

Our Lady of Grace Church
The Mrs. Julian Price Memorial
201 S. Chapman Street
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27403

The Role of the Godparent/Sponsor – A Call to Integrity

Dear Godparents/Sponsors,

The role of the Godparent at Baptism or Sponsor at Confirmation is more than ceremonial. Often in the past, some would say that the Church had this or that requirement. Regarding requirements, the first question to ask as a Godparent or Sponsor is not whether the Church will permit me to serve in this capacity, but whether or not I can allow myself to be one! In other words, each one of us must ask if our own integrity allows us to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith we will speak in words is also the faith we practice!

The role of the Godparent/Sponsor 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 members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments, suddenly find themselves asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. 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 Sponsor Form a real grace of change, a moment of recommitment. You could resolve to sit down with a priest, deacon, member of our pastoral staff 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 or Sponsor 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 we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call. 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,

Our Lady of Grace Clergy and Staff

Godparent/Sponsor Form

Please take this form to your parish Church and sign it in the presence of a pastoral minister who will support this with their signature and seal of the Church.

I, _____, have been asked to be a Godparent for Baptism/Sponsor for Confirmation for _____, who will celebrate this Sacrament at Our Lady of Grace Church or at

(Name of Church)

(City and State)

I affirm that:

1. I am at least 16 years old (exceptions by diocese or parish may be made with reason);
2. I am fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, and I am striving to live a life in harmony with the Church;
3. My marriage has the blessing of the Catholic Church;
4. I am not the father or mother of the one to be baptized or confirmed.

I am an active and participating Catholic, and promise to the best of my ability to serve as an example in encouraging the child/adult to participate in the sacramental life of the Church.

Godparent/Sponsor Signature

Date

Signature of Pastoral Minister

Church, City and State

Seal of the Church

Date

This form expresses the Spirit of the law supported by Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.