

The Role of Godparents

Congratulations! You have been chosen as a godparent. Through baptism, your godchild will be reborn into new life in the Holy Spirit, becoming an adopted child of God. He or she will be cleansed of Original Sin and given the grace to live and grow in Christian life. To be chosen as a godparent is a great honor. Just as parents have a special relationship with their own child, godparents have a special spiritual relationship with their godchild. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and fulfill your new spiritual responsibilities toward your godchild.

Among them are:

Pray for and with your godchild frequently, and let him or her know that you are praying.

Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day each year with a visit, a call or a card.

As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life, and keep yourself informed on Christian 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. (Gift suggestions: a bible, spiritual books, a rosary, religious jewelry, a gift certificate for religious goods/books, a retreat opportunity.)

Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, with 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, be a model of Christian living for your godchild, through daily actions, prayer, virtue and active participation in your parish's life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, you will develop strong bonds and both of you will experience the great joy of sharing your lives of faith.

Congratulations, and may God bless you both.