

Expectations for Godparents

In the baptism of children, the godparent should be present to be added spiritually to the immediate family of the one to be baptized and to represent Mother Church. As occasion offers, he/she will be ready to help the parents bring up their child to profess the faith and to show this by living it.

(The Rites, p. 32, no. 42)

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card.
- As the 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 book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as the godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of the godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- Assuming the role of godparent is a great honor and responsibility. In taking on the role of godparent, one's life of faith must be robust so that one can represent the Church with integrity. A person cannot give what he or she does not already have, and so the godparent must have a solid spiritual life in order to help a godchild grow to full maturity in the spiritual life from the seed of the life of grace given in Baptism.
- And most importantly, the godparent must be a model of Christian living for the godchild, through daily prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life and liturgy.
 - Prayer: A godparent should have a mature prayer life which includes time regularly spent in silent contemplation of Scripture, devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, regular recitation of the Rosary or some other form of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, faithful attendance at Sunday Mass)
 - Virtue: A godparent should be striving to go from good to better, growing in the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. As well, a godparent should be intellectually virtuous, regularly learning more about Catholic doctrine and history.
 - Active participation in parish life and liturgy: Faithful attendance at Sunday Mass and regular participation in other parish activities.