

**St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church
617 South Providence Road
Wallingford, Pennsylvania 19086**

THE ROLE OF GODPARENT AT BAPTISM - A CALL TO INTEGRITY

The role of Godparent at Baptism is more than ceremonial.

Often in the past, some would say that the Church had this or that requirement. The first question is not whether or not the Church will permit me to be a Godparent, but whether or not I can allow MYSELF to be one! In other words, each one of us must ask himself or herself if our own integrity allows us to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith we will speak in word is also the faith in practice!

The role of Godparent does not demand that you be a canonized saint. All of us must place ourselves at the mercy of God. We all have miles to go in Christian progress, yet we also know that members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments, suddenly find themselves asked to be a Godparent. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith. You could choose to make the signing of the enclosed form a real grace of change, a moment of re-commitment. You could resolve to sit down with a Priest, Deacon or a practicing Catholic family member or friend and chart a new path in your faith.

Perhaps, you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then by all means be honest enough to simply ask the relative or friend who asked you to be a Godparent to hold you excused. This is what is meant by a call to integrity and honesty. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God.

If I can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give me a call (610-872-2732). It will be a joy to walk this step with you.

Thank you for your consideration, thoughts and prayers in arriving at a response to this call to integrity.

Sincerely,

Deacon Raymond M. Vadino

Approval for Sacramental Sponsorship

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Prospective Godparent: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

I, _____, understand that in accepting the role of a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism, I am prepared to be a model and an example as a committed and active Catholic and to be a support to my prospective godchild and his/her parents in the practice of our mutual faith.

I attest that I am committed to my Catholic faith, that I am baptized and confirmed in it; that I am not married outside the Church or otherwise compromised in my own sacramental life, and that I meet my fundamental obligations as a Catholic by regularly participating in Sunday Mass and Holy Days, by receiving the Eucharist as often as possible and the Sacrament of Reconciliation as necessary.

Prospective Godparent's Name: (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you do choose to fulfill the role of Godparent, please read and sign this Approval For Sacramental Sponsorship form, address it to Deacon Vadino and, at least one week prior to the date of the baptism,

- Drop it off at the Rectory
- Mail it to me at the Rectory
- Fax it to my attention at 610-872-1741.