



## Church of St. Raphael

7301 Bass Lake Road, Crystal, MN 55428  
(763) 537-8401

Dear Godparent,

To be chosen as a godparent is an honor. You represent the Catholic Faith Community. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child’s Catholic Christian life and education. This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship - one that will last throughout this life and beyond. There are many ways you can nurture this great gift. Among them are:

- Celebrate your godchild’s anniversary of Baptism or their saint’s feast day each year with a visit or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on the truths contained in the Catholic Faith to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Promote a consistent life of faith through conversations, meals, or letters, especially during significant events of life: First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, graduation, first job, engagement, etc.
- Encourage your godchild to ask God to show Himself to them as they discern their call in life (their Vocation) to Marriage, Priesthood, or Consecrated Life.
- Be supportive of your godchild’s parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- **And most importantly**, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in parish life and liturgy, particularly weekly Sunday Mass.

Note that, for baptisms, only one godparent is necessary, so parents can select either one godfather, one godmother, or one of each. If desired, non-Catholic spouses can serve as a “Christian Witness” in place of a second godparent. If either godparent cannot attend the baptism, they may be represented by proxy.

We at St. Raphael’s are excited for you and the family of your godchild. We want to support you in this honor and responsibility however we can. Because becoming a godparent is a canonically binding responsibility, we ask that you bring this letter and affidavit below to your parish priest so that he can sign it. You can then return it to your godchild’s parents either physically or electronically, and they will in turn bring it to me at their Baptism Prep session. Thank you for accepting this important role in your godchild’s life!

-Fr. Nick Hagen  
Parochial Administrator of St. Raphael’s

### **GODPARENT AFFIDAVIT** (to be signed by the parish clergy of the godparents)

Godparents in the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis must meet Canon Law requirements and archdiocesan guidelines. These require that the godparent be not less than sixteen years of age, be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Holy Eucharist, not be under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared, (such as living in a marriage not yet validated in the Catholic Church – feel free to ask us about validating your marriage!), and not be either the father or mother of the person to be baptized. (Canon 874)

I, the undersigned clergy, declare that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of godparents), to the best of my knowledge, are Catholics in good standing who are qualified to serve as godparents.

Clergy Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parish, City, State, Phone \_\_\_\_\_