

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. A godparent represents the Catholic Faith Community as a believing and practicing member. Along with the child's parents, the godparent(s) become a vital part of forming the child in the teachings of the Catholic faith. Being a godparent, is not an inherent right, instead, it is a privilege that offers the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship - one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

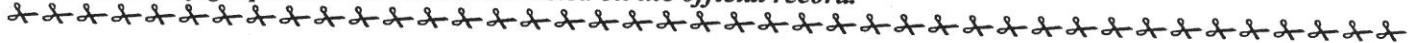
There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and form a deeper friendship with your godchild. Among them are:

- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on Catholic doctrine and values to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters or gifts which celebrate holy events ... Christmas, Easter ... and personal growth events ... graduation, first job, engagement.
- Participate in or send assurance of prayer as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church Community.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild through daily prayer, virtuous living, and active participation in parish life and liturgy, particularly Sunday Mass.

By living a Catholic life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of authentic faith.

Requirements for being a godparent

To be a Catholic godparent, one must be at least age 16 and have received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. As long as there is one Catholic godparent, a non-Catholic, baptized Christian may also be chosen as a Christian witness. Non-Christians are not permitted to serve in these functions. Although only one godparent is needed, frequently, two are chosen. If this is the case, then one must be male and one must be female. The official Church record only has space for two names and is a permanent record. If more than two godparents are chosen, they will be honorary godparents and will not be listed on the official record.



GODPARENT'S COMMITMENT

(Must be filled out by the godparent)

I meet all the requirements outlined above and fully understand the commitment I am making in accepting the responsibility of being a godparent to:

_____ *Print Name of Child*

_____ *Signature of Godparent*

_____ *Date of Commitment*

_____ *Print Name of Godparent*