

## **GODPARENTS' INFORMATION SHEET**

Congratulations on being chosen as a Godparent! It is a special honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of participating in this child's Catholic Christian life and education.

There are specific requirements for parents and Godparents determined by Holy Mother Church and adhered to by the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento that must be fulfilled prior to a child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. The Good Shepherd Parish office staff has developed this information sheet to help answer the most common questions regarding what Godparents are expected to complete prior to the child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, and other general information. Also provided are suggestions for how you can nurture your spiritual relationship with the child throughout his/her faith journey and sacramental life.

One Godparent **must** meet the Diocesan regulation of being Catholic, meaning he/she has received the Sacraments of Initiation, including Confirmation, married in the Church (if applicable), attends church regularly, and is at least 16 years of age. If the other Godparent is non-Catholic, they **must** be of a Christian faith and will be designated a "Christian Witness".

### 1. Requirements of Godparents:

**Catholic Godparents** must complete the following before the Baptism can be scheduled:

- **Attend the Good Shepherd Parish Baptism Preparation Class** (ideally with the child's parents who are also required to attend the class).
  - Class is held the second Monday evening of the month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Good Shepherd (you will be informed of the location when you register for the class).
  - **Please register for the class through the Parish Office.**
  - Catholic godparents who are from *out of the area* must provide written proof to the Good Shepherd Parish office staff that they attended the Sacrament of Baptism preparation class available in their local Catholic parish.
  - The exception to attending a Baptism Preparation class is if the Catholic Godparent can provide proof of having attended a preparation class within the last two years.

**"Christian Witnesses"** are not required to complete a Baptism Preparation Class.

- **Catholic Godparents** must complete the "Godparent Parish Verification Form" and submit it to the Good Shepherd parish office before the Baptism date.

### 2. General Information for Godparents

- Baptisms are done monthly in small groups at Good Shepherd Church on the second and fourth Saturday mornings at 10:00. No Baptisms are scheduled during the Season of Lent.
- Please plan on being in the Church no later than 9:45 the morning of the Baptism so that the first Baptism begins at 10:00.
- There are no Baptism fees that Godparents are expected to pay. Should they like to make a "love offering", there will be an opportunity to do so the day of the Baptism.