**GODPARENT FOR BAPTISM**

The Catholic Church, in her wisdom, asks that candidates for the Sacraments of Baptism have someone assigned to guide them in the ways of the faith. In English, that person is called a godparent. The Code of Canon Laws #872 specifies that:

*Insofar as possible one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian Initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it.*

The canon explains that only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex may be a baptismal sponsor or Godparent. It is not enough to just be a good person, the sponsor should be actively practicing their faith to be able to guide the individual. In order for a person to serve as a baptismal sponsor, among the requirements listed, the law also states that the sponsor must:

1. *Be at least sixteen years old, unless it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;*
2. *Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;*
3. *Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized;*
4. *If married, current marriage is canonically valid and recognized as such by the Catholic Church.*

The law does allow for a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community to be accepted only as a witness to baptism, along with at least one Catholic who serves as a sponsor. It is customary that the person who is to be the sponsor provide a letter (sponsorship certificate) from the parish that they attend which serves as a testimony on their behalf. Here at Our Lady of the Lake, a person must be a registered parishioner for at least 3 months, regularly attending Mass and supporting the parish in some way to obtain this letter. Once you are an adult, you should register on your own. If you are not sure if you are currently registered, contact the parish office.