



GODPARENTS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO



Godparents are really special. Not just for the day of baptism, but throughout life.

As a Godparent you will make big promises to encourage your Godchild to grow in faith and commit to helping your Godchild to understand how to live his/her life.

Alongside your Godchild's parents, you will:

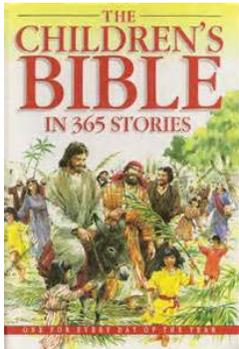
- Give time to your Godchild to talk about the big questions of life-faith, hope, love
- Model and encourage them to develop Christian values
- Pray for your Godchild through the ups and downs of life and her/his faith journey
- Show them practically how to make good choices in life, for themselves and for others. Talking with them about how to stay healthy, how to resist temptations, how to care for God's amazing world and how to handle peer pressure as they grow.
- Help them to learn more about the Christian faith, through their church and in other ways. Go to church with her/him, talk about what Scripture teaches us, and help them to pray.



During the baptism Godparents say some very important things, making promises that will last a lifetime. You will promise to care for them, help them take their place within the life and worship of the Church; to turn away from all things that are not God-like and by your life to model for your Godchild how to turn toward Jesus and to follow him unreservedly; to assist your Godchild's parents in raising her/him in the Church



GODPARENTS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO



Godparents sometimes gift their Godchild with special religious articles and books. If you want to purchase a gift for your Godchild, consider a book such as a collection of Bible stories that you or your Godchild's parents may read to her/him or a Bible for First Communion or Confirmation. Purchase a medal of your Godchild's patron saint that can be placed in his/her crib and later could be worn around the neck.



The Rite of Baptism

Discover exactly what will happen during the Baptism. These websites will help you.

<http://www.immaculate-conception.org.uk/baptismriteinmass.htm>;

www.catholicliturgy.com;

http://www.catholic.sk/main.php?page=183-en-Rite_of_Baptism



Discovering Prayer

Prayer is both simple and special and is one of the things everyone can do for children.

When to pray: on special days such as birthdays, baptism anniversaries, difficult days, times of new relationships, relocating, school milestones, etc. Also pray in more everyday times such as at home, in the car, on a walk, etc. Let it become a natural and familiar thing to do.



GODPARENTS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO



Light a candle:

Keep a candle close to you and light it as a reminder of your Godchild and to pray for your Godchild each day.



Continuing the Journey

After the baptism day, the amazing journey of faith continues. Godparents can play a special part in helping a child throughout their life by being there for them, encouraging them and supporting them.

- Create Memories: starting photo albums or scrapbooks with your Godchild is a fun way to record your special times together.
- Remember birthdays and baptismal anniversaries: send a card with a personal message.
- Join your godchild for Mass: going with your Godchild to their parish or yours is a great way to show your support.
- Share Bible stories: well-loved Bible stories that teach us about how to be kind, care for others and trust Jesus are available in child friendly books, games and films.
- Talk with them about caring for others: talk with them about other children who have less, are homeless, or go to bed hungry.
- Visit neighboring churches and the cathedral: an excellent way to teach children about their faith is to visit churches and the local cathedral and talk about the art and architecture as well as the special faith events that happen at the cathedral. Take pictures to add to the album.
- Keep in touch: text, FB, Twitter, etc. even if you live close. You can always be there for your Godchild. Just knowing you're available and interested will be a tremendous gift to them.