



The Role of Godparents

Role of Parents

Parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith.

Through their words and actions, they set the foundation for their child's relationship with Christ and His Church.

- Model a life rooted in Christian values and prayer.
- Show faithfulness by participating in Sunday Mass and parish life.
- Foster a home marked by kindness, forgiveness, and love.
- Support their child's growth in faith and virtue.
- Teach the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church.

Role of Godparents

Godparents share in the beautiful responsibility of guiding a child in the Catholic faith. Their example and prayerful presence affirm the faith of the parents and support the spiritual life of their godchild.

- Present the child for baptism and actively support their journey of faith.
- Live as witnesses of the Gospel through faithful worship and service.
- Encourage the parents and child to grow in the Catholic faith.
- Offer guidance and be a model of Christian discipleship.

A Lifelong Spiritual Relationship

Being a godparent is more than a title – it is a lifelong commitment to nurture faith and friendship with your godchild.

Here are meaningful ways to live this role:

- Celebrate your godchild's baptism anniversary with a card, visit, or prayer.
- Stay close as they grow – listen, encourage, and share your faith when questions arise.
- Mark faith milestones and life events with notes or gifts that inspire spiritual growth (ideas include a Bible, rosary, spiritual book, or retreat opportunity).
- Pray for your godchild, especially as they receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.
- Support the parents in their vocation as the primary faith educators.
- Above all, be a living witness of faith through prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life.

By walking together in faith, both you and your godchild will experience the joy of a life rooted in Christ.



The Selection of Godparents

Canonical Requirements for Sponsors

In keeping with the Code of Canon Law (1983), the Church outlines specific requirements for those serving as godparents.

Canon 873:

“There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.”

Note: Only two sponsors can be recorded in the Baptismal Registry.

Canon 874 §1: To serve as a sponsor, a person must:

1. Be designated by the parents (or pastor, if necessary) and have the intention to fulfill this role.
2. Be at least sixteen years of age (unless an exception is granted).
3. Be a confirmed Catholic who has received the Eucharist and lives a life consistent with the faith.
4. Not be under any canonical penalty.
5. Not be the father or mother of the child being baptized.

Canon 874 §2:

A baptized Christian who is not Catholic may serve only as a witness and must do so alongside a Catholic sponsor.

Note: A non-Catholic witness may be listed on the ceremonial certificate but not in the official Baptismal Registry.