

Make 2021 the year your parish celebrates the role of godparents!

The New Directory for Catechesis tells us that Godparents are “co-workers with the parents” in witnessing the faith, an essential role which must be fostered and celebrated (125).

Godparents bear responsibility “to show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness, and to guide the candidates’ progress in the baptismal life” (RCIA 43).

While the church has certain requirements that must be met to be considered for the [role of godparent](#), at the parish level we often forget that these are minimal expectations, and that accepting the role of godparent is an opportunity for personal growth and “may help [one] to rediscover the gift of faith and of belonging to the Church” that leads to a “renewed journey of commitment and witness” (Directory 125).

Simply put, when we foster strong godparents, we foster a strong parish community.

Here are three ways to get started celebrating your parishioners who serve as godparents:

1. Bless the godparents in your parish using one of these options:
<https://www.cdrworship.org/sacraments?rq=godparent%20blessing#anchor-BlessingCatechistsGodparents>
2. Educate your parish on the role of the Godparent. Here’s an easy-to-read article:
<https://www.simplycatholic.com/handing-on-the-gift-of-faith/>
3. When sending the Godparent Attestation Form to future godparents, send along a video such as this one to encourage their life-long role: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmYHY27EzE4>

What have you done to encourage and celebrate godparents in your own parish? Let us know by sending your stories and pictures to mcottam@richmonddiocese.org .