St. Theresa Parish
820 Central Road
PO Box 482
Rye Beach, NH 03871

GODPARENTS

The role of the Godparent is to present the child for baptism and to guide the child toward Christ and His Church by witnessing their own love of the Faith in their everyday lives. The following are requirements of the Church:

- One Godparent, male or female is sufficient but there may be two, one of each gender. No one can have more than two Godparents for one child, nor can anyone have two godparents of the same gender.
- A Godparent must be appointed by the parents of the child being baptized and must be willing to provide spiritual guidance to the child. They may not be the mother or the father of the person to be baptized.
- Godparents must be age 16 or older, unless the parish priest considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made.
- Godparents must be fully initiated Catholics (one who has been baptized, received first Holy Communion, and Confirmed in the Catholic faith) and not labored under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared. If the person you are considering as a godparent is not married according to the laws and practices of the Catholic Church, or is cohabitating (living together without marriage), you will need to consider someone else. Catholics who are divorced and remarried, and whose previous marriage has not been annulled by a Decree of Invalidity are considered members of the Church living in an irregular (or invalid) marriage and as such are not eligible to be a Godparent.
- A Godparent must be an active, registered member of a Catholic parish.
- While it is ideal that parents select two Catholic Godparents, the Church only requires that there be one Godparent. A baptized, non-Catholic may serve as a Christian witness to the ceremony, as long as a Catholic Godparent is present. The non-Catholic should be an active and participating member of his/her Christian community. This restriction ensures that whoever is appointed as Godparent will be able to represent and attest to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, the community of faith in which the child is being baptized.
- Godparents are not required to be present on the day of the Baptism. A Godparent may be represented by a proxy. If you plan to have a proxy, he/she must be either a baptized Christian and/or a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing.

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