

Criteria For Godparent/Christian Witness

1. A Godparent is a **practicing Catholic** who has received the Sacraments of **Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation** and is a registered member of a Roman Catholic Church.
2. The Church only requires 1 Godparent be chosen for the Sacrament of Baptism.
3. It is suggested that you have 1 Godmother and 1 Godfather. In any event, you cannot have 2 Godmothers or 2 Godfathers.
4. The Godparent must be at least 16 years old.
5. If married, a Godparent must be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.
6. If a Catholic Godparent is not a member of St. Paul Church, a written sponsor certificate is required from the Godparent's pastor stating he or she is qualified to act as a Godparent. **This certification must be received in the parish office no later than one week before the date of baptism.**
7. In addition to a Catholic godparent a "Christian Witness" is permitted.
 - a. In order to fulfill this role, a person must be a baptized Christian and a member in good standing of a Christian Church.
 - b. The Christian Witness does not need a certificate from their church.
 - c. Non-Christians **cannot** act in the role of Christian Witness since they have not been initiated into the Christian community through baptism.
8. A baptized adult Catholic who no longer practices their faith in the Roman Catholic Church **cannot** act as a Christian Witness nor as a Godparent since they do not fulfill the criteria listed above.