

**THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

**SO YOUR ARE A GODPARENT!**

**Many Christians are asked to be sponsors at the Baptism of a newborn child. This is looked upon as an HONOR, as indeed it i: but it is also a solemn RESPONSIBILITY which lasts a lifetime.**

**Our Lord called Baptism a second birth. Just as an infant is born physically of a father and mother, so a child is born again spiritually, having spiritual parents called sponsors. And just as natural parents have serious obligations for the care and upbringing of their child, so Godparents have important duties to their Godchildren. In Particular, is it to see to that the child receives a Christian upbringing in the bosom of the church.**

**This means, then, that Godparents are not to forget their Godchildren after the the Baptism and Chrismation. Sponsors can remember them on their “spirtual birthdays” and can give them gifts or tokens having religious significance, such as an icon, prayerbook, Bible or Cross.**

**Surely there must be prayer for the Godchild. And if parents themselves neglect the spiritual nurture of their children, then it behooves the Godparents to bring every effort to bear to see to it that the child received a good Christian education. It is obvious from all this that Godparents themselves must be baptized and good members of their parishes. They must know the Faith and live it. It is the duty of parents, therefore, to choose Godparents with considerable care.**

**The lovely icon of the Birthgiver of God and Child Jesus serves to remind us of the need for Christian nuture of children. Parents and sponsors must coordinate their efforts in this vital holy task.**