

Also, you can remind them they are surrounded by a community of people who love them: parents, Godparents, other family members, and a church family. Most of all, just be yourself and trust God is at work in you in the life of this wonderful and precious child.

Finally, here is list of some other examples of things you could do.

- Assist the parents by placing in your Godchild's hands the Holy Scriptures.
- Draw pictures with him/her about Bible stories, baptism, Christmas, or Easter.
- Play board games that allow for the discussion of feelings and values.
- Talk with him/her about God. What is their image of God? What is God up to in the world? Why is God important to you?
- Give books that deal with religious themes and read them together and talk about them.
- Just spend quality time together and let them know they are not alone. Remind them often how much God loves them!
- Call, send a card, or visit your Godchild on the anniversary of their Baptism to remind them of the date. Talk to them about that day and why it was special.

These are simply suggestions and no one is comfortable doing all these things. The main thing is that you be yourself and respond out of love doing your best to glorify God.

Once again, thank you for answering this call and being a very important part in the life of this precious son or daughter of God who is being baptized into Christ's church and joined into the relationship of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Sources Consulted: *Sponsors and Baptism* by Elaine Ramshaw; Augsburg Fortress, 2002.

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Baptismal Sponsor Guide

He that
believes
and is
baptized
shall be
saved.
Mark 16:16



Baptismal Sponsor Guide

Congratulations! You have been called to be a Baptismal Sponsor. This has also often been referred to as a “Godparent.” This is a very special call set before you in the life of the newly baptized child or adult. You may be questioning just what is a Baptismal Sponsor. If so, know that you are not alone. Hopefully, this guide will help answer this question and any others you may have and with God’s help, assist you in living out this call to the best of your abilities. Again, congratulations and thank you for accepting this call. Should you ever have any questions please feel free to call the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church at 319-643-5998 or drop an email to: pastor@wbbethany.org.

Why is being a Sponsor such an important call?

One of the things the Bible tells and shows us about life as a Christian is that it is about being part of a community. It is being incorporated into something much larger than ourselves. The church is the body of Christ, the communion of all the believers.

As such, one way the church lives this out and supports the newly baptized is by surrounding them with sponsors who will accompany them on their faith journey. While this is a special invitation set before you remember that you are not expected to have all the answers. You are called, with the whole church, into a relationship with this new child of God to surround him or her with the love of Christ.

What else does a Sponsor do?

In addition to being a guiding and nurturing presence in the life of your Godson or God-daughter (in the case of an infant, child, or youth) you will also stand up with the child’s parents on the day of baptism and speak for the child who is not yet old enough to speak for himself or herself. You will promise to support the child’s family as they bring up this child in faith and you are also promising to be a spiritual mentor for this child yourself. Please know, there is no right way to do this.

So just how can I support my Godchild on his or her ongoing faith journey?

There are so many ways to be involved in the life of your Godchild, even if you live a distance from her or him. You may even be reading this and be worried you will not be able to be a good enough spiritual mentor. Know that is not the case. God has called you for a reason. You will forever have a special bond and connection with your Godson or God-daughter. And, as has been stated earlier, you are not alone! You have people to walk with you and of course, God is always near.

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. - Isaiah 41:10

There are many things you can do. At the top of that list is to pray for your Godchild often and let him or her know you are praying for them. You can also remind your Godchild he or she is a baptized child of God and is loved by God no matter what he or she does in life.