

The Role of Godparents

As you begin to prepare for your child's Baptism, you are invited to reflect on the role and selection of Godparents. Various customs and traditions shape our understanding of the role and importance of Godparents. It is important to understand the following before asking a relative or close friend to assume the role of Godparent:

- It is necessary to have at least one (1) Catholic Godparent.
- A Godparent must be at least 16 years old and have celebrated their own Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation).
- The Godparent must be able and willing to enthusiastically profess their faith during the rite of Baptism and ready to model a Christian lifestyle.
- A Christian from another denomination may act as a Christian Witness. You may have only one Christian Witness.
- A Christian Witness is someone who has been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and is a member of a non-Catholic ecclesial community (e.g. Anglican, United, Presbyterian, Eastern and Byzantine liturgical traditions).

Ways to Nurture Your Special Role

- Celebrate the anniversary of his or her holy day of Baptism 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.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith.
- Participate in or send assurance of prayer as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Holy Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- Explore together the needs of the world and the gospel imperative to exercise compassionate service, especially for the people most in need.
- Most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your godchild through daily prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

Congratulations on having accepted this important and rewarding role in your godchild's life!

St. Pius X Parish, Toronto