



TOGETHER AT BAPTISM

TIPS FOR GODPARENTS

10 TIPS FOR GODPARENTS

1. Tend your own spiritual life: pray, read the scriptures and other spiritual texts, go to Mass each week, work for justice, help the poor, find a spiritual director. You cannot be a good example unless you are living the fullness of your faith.
2. Pray often for your godchild, and for his or her family. Post a current photo of your godchild in your home, car, or at the office as a reminder to do so.
3. Celebrate the anniversary of your godchild's baptism by sending a card and sharing memories of the day with him or her. If possible, use the opportunity to visit and talk about how your godchild has matured during the last year. Give particular attention to maturing in the faith. Share your own stories of growing in your faith life.
4. Go to Sunday Mass with your godchild and with his or her family. Provide support as you can to help your godchild's family make Sunday Mass a priority each week.
5. Share favorite stories from the Bible and stories about the saints. Give books with religious themes as gifts for birthdays and holidays.
6. Help ensure that your godchild begins attending parish religious education at the appropriate time (usually when a child begins school). Maybe you can help with transportation, scheduling, or other details. Ask regularly about what he or she is learning.
7. Write a letter and save a photo (or prepare a memory book) to be shared with your godchild at his or her celebration of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
8. As your godchild grows, share stories, photos, and memories of your own celebration of the sacraments. Make every effort to be present when your godchild receives the sacraments, especially Confirmation and First Communion.
9. Establish the tradition of visiting a church, cathedral, or shrine with your godchild (and his or her family) during the Easter season. Find the baptismal font, notice the signs and symbols of Baptism, and consider the meaning and significance of the sacrament.
10. Pray with your godchild when you visit. A particularly simple and yet powerful habit is tracing the sign of the cross on your godchild's forehead as you did at the celebration of Baptism when you became his or her godparent. You can offer a silent prayer as you make this gesture, or, better, say aloud a simple blessing, such as, "May Christ fill your mind and heart this day." This is a great follow-up to a goodbye hug.