**GODPARENT INFORMATION:**

 The Church invites the candidate for Baptism to be presented by one or two sponsors, often called godparents   The Church’s sacraments are always celebrated in the context of faith.  When the candidate for Baptism is too young to understand that faith, it is the faith of the parents and godparents that is essential for the proper reception of the sacrament.  The role of sponsor is to be a model of the faith that the Baptism candidate will embrace and practice as he or she grows in understanding.  Obviously, as in any organization, one cannot sponsor someone for “membership”, unless sponsor is a full member in good standing.  As such the sponsor ( godparent) is attesting to his or her own practice of the faith in accepting this role and  are accepting the responsibility to encourage and support the candidate in his/her practice of the faith.  A sponsor for Baptism must be someone other than a parent of the Candidate. If two sponsors they need to represent both genders. If only one sponsor (which is permissible) the sponsor may be either gender.  The sponsor must be fully initiated in the Church, that is, received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation an has reached the age of 16.  If married, the sponsor must be a marriage recognized by the Church. (C. 873-874).

The Catholic Church requires that only one sponsor be a Catholic.   If you choose two sponsors, one may be a non Catholic but must be a Christian.  A Christian witness must be a baptized person of good moral character who strives to live up to the values of the Gospel and adheres to the tenets of their own Christian faith.  This person must be baptized in a Christian faith whose baptism is recognized and accepted by the Catholic Church.  This includes most of the “main line” Christian Churches ( Episcopalian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist).  It does not  include Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, or The Salvation Army.  Also, those who are non-Christians (Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, etc.)  may not stand as Christian witnesses.