

# A Guide for Selecting a Godparent

*Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?"*

*Will you by prayer and witness, help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?*

*I will, with God's help.*

*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 302*

The sacrament of Baptism is the faith milestone that invites us into new life. Through the outward signs of blessed water and holy oil, the inward movement of the Holy Spirit welcomes us as full members of the Body of Christ.

The role of a godparent is a sacred, lifelong commitment.

Consider the following information as you prayerfully make your selection.

## **Positive Attributes of a Godparent**

- A Christian who has an active life of prayer, worship, study, service, and generosity.
- A person whom you admire in all aspects of their life.
- A person who is comfortable with sharing their faith and open to having faith conversations.
- A person who is committed to an ongoing relationship.
- Someone local. (*Although technology has expanded our circles of meaningful relationships, the gift of presence is key.*)
- Select at least one person. Ideally, two or three, representing more than one gender.

## **How to Select a Godparent**

- Prior to extending an invitation, discuss your expectations as a parent.
- Pray for guidance.
- Communicate your expectations and open up a discussion of the importance of their role in the life of your child.
- Invite prospective godparents to read the baptismal service to see if they are able to affirm the statements they are asked to make at the time of baptism. The service can be found on page 299 of the *Book of Common Prayer* (bcponline.org).
- Reassure them "no" is an acceptable answer if they do not feel called to serve as a godparent.
- Communicate your godparent selection to the church office (receptionist@stdavidschurch.org).
- Invite them to one of the baptismal preparation gatherings offered quarterly.
- Include them in the planning of any baptism family events.

