

# Godparents

## Selection, Requirements, and Preparations



To be permitted to take on the function of godparent, a person must:

- Be a practicing Catholic who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on
  - Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation
  - Receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion regularly
  - Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
  - Help provide for the material needs of the Church according to their means
  - Observe the marriage laws of the Church.
  - Participate in the Church's mission of evangelization.
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Present an eligibility certificate from his/her parish of current registration (attached)
- Attend a Baptism Preparation Class
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (must be in good standing)

**There is to be only one male godparent or one female godparent or one of each.**

A non-Catholic, baptized Christian may participate as a Christian Witness together with a Catholic godparent.

### Preparing to be a Godparent:

#### *Prayer for your Godchild*

O Lord Jesus Christ, your arms of mercy embraced children, and made them living members of your Church at baptism.

I ask you to pour your merciful grace upon my Godchild, \_\_\_\_\_: to stand fast in your faith, to obey your word, and to abide in your love; strengthen my Godchild in your Holy Spirit to resist temptation so as to rejoice in your life on earth and to dwell with you in everlasting life to come.

I ask this through your merits, O merciful Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

#### [Guide for Godparents](#)

### GUIDELINES FOR GOOD GODPARENTING

So, your friend/sibling/roommate has asked you to be a godparent. It can be fun, but it's more than just sending a birthday card once a year...



**Prepare!**

The parent's church may require you to attend a short godparent or baptism preparation class. Either way, it's not a bad idea to find one and officially refresh yourself on what to expect and what is expected of you.



**Be there!**

Don't miss the baptism! Being part of the ceremony is the first part of your job as a godparent. It's your job, along with the parents, to speak for the one being baptized and profess your faith. (Plus, there's usually a great party.)



**Remember!**

Birthdays and holidays are important times for remembering your godchild, but as a godparent it's good to remember the day they were baptized and other special spiritual days (i.e., feast days, special holy days, etc.).



**Pray!**

Whether you live near or far away from your godchild, you can always pray for them. Make daily prayer for them part of your normal routine. Even if you're not the type of person to pray daily - start doing so by praying for them. (It's your job!)



**Share!**

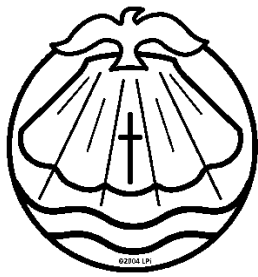
Your most important role is sharing your faith with your godchild. Spend time with them, take them to church, give them a children's Bible. As they get older, do activities or send gifts with a spiritual message. Don't be shy! You are an important part of helping the parents raise them in the faith.



**Stay aware!**

Just as it's important for a parent to stay physically healthy so they can be there for their kids, it's important for godparents to stay spiritually healthy. Be sure to nurture your own relationship with God. Strengthening your own faith and understanding of God will empower you to share your faith with your godchild.

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# Godparent's Verification

## Saint Anne Catholic Church

10550 Ford Ave, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name of Godparent)

a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_, located in \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name of Catholic Church) (City, State)

have been asked to be a godparent for \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Child's Name)

Son/Daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism.  
(Parents' names)

I affirm that:

- I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) in the Catholic Church and, if married, am validly married according to the norms of the Catholic Church.
- I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and am able to receive the Holy Eucharist.
- I actively witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by the way I live in service and love to the people with whom I come in contact daily.
- I shall give Christian witness and pray for my Godchild as his/her Godparent.
- I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a Godparent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Godparent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### ***TO BE COMPLETED BY PASTOR OF GODPARENT'S HOME PARISH:***

The above-mentioned Baptism sponsor is:

- A registered member of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish.
- Known to me as a Baptized, Confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- Able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of Godparent, as listed in the Code of Canon Law.

Pastor/ Designated Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish Seal*