



ST. JOAN OF ARC

— P A R I S H —

BETTENDORF, IOWA

THE ROLE OF GODPARENT

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. It is the godparent who will be an example of faith for your child for years to come. While you, as parents, are your child's first and most influential faith formation teachers, you should choose godparents who will be there to support you in raising your child in the Catholic faith.

Parents may fill the role of the godparent in one of these ways:

- one godparent (male or female),
- two godparents (one male and one female), or
- one godparent and one Christian witness (one male and one female).

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODPARENT

- is fully initiated, practicing Catholic, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and at least 16 years of age,
- has a close relationship with your family, and
- will be an example of faith for your child.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTIAN WITNESS (Christian, but not Catholic)

- is a responsible adult, at least 16 years of age,
- has a close relationship with your family, and
- acts as a witness at the celebration of baptism.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GODPARENT

There are many ways you may nurture a positive relationship with your godchild through the years, such as:

- Be an example of faith as your godchild receives other sacraments.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents as they fill their roles as the child's primary religious teachers.
- Be a model of Christian living for your godchild through active participation in parish life and liturgy.
- Look forward to being his/her sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.