

Being a Catholic Godparent The Role of Godparents

Peace of Christ to you! You are being asked to be a godparent for a child being baptized at our parish. The parents and our Church are asking you to fulfill a unique role for this child. This is a special calling for you! You are professing your willingness, readiness, and ability to help the parents of this child bring him/her up in the faith and grow in a relationship with Christ and the Church.

These parents and the parish community are asking you to set an example for this godchild in living out your faith, in sharing your faith with your godchild, and in praying for your godchild. Being a godparent is different from being a relative, a friend, or good acquaintance of the parents, though these are all beautiful things! A godparent has the special role of helping the parents share the joy, truth, and light of their Catholic faith with their child, and in providing further example and guidance in the godchild's life.

Baptism is the beginning of our lifelong journey of faith. As we grow, our faith lives change—sometimes we feel very close to God, sometimes we don't. Sometimes we have many questions, and sometimes we feel like we understand it all. Throughout the ups and downs, Christ is with us! You will help these parents in passing on our Catholic faith to the child, so that each child may grow in his or her relationship with Christ, and freely profess it as an adult. You will be the presence of Christ and the Catholic community to this child.

As you prepare to be a godparent, you should ask yourself if you are indeed ready to take on this responsibility. Are you able to share your faith? Are you an active member of your parish? Will you be able to give your godchild the attention and care he/she needs? If you are someone who is already actively living your faith, these answers may come easily. If not, now may be an opportunity to grow in your own faith, so you can pass it on your godchild. Or, you may decide that you are not ready to be a godparent at this time.

So, what does a godparent do? Godparents are active in their godchild's life in many ways. You can prepare with the parents, and be there for the baptism! You will be asked if you are ready to assist the parents in raising the child in the practice of the faith, to which you respond with the other godparent, "We are". You may be asked to clothe the child in the white baptismal garment, which symbolizes the child's new purity in Christ. You may be asked to hold the baptismal candle, and to help "keep the light of Christ burning in the child's heart."

It is quite an honor to be asked! Please take some time to give this form to your home parish. They will need to complete the reverse side of this form, attach the parish seal, and then return the completed form to St. Katharine Drexel Parish Center, 408 S. Spring Street, Beaver Dam, Wi. 53916. As always, feel free to contact our office with any questions/concerns at 920-887-2082, ext. 311

Sincerely in Christ,

Kristin Adsit, Director of Evangelization