

Godparents in the Catholic Church

A godparent promises the Church to help raise the child in the faith by personally living a life devoted to Christ and the Church and by ensuring that the child fully participates in the sacramental life of the Church. A godparent is meant to be a life-long mentor in the faith.

A godparent must meet the following qualifications according to canon law:

- a practicing Catholic: attends Mass on a weekly basis and on holy days of obligation, financially supports the Church, & serves in the Church
- in good standing with the Church (not divorced and remarried)
- has received all the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist
- 16 years old or older
- not the child's mother or father

Parents are permitted to choose two godparents, but only one is necessary. If two godparents are chosen, one must be female and one male. A baptized member of another Christian community may be a "Christian witness" of the baptism, alongside a Catholic godparent.