

SPONSORS BROCHURE

A **parish sponsor** is a companion or guide to an adult or family with a child who is celebrating the Easter sacraments through the Christian Initiation process.

As a representative of the larger parish community, a sponsor offers personal support, encouragement, and represents the Catholic way of life. A sponsor stands as witness to the candidate's conversion - i.e., moral character, faith and intention. This is done both publicly at rites and in private during interviews with the RCIA team.

Sponsorship is a three-way conversation between you, the person you are sponsoring and God. Sponsors share their faith experiences but also listen confidentially to the candidate as he or she discerns God's loving presence in life and the call to deepen that relationship with God through the practice of the Catholic faith.

Hospitality is key. Sponsors take the initiative to welcome a candidate to the parish. Suggested outreach includes: introductions to other parishioners, invitations to parish activities and gathering for Sunday worship and fellowship.

Sponsor Activities

Pray with and for your candidate.

Sit with your candidate at Mass on Sundays and invite him or her to stay for coffee and donuts after Mass.

Invited them to attend parish functions such as picnics, plays, pancake breakfasts, etc.

Encourage them to join parish organizations and participate in service opportunities.

Send a card, e-mail or make a phone call to just say hi and keep in touch.

Requirements to be a Parish Sponsor

Sponsors must be at least 16 years old and an active, fully initiated Catholic (celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in good standing with the Church.

Parents cannot be sponsors for their children.

A spouse is encouraged to participate in the process, but cannot sponsor his/her spouse.

Sponsors for adults are expected to attend the weekly Tuesday Night sessions. Sponsors for families attend the

Monday night sessions.

Attendance at the various rites is required.