOLIC BE A GODPARENT?

No, a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism (C. 874). Non-baptized persons are not able to serve either as a godparent or as a witness to the baptism.



✉ Sonia@stmichaellivermore.com

☎ 925.667.4052

📍 458 Maple St. Livermore, CA