

God Chose You!

Guide to *Choosing* and *Being* a Good Godparent

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Parents—God Chose You!.....	2
Being the Best for Your Child	2
The Best Godparents	2
Parent Expectations.....	3
The Church’s Requirements.....	3
God’s Expectation	3
<i>Do not be afraid</i>	4
Catholic Godparents	4
Catholic Requirements	4
Present in the Child’s Sacramental “God-moments”	5
Pray for and with your Godchild.....	5
Spiritual Guide: A Good Listener	6
Be a Positive Example	6
Be Actively Present	6
Share What Your Faith Means to You.....	7
Spiritual Guide: Example of Charity	7
Frequently Asked Questions	8
What if the parent stops practicing the Faith, will the Catholic Church allow them to baptize their child in the Church?	8
Does being a Godparent have to be for a lifetime?.....	8
Is there a special prayer for a Godchild?.....	8
What if I live far away from my Godchild?.....	8
Is it expensive or time-consuming to be a Godparent?	8
What if I don’t go to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation, can I still be a Godparent? ...	8
Father, I never was Confirmed, what about me?.....	8
I am only married civilly, not in the Catholic Church. Can I be a Godparent?	9
If we are only married civilly, not in the Catholic Church, can we have our child baptized?.....	9
As a Godparent, will I be responsible for the child if both parents die?.....	9

Parents—God Chose You!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, even as he *chose us* in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:3-5, *emphasis added*).

God chose you... to be the parent for this particular child of his. Before God created the world, or anyone of us... before he created the child entrusted to you, he thought of you and loved that thought!

Now we must respond, say Yes to this calling, because this child needs you. God has blessed you with every spiritual blessing, so that you can be the parent that this child needs. So, be holy, because you have a special mission... God wants the best for this child of his!

Each child needs loving parents. Yet parents come in all sizes, shapes, and life-situations. For some children, both parents are Catholic and practice their faith. For other children, one parent is a practicing Catholic and the other is not, and for others neither practice, or neither are even Catholic. Some children have parents married in the Church, while others have parents who are only married in court, still others have parents who are not married at all, or who have parents who divorced and remarried civilly, etc. Some children may only have one known parent. If we include the extended family the diversity increases even more!

Yet God chose you! Whatever your situation, God wants you to be the mother or father of this child of his. Now you must choose... to be the best for your child, because God wants the best for him too! That is why GOD CHOSE YOU!

Being the Best for Your Child

What do you want for your child? What is your *ultimate* goal for him? Do you want your child to go to heaven: to know, love, and serve God with all his heart, mind, strength, and soul?

To achieve this ultimate goal, a child needs to come to believe, in the depth of his soul—in his gut—that God loves him madly. The child will learn that he is loveable—has value—in how he feels loved by mom, dad, Godparent, grandparent, sibling, etc.

A child then needs to learn how to trust others and God, and how to love, with a love that gives itself away with all his heart, mind, strength, and soul. This will give him the hope that will guide him during difficult moments to do the right thing and persevere until then end, to reach the ultimate goal: eternal happiness.

As a parent, you want the best for your child, you want your child to reach that goal, and that this ultimate goal guides your child's whole life: to obey God in obeying you; to treat his siblings with kindness and generosity as if to Christ; to discover his vocation to lifelong and live-giving love—perhaps in marriage—which will bring earthly happiness, which a tiny foretaste of the ultimate goal of eternal happiness in heaven.

Then you must teach your child how. Don't focus on your mistakes, or your defects—God knows those already and chose you anyway! Keep your focus on the ultimate goal for your child and show them the way by the way you live your life.

The Best Godparents¹

Even those who don't believe in God or in any religion often want something similar to Godparents—a trusted friend or family member—to mentor their child. This idea still resonates with young parents just as in years past. Some designate such persons as “Fairy Godparents,” “Guide-parents,” or “mentors.”

Christian and Catholic parents are revitalizing the role of Godparents as they carefully consider who can take on this key role in their child's life. In addition, as Godparents discover the importance of their role, some find the challenge personally enriching, becoming extraordinary Godparents, models of virtue and Christian living for the child entrusted to them.

Perhaps you have been asked to be a Godparent and it makes you feel honored and happy, surprised and humbled too. Some may even feel anxious, fearful of the expectations and responsibilities it may entail: I don't want to mess it up and disappoint the parents and not offer the kind of support this child deserves.

¹ August 11, 2019

In the past, Godparents carried some hefty responsibilities, including readiness to care for the child should the parents die, which was more common years ago. Today rarely is this expected and rarer yet does it ever occur. Perhaps this is why some faiths just consider this role an honorary title with little or no responsibility and with little or no guidelines or prerequisites. Yet the Catholic Church does have expectations and requirement of a Godparent if the child is being baptized Catholic.

So, before saying Yes, reflect on what it takes to be a good Godparent. Don't be afraid of being frank with yourself and with the parents, whether or not you are ready for this responsibility. It's better to disappoint the parents before the baby is baptized than to do so for the next 21+ years.

Parent Expectations

As you consider potential Godparents for your child, parents should focus less on the friends or family you feel obliged to ask and instead, as good parents do, make a list of character traits, virtues, and Christian ideals you would like to see in your child as they grow into an adult and then list the people who can best exemplify these. Obviously it should be someone who also has a real relationship with Jesus Christ—the ultimate model for everyone—and one who truly lives his faith as a Catholic. Good parents want Godparents who will be a source of support and encouragement, as well as strong spiritual guides.

One parent explained: "In choosing Godparents, we not only wanted the 'fairy Godparents' who would see the baby every month or so, the uncle- or aunty-types to teach the little person to be a caring and have lots of fun... We wanted someone who could model the faith, who trusts in God, prays, and works at his relationship with God. Who would do this? How about someone who helped me be a better Catholic... certainly he would do the same for my kids. In fact we chose a college friend who helped me return to my faith and how to be a better Christian. He did this even when not talking about faith. That too is what I want for my children."

Think long-term. Realize, if the child has siblings, then they will compare their Godparents. If one set of Godparents give a lot of gifts and another child's Godparents don't, one child may feel left out or deprived; one set of Godparents may be involved in their Godchild's life and the other not. So make your expectation known for some consistency.

So, what is a Godparent and what do good Godparents do? Is it expensive? Are there minimum requirements? How will living far away affect me? Do I have to show up at the baptismal ceremony, etc.?

Start with asking the child's parents what they expect. More and more parents want their child's Godparents to take the role seriously, someone who has a deep faith to help their child to understand the richness of the Faith, with an exemplary witness in everyday life of how to live it. Ask the parents: *For you, is being a God-parent...*

- an honorary title **OR** a responsibility to be an integral part of the child's spiritual upbringing?
- entails helping with baby-sitting **OR** with a child's religious education?
- being a doting gift-bearer **OR** a prayer-warrior who gets the child into heaven?
- a guest at birthdays and other celebrations **OR** a guardian if the child's parents die?
- one to show up at the Baptism **OR** to stay connected throughout his life?
- a fun-loving buddy **OR** a guide exemplifying the kind of moral behavior the parents wish to see their child live out?

God's Expectation

Being a Godparent isn't a job to be taken lightly... because it isn't a job at all... it is a calling from God to take on a special role in that child's life... you are family.

God calls parents to share his paternity, to nurture the life entrusted to them on his behalf. This life-long mission orients their whole existence, leading them and their children to holiness. Their primary mission is to foster a happy and holy family, especially by bringing God into their marriage and family life, thus educating their children with an example of faith and virtue that helps them develop the character needed to respond to their own vocation.

God also gives Godparents a vocation, a task to be lived, not performed. They too shape the child's hearts and minds so as to fulfill his God-given mission to love by enriching the lives of others. Godparent should live—when around the child or not—in a way that reflects, and is consistent with, the richness of the Church's teaching, communicating God's love in an attractive and integral way, living a virtuous and Christian life. Godparents should

cultivate their own personal relationship with God through prayer and the sacraments, so as to pass this on to their Godchild and his parents by their own example.

Thus good Godparents see their Godchild as their spiritual child, leading them by their own example to pursue truth in love.

Do not be afraid

Being a Godparent certainly is a commitment—it takes time and effort to be a GOD-parent, a commitment to God to lead the child towards him. It also takes time and effort to be a God-PARENT, to connect with the child and to be there during important dates in his life—birthdays, baptismal anniversary, First Communion, Confirmation, etc. But our Lord would often say, *do not be afraid*. Do not be afraid of these commitments but face your fears, strengthen what is weak. Use this opportunity to become a better person and find true fulfillment. You won't regret it... and neither will the child!

Catholic Godparents²

Catholic Godparents want their Godchild to grow up knowing Jesus within God's family, the Church. That is why a Godparent's relationship with God and their practice of the Faith is paramount. At the baptism, before everyone, the Godparents will renounce Satan and profess their belief in Jesus Christ on behalf of the little child; they will commit themselves to pray constantly for the child and help the child develop a relationship with Christ in the Catholic Church with their Christian witness.

In the Baptism ceremony, often the Godparents hold the child as the celebrant asks: *Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?* The Godparents are to respond: *We are.*

Catholic Requirements

Godparents are called to help "the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it" (*Canon Law 872*). To guarantee this, the Catholic Church gives us a few duties and requirements for Godparents. For example, the Church requires "there is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each" (*Canon Law, 873*). In other words, you only need one Godparent, but if you do choose two, then one must be male and one female; other individuals are allowed to be Baptismal Witnesses, just not Godparents.

Godparents have the duty to give an example of a Christian life in accord with Catholic teaching—not necessary for witnesses. To fulfill this duty, the Church requires:

1. To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:
 - 1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
 - 2° be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
 - 3° be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
 - 4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
 - 5° not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized.
2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.

Code of Canon Law, 874.

Note: these requirements restrict the pastor as well as parents. Pastors have some leeway regarding the minimum age, but that's about it. So don't kill the messenger! Most Protestant denominations do the same, often requiring Godparents be practicing members of their church.

If a person doesn't believe what the Catholic Church teaches, or is living a life-style opposed to her teaching, then he would be ill-suited to fulfill that duty of helping the Godchild live the Faith, which includes:

² August 18, 2019

- Going to Mass on Sundays;
- Confessing one's sins at least once a year, and always confessing mortal sins before receiving the Eucharist;
- If married, it must be in the Catholic Church, and all must live Catholic morality in human love and sexuality.

During the ceremony the priest or deacon will hand the Godparents a candle lit from the Easter Candle, which represents Christ, saying, *Receive the Light of Christ*. Then the celebrant continues: *Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom. Amen!*

Present in the Child's Sacramental "God-moments"³

For a Godparent, being present at the baptism—the child's first "God-moment"—is on par with a father being present at the birth of his child. Sure a proxy can represent the Godparent, but it is more meaningful to be at the ceremony that inaugurates the child as a Christian and the individual as a Godparent.

Godparents should learn what that ceremony entails, what part they will play and what statements and commitments they have to make.

Pope Francis encourages us to treat baptism as our birthday in the Church— some Godparents celebrate this milestone of the child each year, perhaps with a visit or a greeting card. Some also celebrate the saint's day for whom the child was named as well. Other "God-moments" for the child will be First Communion and Confirmation, as well as Christmas and Easter. Consider religious gifts that are age-appropriate and reinforce the faith, such as a children's Bible or medal or crucifix. A handwritten note is always meaningful, letting the child know that you are thinking of him. That is what really matters.

Some Godparents like to send a special ornament to their Godchild each Christmas or have a Mass offered for their Godchild on the child's patron saint's feast day or on the baptismal anniversary. Address your letters "to my godchild" and sign them 'Love, your Godparent.' This reinforces that special connection.

Random acts of love—not just planned gifts—can make a great impact, especially on a teenager. A religious gift with a note attached tells the Godchild that you were thinking of him, and perhaps praying too. Even a secular gift can remind a child about God, because his Godparent sent it to him.

Pray for and with your Godchild

Talk to God about your Godchild, before talking to your Godchild about God. In other words, pray for him. Think long term—pray that your Godchild will become the saint God calls him to be! Sure, pray that your Godchild be healthy, learned, and successful, but it is more important to be spiritually healthy, wise, and reach heaven.

Pray for your Godchild's vocation—the special mission that God has for your Godchild to change the world and impact other people's lives—may this spur you on to pray more! And let your Godchild know you are praying for this: many priests, religious, and others totally dedicated to God discovered their vocation through their Godparents' prayer.

Pray for your Godchild daily—a decade of the Rosary or a *Memorare*—but don't stop there: perhaps light a candle at church or offer a novena for their Godchild, such as before the feasts of the Immaculate Conception, or go to Mass on the Godchild's baptismal day, birthday, etc. or have a Mass offered for the Godchild that day.

When you call or send a note, let the Godchild and his parents know that you prayed for them, and ask your Godchild to pray for you. Let your Godchild know how God answered those prayers on your behalf—prayer is powerful and we need to acknowledge its fruit, such as how it helped us to grow in our own relationship with God. Help the Godchild acknowledge the gifts God has given him and encourage him to pray about how he can make them bear fruit.

Praying with the Godchild can be as simple as attending Mass with the family from time to time. Godchild looks up to the Godparents and will imitate and try to be more attentive to what is going on—parents appreciate the

³ August 25, 2019

ability to pray with less distraction too. Occasionally, invite a Godchild to attend a weekday Mass—seeing the Mass up close gives us an entirely new view of the Mass.

A great way of sharing your faith and praying with your Godchild is Bible stories. Start with a children's Bible and progress to the Bible you use. Young children like to hear the same story over and over again. Help the Godchild relate the stories to his own life, and how it can help the child be better with his parents, siblings, or friends. For example, with the story of David and Goliath, you can point out: "Isn't it amazing how God kept David safe against someone naturally stronger. God shared his supernatural strength with David and he will also strengthen us, if we rely on him and not just on ourselves."

The scapular is a prayer that you do just by wearing it. Have the Godchild enrolled and both of you can wear it under your clothes. Show it off from time to time to see whether or not the Godchild is still wearing his. Also remind the Godchild of the Virgin Mary's motherly promise: *She will protect the person who dies wearing it from going to hell.*

Seeing Godparents go to Confession will be inspirational too. They will learn by your example how to say we are sorry, especially to God. You may also share your favorite prayer or devotion with your Godchild and occasionally pray it together.

Spiritual Guide: A Good Listener⁴

Being a spiritual guide need not be difficult or complicated. Begin with simple conversation about Jesus or the Church, or our Blessed Mother or a saint, or your favorite Bible story. Then ask a few open-ended questions, such as what is the Godchild's favorite Bible story, or saint...

As your Godchild experiences difficulties—an illness, divorce, death, or just difficulties with mom or dad—be there to listen. Your Godchild should feel that you'll always be there for him to confide in. You are God's representative to convey his love, mercy, and understanding.

Be a Positive Example

Being a good Godparent should be simple: just become the kind of person you would want your godchild to be—child's parents would want this too. Sure you're human and have made your share of mistakes in life. Don't fake it—now is the time to lead by being! As you grow, becoming the person you need to be you will become the positive role model your Godchild needs. He will imitate you—without even thinking about it—so make sure your actions reflect your Catholic faith and the virtues the child needs.

To be a good example of what a child of God is called to be really is the Godparents' primary responsibility. Since you are not around them all day, everyday, your witness of how to live and be can be quite effective, helping the child in ways that his parents can't.

Be Actively Present

As being a Godparent is a commitment to the entire family, not just the child, build a relationship with all in the family. This is why Godparents are often relatives or close family friends. Be sure to respect and affirm the parents in their important job.

Be ready to help when the baby comes or watch the child to give the parents some much-needed rest.

Being active in your Godchild's life will tell the child that someone, who represents God, cares about him on all levels.

Go out of your way to acknowledge your Godchild and show him affection each time you visit. Be involved. As they get older spend time together. You may take him out for a bite to eat—just the two or three of you—or an afternoon in the park, a trip to the science center or zoo, or to a family movie, or ice-skating or a any fun activity—fun is a quick way to a child's heart. A day at home making crafts, coloring, playing in the yard, or baking cookies is great, too. The options for fun and conversation are limitless. Some Godparents create their own special fun tradition to do with their Godchild every year, such as painting Easter eggs, building a Christmas crèche, or an annual bowling outing.

⁴ September 1, 2019

Be around for your Godchild's sports, recitals, hobbies, etc.—driving your godchild to an event may also be a great help to the parents. Show your Godchild how proud you are of him.

Fun and undivided attention will build the trust and respect needed for a deep and meaningful relationship with your Godchild, as well as with his parents. This will be the human foundation for your positive influence.

Share What Your Faith Means to You

Each of us is called to lead a good Christian life. The Godchild will naturally observe how God's Word and grace influences your actions. Your example is the best witness and guidance and it doesn't require any additional work, just live out your Christian vocation.

Do share your own faith with your Godchild, without sugarcoating it, but in an age-appropriate way. Start by simply telling your Godchild that God loves him. As they grow, share a bit of your own faith journey, including difficult moments you went through and how your relationship with Christ, our Heavenly Father, or his Blessed Mother helped you through those difficulties. Share with your Godchild how your Guardian Angel has helped you, perhaps in little things such as finding a parking spot or big, even life-saving, ones. Let your Godchild see how your faith is interwoven into every aspect of your life.

Cultivating your faith will encourage your Godchild to deepen his own faith. Tell him about a formation class you are taking or a spiritual book you are reading; you may even wish you read the same book concurrently. If a Godchild asks you a difficult question, don't pretend to know all the answers. Volunteer to do some research: ask a priest or someone with good formation, or look it up in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Share with your Godchild what you find and how you found it. The Godchild will see the importance of always learning, of reading the Bible and good spiritual books, and developing one's knowledge of the Faith. Follow your Godchild's religious education, and ask them question about what they are learning.

Give spiritual encouragement. As you can't give what you haven't received, stay spiritually healthy. Seek out your own spiritual guidance and counsel so as to live your faith better; then you will be able to help your Godchild live out their faith.

Then the teen years approach, the child may turn to you for advice. Reinforce what parents lay down, help the child understand things through their parents eyes. As an independent third party, you can have a great impact. Sometimes it is better to put off giving an answer—"I need to pray about this." It will give you time to think and pray, but also ask the parents privately what is going on.

Spiritual Guide: Example of Charity

Being an example of giving is paramount, whether in giving some alms—or a nutrition bar—to a homeless person. Volunteer activities—working a soup kitchen, collecting winter coats for the homeless, building homes for the less fortunate, or some other work of mercy—can be a wonderful way to bond and exemplify how to care for people as Christ would. These are important lessons your Godchild can learn from you.

Giving alms at Mass acknowledges thanks God for all that he has given us, especially for suffering and dying for us on the Cross. Although the Church does not mandate a quantity, the Bible encourages us to thank God with 10% of our income. Encourage this ideal in your Godchild, even with the monetary gifts you may give him.

Giving our time is also important. Some do so by teaching religious education in their parish, teaching the Godchild the importance of giving as well as religious formation. Visiting a nursing home to give some cheer to the lonely elderly also works. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describe many possible works of mercy:

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

CCC 2447

All this means being generous with your time, with common sense, and being sincerely interested in the child and his things. Showing the child that you love him models God's love to the child.

Frequently Asked Questions⁵

What if the parent stops practicing the Faith, will the Catholic Church baptize their child?

The Catholic Church allows us to baptize any child if there is good hope and assurance that the child will be nourished and raised as a Catholic. It is usually sufficient if one parent practices the faith, or if an active grandparent or Godparent can assure this, and the parents do not oppose it.

Many Godparents have been saddened when the parent of their Godchild refuses to raise the child Catholic or go to Mass on Sundays, and then refuses to let the Godparents fulfill their committed role. Let's pray that each child who is born into God's family at baptism is fed with the spiritual milk needed to grow in his spiritual life, and for Christian families to fulfill their lofty vocation as well.

Is being a Godparent for life?

Is being a parent for life? Surely! While being a parent or a Godparent of a newborn is relatively easy, being one for one who is a rebellious teenager can be a challenge. But you can't quit midstream.

First, don't worry about what it will be like being a Godparent for the child when he is six or sixteen or twenty-six. Just focus on what God is asking you now. Focus on being, not doing: you yourself must become the kind of person you want to see your Godchild become. So, be a saint, and everything else will fall into place. If you are not ready to commit to that, then do you really want to be a mediocre model for a mediocre Godchild? I hope not.

Is there a special prayer for a Godchild?

Ask to see if your parish offers Godparents a baptismal sponsor card that may include prayers for birthdays and baptism anniversaries. Here are some prayers I have found:

Gracious God, cover my godchild, _____, in your grace, that he/she may know he/she is surrounded by love, yours, mine, and their family's, and most importantly that they abide in Jesus Christ our Savior, forever. Amen.

Another traditional Godparent's prayer that is slightly longer goes like this:

O Lord Jesus Christ, your arms of mercy embraced children, and made them living members of your Church at baptism. I ask you to pour your merciful grace upon my Godchild, _____: to stand fast in your faith, to obey your word, and to abide in your love; strengthen my Godchild in your Holy Spirit to resist temptation so as to rejoice in your life on earth and to dwell with you in everlasting life to come. I ask this through your merits, O merciful Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Yet another:

Lord, may your hand always protect this child, so that nothing and no one can hurt him. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to be his Godparent. Help me fulfill my role, and to establish with this child a close bond of trust and affection, so that I'll be there for him/her, with his parents, to pick him/her up every time he/she falls. Amen

What if I live far away from my Godchild?

Stay in touch no matter what. Some talk on the phone, video chat, email, or text-message. What matters is maintaining this special bond wherever life takes you. Let your Godchild know you are there for him despite the distance.

Is it expensive or time-consuming to be a Godparent?

If you are worried about the costs or about the time, then becoming a Godparent—like becoming a parent—is not for you. It's about love, not money or time.

Can I be a Godparent if I don't attend Mass on Sundays and holy days?

Is this the kind of Godparent you want to be? Could you imagine a young man who wanted to be a boyfriend of a girl asking her if it would be OK just to get together and spend time with each other once or twice a year?

If you are ready to make a good Confession and commit to going to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation, then I think you may be ready for this calling.

Father, I never was Confirmed, what about me?

Sacramental Confirmation is a requirement laid down by the Catholic Church in the *Code of Canon Law*.

⁵ September 8 and 15, 2019

That being said, if you enroll in an adult Confirmation with the commitment to finish it and be Confirmed in the next year, we can move forward with you becoming the child's Godparent. This can also help you work out any struggles or doubts you may be wrestling with.

I am only married civilly, not in the Catholic Church. Can I be a Godparent?

Godparents are called to be examples of Christian living. If God calls a Catholic to marriage he must be married in Christ—that is, to have a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church. This is a prerequisite for a Godparent who is married.

So, get your sacramental marriage squared away first, then you can be a Godparent!

If we are only married civilly, not in the Catholic Church, can we have our child baptized?

God has granted you a great gift and you want to give that child the gift of grace in Baptism. Great! The Church wants that too and will support you in baptizing your child as long as there is a reasonable hope the child will be educated in the Faith and receive the other sacraments.

Yet, the best gift you can give your child is an example of love, a lifelong, total self-giving love in Christ—sacramental marriage. Now is the time to explore what it will take. So approach your pastor today!

As a Godparent, will I be responsible for the child if both parents die?

In some cultures, Godparents are the ones to take over legal guardianship of the child were some serious misfortune to happen to the parents. In the United States that doesn't occur unless the parents designate the Godparent as the legal guardian in their will. If this is the parents' expectation then they should clearly state it beforehand, as some Godparents are not ready or willing to raise a child.

Should it ever happen that your Godchild's parents die, get guidance to help the child grieve his loss. The child needs know that his Godparents will always be there for him. Even without guardianship, were one or both parent to die, the Godparent will have an important role in the child's life, trying to fulfill what the parent(s) would have wanted for the child. It could include helping the child learn to ride a bike, or to fish, or prepare for a prom: how to tie a tie or choose a dress; perhaps you'll walk your Godchild down the aisle at her wedding.

Don't worry—God will guide you.