

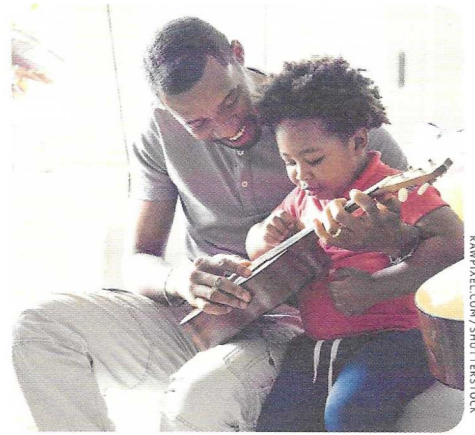
Dear Padre,

I've been asked to be a godparent. I'm honored but also a little hesitant. What does a godparent have to do?

Congratulations. It is an honor to be a godparent. Hesitancy is appropriate, too, as it is also a responsibility. The Church takes baptism very seriously. As a godparent/sponsor, you represent the larger Catholic community into which the child is being received. Church law requires several qualifications for being a godparent/sponsor. As a Catholic, you should have been baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist. You must be a practicing Catholic and at least sixteen years old (though some dioceses may have other age requirements). You should understand the meaning of baptism and the responsibilities that you will undertake on behalf of the Church.

Parishes often include godparents in the baptismal preparation programs they offer to parents. This baptismal instruction might challenge you to examine your life. The power of your good example cannot be emphasized enough. A child may not understand the behavior of adults, but the child sees their actions. You cannot tell a child to pray if you yourself don't pray.

Don't be scared off by all this. You are being invited to participate in the most important day of this child's life and to continue being involved as the child lives and grows. Don't let it be just a day of pictures and a party. If you let it, this day may change your life, too. ●



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 9 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17	January 10 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 2:5-12 Mk 1:21-28	January 11 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 2:14-18 Mk 1:29-39	January 12 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 3:7-14 Mk 1:40-45	January 13 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 4:1-5, 11 Mk 2:1-12	January 14 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 4:12-16 Mk 2:13-17	January 15 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

How many foreigners, including persons of other religions, give us an example of values that we sometimes forget or set aside! Those living beside us, who may be scorned and sidelined because they are foreigners, can instead teach us how to walk on the path that the Lord wishes.

HOMILY, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, OCTOBER 9, 2016