

## **Being a Christian Witness**

### **Your Role as a Christian Witness**

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 Christian faith with their child, and in providing further example and guidance in the godchild's faith 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 the light of Christ, 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 to this child through all the ups and downs of life.

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 church? 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."

After the big day, you can make it a tradition to remember the child's baptismal day every year - the child's "birthday" into the Body of Christ. Call your godchild, visit, or send a card. Spend time with your godchild. Each year, this day can be a special celebration for you.

Keep your godchild in your prayers and share your faith with the child. Prayer is always a gift to anyone! You can also share your faith by giving the child age appropriate books, attending the child's first Communion and Confirmation, and sharing other important moments in the child's life. A godparent has a lifelong bond with his/her godchild, and it is a special and wonderful relationship.

### **Why is it important to be active in a Christian church?**

Our faith journey is not walked alone. One of the joys of being a Christian is that we are one body in Christ and we are connected as a family, with God as our Father.

Active church membership indicates that we take our faith life seriously. We need a community of believers to support and nourish our faith life. We ask you to attest to your involvement and membership in your church to express your commitment to the larger community. It is not merely another loop to jump through. Active church membership helps us to get connected and stay connected to Christ! So, it's more than merely signing a form and filling out your mailing address. It's standing up to say that you will not just go to church, but that you want to be an active member in the church, contributing to the life of the community and receiving life and joy in return.

### **What if I'm not a church member?**

Now is a great time to get involved! We invite you to think about finding a Christian community to call "home," and to be nourished by the worshiping community.

Please fill out the provided form to give us your "yes!" to your commitment to being a godparent., and return it via fax or mail to our parish office (the address and fax number are on the top of the godparent form).

Thank you for your wonderful witness to Christ's life, and God bless you now and always!





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### FORM FOR NON- CATHOLIC GODPARENTS

You have been asked to be a Christian witness for an upcoming baptism at Old Saint Mary parish. We ask you to reflect on your responsibilities as a godparent, and fill out the commitment form. **Please return this form to our parish by mail or fax as soon as possible ~ Attention: Maureen**

Full Name of Godparent: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a registered and participating member of \_\_\_\_\_ Church  
in (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_

Y or N

I have been baptized

I regularly participate in worship at my church

I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ through my actions in daily life and involvement in my church.

I promise to give my support to the child I am sponsoring and to his/her parents by my prayers and by the example of my Christian faith practiced in my daily life.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date