

Helping Your Sponsor Fulfill His/Her Commitment to You!

Your sponsor will represent the entire Catholic Christian community as he/she stands with you as you are anointed with Chrism. Your sponsor's hand will be on your shoulder – representative of the support he/she has provided throughout your preparation and of his/her recommendation that you should become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

Each candidate for Confirmation is to select his/her Confirmation sponsor. A sponsor must:

- Be at least 16 years old;
- Be a Confirmed Catholic who has received the sacrament of Eucharist;
- Lead a faith-filled life and be a Catholic in good standing;
- Not be the mother or father of the candidate.

In accepting this commitment to be Confirmation sponsor, the sponsor should:

- Be a Christian witness in both words and deeds;
- Offer support to the candidate as he or she moves through the teen years, which may or may not include times when faith is questioned;
- Be able to challenge the candidate when words and actions contradict Catholic Christian values;
- Be introduced or know the candidate's parents;
- Be willing to participate with the candidate in liturgy and in Christian service.

Because of the relatively brief time given for formal preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is difficult to schedule a time when all candidates and all sponsors can meet. This is one reason why the selection of your Confirmation sponsor is so important – this is a person with whom you can freely talk about matters of faith and consciences as you walk these steps towards the Bishop to be Confirmed.

This is why we are asking you to schedule at least two opportunities to meet with your sponsor, either in person or by telephone (please – not electronically!) to discuss some matters of faith. The purpose of this faith-sharing component is to promote dialog between the candidates and their sponsors in order to assist parents in leading their children to love and serve God in daily life.

Throughout the time of preparation, sponsors should seek to support candidates and their families. They should help candidates become aware of their reasons for wanting to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. At the same time, know the entire Church community, as represented by the parish of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, also will be praying to support each candidate, his/her family and sponsor as Confirmation day approaches and beyond!

Sponsor Talk Forms are provided to guide these conversations. **We ask these forms be returned, along with service and retreat reflections, to your catechist (if in class) or to the RE Office by December 17.**

Sponsor Talk Form #1 ~ Faith and Life

Candidate's Name: _____

Date/s of Sponsor Talk: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Please discuss the following questions/statements with your sponsor and answer the following Reflection Questions completely. Use the back of the form if needed.

1. What does your sponsor believe about the importance of faith in God? Explain.
2. The reason your sponsor thinks attending Mass is important is. . .
3. Describe how your sponsor experiences his/her faith life.
4. According to your sponsor, how does an active faith and Church life help the rest of your life?
5. According to your sponsor, what is the most challenging aspect about being a Catholic Christian?
6. Every week we make a profession of faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. This Creed contains the beliefs of our faith. With your sponsor, read over the creed. Christians of every century have held strongly to these beliefs. Some have sacrificed their lives to defend them. Ask your sponsor to share why these beliefs are important to him/her – and then answer:

Why are these beliefs important to you?

Sponsor Talk Form #2 ~ Prayer and Service

Candidate's Name: _____

Date/s of Sponsor Talk: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Please discuss the following questions/statements with your sponsor and answer the following Reflection Questions completely. Use the back of the form if needed.

1. When do you pray? How do you pray?
2. What does prayer mean to you?
3. We sometimes speak about for ACTS of prayer: Adoration (love), Contrition (sorrow); Thanksgiving, and Supplication (request or petition). A healthy prayer life includes all of these. Consider your own prayer life. What approach do you use most often? Least often? Why?
4. Look up the Sermon on the Mount (The Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5 to 7) which includes the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12). Together with your sponsor, review the Beatitudes. This is how Jesus taught us what we must do to be his followers. What do the Beatitudes mean to you?
5. How do the Beatitudes relate to the attitudes needed for Christian service? In what way(s), do you lead a life of Catholic Christian service?
6. How can you be a Catholic Christian healer or peacemaker?