

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD GODPARENTING

So, your friend/sibling/roommate has asked you to be a godparent. It can be fun, but it's more than just sending a birthday card once a year...



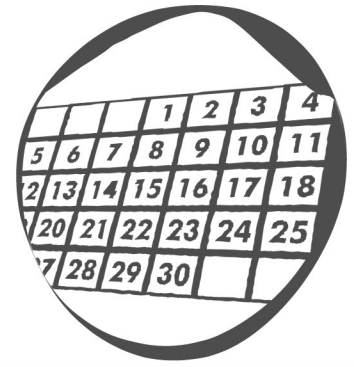
Prepare!

The parent's church may require you to attend a short godparent or baptism preparation class. Either way, it's not a bad idea to find one and officially refresh yourself on what to expect and what is expected of you.



Be there!

Don't miss the baptism! Being part of the ceremony is the first part of your job as a godparent. It's your job, along with the parents, to speak for the one being baptized and profess your faith. (Plus, there's usually a great party.)



Remember!

Birthdays and holidays are important times for remembering your godchild, but as a godparent it's good to remember the day they were baptized and other special spiritual days (i.e., feast days, special holy days, etc.).



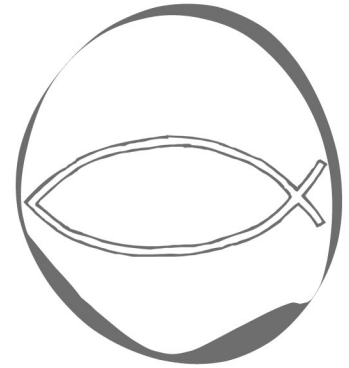
Pray!

Whether you live near or far away from your godchild, you can always pray for them. Make daily prayer for them part of your normal routine. Even if you're not the type of person to pray daily - start doing so by praying for them. (It's your job!)



Share!

Your most important role is sharing your faith with your godchild. Spend time with them, take them to church, give them a children's Bible. As they get older, do activities or send gifts with a spiritual message. Don't be shy! You are an important part of helping the parents raise them in the faith.



Stay aware!

Just as it's important for a parent to stay physically healthy so they can be there for their kids, it's important for godparents to stay spiritually healthy. Be sure to nurture your own relationship with God. Strengthening your own faith and understanding of God will empower you to share your faith with your godchild.