



## What is a Godparent?

Godparents have a very special place in the baptism of a child. Since infants cannot answer for themselves, the parents make promises on their behalf. Godparents also make the same promises thus pledging themselves to help the newly baptized child on the road to Christian life. This means that if the child's parents fall down in their Christian duty to raise the child as a practicing Catholic, then it is the duty of the Godparent to step in and make sure that this happens.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states "...the godfather and godmother...must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized child or adult, on the road of Christian life" (#1255). This is the Church's way of saying that being a godparent is truly a ministry in the Church, and not simply an honor.

## To Be a Godparent

The godparent must be mature enough to understand, accept and carry out the duties of their pledge. They should be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church and strive to live a life consistent with the teachings of our faith.

The godparent must be a member of the Catholic Church. However, a baptized and believing Christian not belonging to the Catholic Church may act as a witness as long as there is also a Catholic godparent.

## How Can Godparents Help?

- † Remember the child in daily prayers.
- † Mark each anniversary of the baptism by sending a card or reminder.
- † Give books, music, etc., as gifts to help teach them more about God.
- † Keep in touch with what is going on in the child's life.
- † Be willing to talk about faith, prayer, and encourage participation with the Church.
- † Take the child to church when possible.
- † Encourage the child to look forward to their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.