ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

325 S. Jefferson St, Trenton, IL 62293

Phone: (618) 224-9335 Email: stmary@stmarytrenton.com

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

GODPARENT / SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM

for ☐ Baptism ☐ Confirmation ☐ OCIA

Please print all information.
Please check the appropriate box and carefully read the following. As a Godparent / Sponsor you must be able to make the following affirmations and agreements. The sponsor's signature is required. Please return this form to St. Mary Parish Office.

NAME OF SPONSOR: _____

ADDRESS OF SPONSOR:_____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH WHERE THE SPONSOR IS REGISTERED:

_____

_____

As a Godparent / Sponsor **for** _____ ,
NAME

I declare that I am at least 16 years of age, and I am a baptized Catholic who has completed my initiation in the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am not a parent of the person to be baptized or confirmed. (If married) my marriage is in accordance with the Catholic Church. (If single) I am living a chaste life and not cohabiting with another person. I am a registered, active and supporting member of the Catholic Parish stated above where I worship regularly at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

I believe what the Catholic Church teaches, and I am in good standing with the teaching of the Catholic Church. I make a serious effort to live my life according to the Gospel and worthy of imitation by the person I am sponsoring. I realize the great honor and responsibility placed on me before God and the Church in serving as a Godparent / Sponsor. I intend to encourage and support the person I am sponsoring in the practice of the Catholic faith by my word and example.

I affirm that, by my signature, I am attesting to the truth of all these statements.

_____ _____
SIGNATURE OF GODPARENT / SPONSOR DATE