

LITURGY BYTES

Godparent Ideas



In recent weeks, happily we are receiving many requests for Baptisms! It is such a wonderful experience to welcome babies and their families to our parish community. With that in mind, and the many questions parents must consider when choosing godparents, I thought a few tips for godparents might be an interesting topic to explore.

We all know that there is or was a special pair of adults chosen by our parents to be our spiritual guides. Do you know your godparents? Are they or were they a big part of our lives? When I think about godparents, I fondly remember my own because they had over ten godchildren and treated all of us as if we were their one and only. Many people are unsure about how to be a godparent and even some parents are too. Even though the parents are the primary educators of their children, the godparents are there to assist them. This is the reason why the Church tries to encourage parents to choose wisely. Godparents need to know what it means to live the life of a Catholic, giving their godchild good example, etc. Simply, the Church requires that a godparent be at least 16, baptized, confirmed, and a practicing Catholic. For those who have this title, below are a few tips on how to be a good godparent:

1. **Pray for your godchild** – get in the habit of praying for them each day just like you would your own child or children.
2. **Don't be a stranger** – even though life gets busy at times, try to be present and see your godchild in between the large family gatherings of weddings, etc.
3. **Be a good example** – try your best no matter how difficult life can be to keep the Faith. Show your godchild that God is with you and never gives up on any of us.
4. **The little things mean a lot** – not just the giving of material gifts but the occasional phone call, a hug, going out for ice cream (if you live close by), taking them to a special place (game, shopping, etc.) will show and demonstrate much.
5. **Compliment them on what matters most** – grades are important, but there are other things that your godchild does that is important to point out.
6. Always let them know you are **proud to be their godparent** and mention God in there, too, every so often.

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week ahead! ~~~*Michele Hall*