

Baptism Preparation

Archangel Gabriel Parish

GODPARENT FORM

Infant Baptism (Birth - 6 years old)

You have been asked to serve as a godparent by the parents whose names appear below on the occasion of the Baptism of their child. This is a special honor, and one that should be taken seriously. Catholic teaching requires that at least ONE godparent must be a practicing Catholic. Please read the following qualifications VERY CAREFULLY before you agree to serve as a godparent. If you are eligible to serve as a godparent based upon these guidelines, please SIGN and DATE this paper and mail, fax, or email it with a letter of eligibility from your Parish to the Administrative Office no later than two weeks before the date of Baptism.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GODPARENTS:

1. A godparent must be a practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years of age and has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation (Canon 874, #1, 2)
2. A godparent, if married, must be married according to the marriage laws of the Catholic Church -- that is, married before a Catholic priest/deacon and two witnesses. (Canon 874, #3-4)
3. A godparent may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. (Canon 874, #5)
4. A godparent is strongly encouraged to attend the Baptism Prep class along with the parents.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GODPARENTS:

1. Godparents serve to represent the expansion of the spiritual family of the baptized and the role of the Church as Mother.
2. As occasion offers, the godparent helps the parents to lead the child to learn and profess the faith and to show this by living it.
3. In the ritual, the godparents' role -- together with the parents -- is to profess the Christian faith into which the child is being baptized.
4. The godparent acts as a support structure for the parents, who are the primary catechists of their children.
5. The godparent is encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the child's baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card. The godparent should also encourage growth in the life of Faith through special cards, letters or gifts, celebrating holy events together, etc. Godparents should participate in the child's First Communion and Confirmation.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GODPARENT, AND I AFFIRM MY ADHERENCE TO ALL OF THESE BY MY SIGNATURE:

Signature of Godparent: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Godparent: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Name of Child's Parents: _____

Anticipated Date of Baptism: _____

Administrative Office, Archangel Gabriel Parish
5718 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Phone: (412) 787-2140 · Fax (412) 787-3799 · cpfeuffer@archangelgabrielparish.org