

Ideas for Sponsors and Godparents

- Mark your godchild's baptismal anniversary. Do something fun and water-related together (play with water toys, go swimming, walk by a river or lake, go to an aquarium). Send a card if you can't be with your godchild on the anniversary. Write a note sharing memories of your godchild's baptism, or tell him something about what baptism means to you. Remind him of God's promise to love him no matter what. Tell him how you've noticed him living out his identity as a child of God this past year.
- Give her an age-appropriate Bible or books or toys that tell Bible stories, especially the water stories (Noah, baby Moses, Red Sea).
- Do something good for the world together. If you live nearby or visit frequently, do "hands-on" activities together. If you're far away, you could set aside some of your charitable donation budget each year and let your godchild decide where to give it. This will give you a chance to discuss values as your godchild explains his choice.
- Ask her what she'd like you to say to God (about her) in your prayers.
- Keep in touch. Send notes regularly—by snail mail, e-mail, text, whatever works best. Express interest in his life.
- Give your godchild a symbol of your caring and praying for her, especially at times of hardship, loss, or illness. This can be as simple as a rock that feels good to hold.
- Pay special attention to transitions in your godchild's life. Baptism, by joining us to the death and resurrection of Christ, gives us a promise that can carry us through all seasons and changes of life, whether or not there is a bright new horizon for us in this world.
- Be there for your godchild in good times and bad, with a reminder that you've loved them ever since I held you at your baptism."

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Certificate for Sponsors



Name

has taken on the joys and duties of baptismal sponsorship for

Name

who was baptized in the name
of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

on the _____ day of _____, _____.

Congregation

has witnessed this sacrament
and will gladly help guide this new child of God
toward a full life in the Body of Christ.

Pastor



Holy Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, and gifted with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for each candidate present the candidate.

I present name for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Sponsors and Godparents

The relationship between godparent and godchild can be deep, meaningful, and lifelong. What it looks like concretely is as individual as the personalities of the two people involved. But it's always a relationship that recalls for both people the ongoing meaning of God's baptismal promise.

Sponsorship always has been the church's way of giving people company on their faith journey. No one becomes a Christian in isolation; Jesus calls us into community. The baptismal sponsor represents the community's care for the baptized. The godparent—the sponsor—accepts responsibility along with the parents for the baby's or child's Christian nurture. Since the church hopes each child baptized will come to claim the community's faith as her or his own, the godparent is asked to be a spiritual mentor, to support the child's growth into faith.