

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**  
**GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF A**  
**GODPARENTS AND CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

The significance of a Godparent at the Sacrament of Baptism requires that the parent(s) consider very seriously the faith and religious practice of the person proposed for this role. The following guidelines are provided to answer the usual questions that arise when parents or candidates are discerning a person for these roles.

**GODPARENT FOR BAPTISM**

- A person to be baptized needs only **one** Godparent. If the tradition of having two is desired, the person or their parent(s) may choose a man and a woman. Two Godparents of the same sex is not permitted.
- The mother or the father may **not** be a Godparent. The role of Godparent is to assist the parent(s) in the training of the faith. The roles are distinct and not to be mixed.
- A Godparent is a Catholic in good standing, that is, living the Gospel message in their daily personal lives. They should practice the faith regularly. They are to be at least sixteen years of age, have the proper aptitude and intention to assume this role, and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Catholics married outside the Church, or Catholics who choose to cohabitate outside of the Sacrament of Marriage are not permitted to be Godparents.

**CHRISTIAN WITNESS FOR BAPTISM**

- Any Catholic, who has abandoned the faith, even if they now are active members in another Christian Church or community, may **not** serve as a Godparent or as a Christian Witness. They have separated themselves from the Church and cannot serve even as a witness.
- A Christian Witness is a validly baptized non-Catholic who practices their faith in Christ in a visible and sincere manner.