

Dear Godparent or Sponsor:

Congratulations! You have been asked to be a godparent or sponsor.

The role of godparent or sponsor is more than merely ceremonial. It is a ministry and a responsibility. A godparent or sponsor stands for the Church and this standing must manifest an authenticity.

The Church has requirements that must be fulfilled in order to act as a godparent or sponsor. However, the first question is not whether or not the Church will permit you to be a godparent or sponsor, but whether you can allow yourself to be one!

Each one of us must ask, *“Does my integrity allow me to stand at the altar and make a public profession that the faith I proclaim in Word is truly a faith that I practice?”*

The role of godparent or sponsor does not demand that we be a saint, and all of us have need of God’s mercy as we have miles to go on our Christian faith journey. It often happens that we are asked to act as a godparent or sponsor even though we may not be actively practicing our faith.

If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to grow in your faith. You could sit down with a priest, deacon, or a practicing Catholic family member or friend to help you take 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 please be honest enough to simply ask your relative or friend to excuse you because you are not able to fulfill this role properly. This is what is meant by a *call to integrity*.

If we can be of any assistance in your decision-making or in helping you respond to the grace that this occasion provides for you, please contact us.

Thank you for giving this your best consideration and your prayers. This will help you make the best decision and respond well to this call to integrity.

Pastor
St. Catherine of Siena Church
Farmingdale, New Jersey

Catholic Church requirements for being a Godparent or Sponsor

- * At least 16 years of age
- * Received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- * Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- * Receive the Sacraments of Penance (confession) and Holy Communion regularly.
- * Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- * If married, was married in the Catholic Church.
- * Cannot be the parent of the child to be baptized or confirmed.