

GODPARENT/SPONSOR  
DECLARATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Affirm in all sincerity that the requirements as set forth on the previous page are truly fulfilled. I recognize that I will be called to renew the promises of my own baptism, to reject sin and profess my faith in Jesus Christ. I also recognize that this requires that I truly practice my faith by attending Sunday Mass, by prayer, generous concern for others, and by living an upright catholic life under the mercy of God. With this in mind, I promise to be the best possible example in word and deed to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF CANDIDATE

BAPTISM     CONFIRMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Godparent/Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest/Deacon  
or Pastoral Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

CERTIFICATE  
&  
GUIDELINES

*FOR GODPARENTS OR SPONSORS  
AT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION*



ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Charlotte, NC

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 ministry and a responsibility. A godparent or sponsor stands for the Church and this representation 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! Can you honestly say you live your faith and model Christ-like living?

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. Family members or friends sometimes feel compelled to ask you because of tradition, unaware that you no longer practice your Catholic faith.

If you are in this situation, we invite you to grow in your faith and uphold your integrity. 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 honor and new responsibility. 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. A request to be a godparent or sponsor can be a graced moment inviting you to turn again to Christ. Every child deserves and needs a good role model.

Remember the issue here is not whether you are a good person with high moral values but whether you practice the Catholic faith in accordance with the basic requirements listed on the following page. To be Catholic you must be involved in worship and the sacramental life of the church.

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

***The Pastor and Pastoral Team  
of St. Ann Catholic Church***

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- At least 14 years of age fully initiated in the Catholic Church having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion regularly.
- Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- If married, was married in the Catholic Church.
- If single, living a chaste life and not cohabiting with another person.
- May be either male or female for any Confirmation Candidate.
- May NOT be the parent of the child to be baptized or confirmed.
- If your faith makes you ready to accept responsibility, please sign this form overleaf and have your parish priest or deacon witness your promise.

