Duties of the Sponsor:
1. The sponsors/godparents must be baptized Orthodox Christians in good standing canonically with their parish. If married, they must have been married in the Orthodox Church.
2. If the sponsors/godparents are from another parish they must obtain a letter from the parish priest stating that they are a member in good standing and are canonically able to serve as a sponsor in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
3. Most importantly however, the sponsors/godparents should be able to understand and appreciate the awesome responsibility of being a Sponsor in the Church. Sponsors/godparents are responsible along with the parents for raising the child as an Orthodox Christian, teaching them the faith by word and deed.
4. It is preferable, though not mandatory, that the sponsors/godparents not be a member of the family. The Church suggests this in order that one may expand his spiritual family to include others who are well-respected and pious members of the community.
5. Non-Orthodox Christians are allowed to participate in the Sacrament but cannot be considered godparents by the Church by virtue of the fact that they are not Orthodox.

What the Sponsor/Godparent Brings to the Service:
The expected articles that a Godparent usually provides for the Baptism include:
• A cross and chain to be worn around the child’s neck
• One full bottle of olive oil
• Two (2) small hand towels
• One bath towel
• An extra-large white sheet
• A bar of white (Ivory) soap
• Three (3) white candles (one large, two smaller)

The new white clothing for the child can be provided by the godparent but isn’t absolutely necessary. A one-piece undershirt is also necessary for the priest to place on the child. If questions remain, it is best to consult with your priest.