

# Sponsor Expectations

Thank you so much for saying yes to the young man or woman who asked you to help them prepare for Confirmation. The brief description below and the additional reflection pages attached will give you a good start in your role as a Confirmation Sponsor. If you have questions or need to talk about modifying any expectations, please contact Craig or Becky Swanson, Confirmation Coordinators, at St. Patrick Faith Formation Offices: 715-386-9209, press 2, then 8.

This is intended to be a two year journey. Other than the Letter of Intent the other sheets and topics can be used at any time over the two year period.

We will schedule a sponsor meeting in the fall that we hope you will be able to attend. At that meeting we will explore the spirituality of the sponsor's role in the process of Christian Initiation.

## **Sponsor/Confirmation Candidate Activity and Discussion Sheets**

You are expected to meet with your candidate in an ongoing basis throughout the confirmation preparation process. To help you in this process we have outlined four general topics that can be covered over any number of meetings.

- ✦ Review/discuss hand-out called "Mass Reflection." Our hope is that you will be able to attend one or two Sunday Masses with your candidate and spend some time with them to discuss the questions included in the hand-out.
- ✦ Review the "Life in Christ" hand-out with your candidate and make a plan to meet with them over a number of months to complete this short Bible Study. The recommended readings are listed on the handout along with discussion questions.
- ✦ Meet with your candidate to discuss the handout on the gifts/fruits of the Holy Spirit. Help them to identify which gift(s) they are most seeking to develop through Confirmation and encourage them to write a short paragraph on the gift and why they would like to ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen that gift/quality in them.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve as a sponsor.

May God bless your time together and send his Holy Spirit to be your guide as you assist your candidate in building a strong foundation in Jesus Christ.

# Mass Reflection

Confirmant & Sponsor Mass Attendance



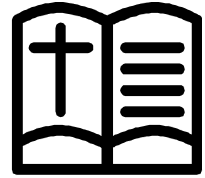
Please have your candidate discuss the following questions after attending a mass together. If you are unable to attend the mass together at St. Patrick's Church it is of course acceptable to attend mass together at a different Catholic Church. The importance of this exercise is that you and your candidate are able to share the experience of attending a mass together where you are fully present, listen, try to understand, and fully participate in the celebration together.

**These questions are meant to be discussed by both the Candidate and Sponsor.**

1. How did you feel after attending Sunday Mass/Liturgy with your sponsor/candidate?
2. Did you understand the Liturgy of the Word (the readings)? What key word or phrase jumped out at you? Did the Homily (sermon) offer insight into what God was saying to you?
3. What does the "real presence" mean to you? How could you be more conscious of the presence of Christ at mass?
4. Think about your experience at mass and your participation level (do you sing and pray out loud, lend an ear to the readings and relate them to your life, understand the homily, share the sign of peace with those around you and partake in Communion. Ask your candidate to choose one area to grow in from now until their Confirmation day.
5. In addition to participating at mass as a part of the body of Christ, there is also a chance for you to share your gifts through liturgical ministry. Opportunities available to you prior to confirmation are gift bearer, greeter, usher, music ministry, altar server or reader. Are their Liturgical Ministries in which you as a sponsor serve? Are there liturgical or other church ministries where your candidate is called or thinks they might like to serve? Discuss the role of ministry in your lives.

# *Life In Christ*

Sponsor & Candidate Bible Study



## **Background**

As a disciple of Christ we are called to walk in his footsteps by leading a life of service. Since God marks each of us differently with our gifts, talents, and treasures we each have a unique way of serving others. The challenge lies in recognizing and using our gifts, talents and treasures to serve others. The gifts we are given are brought to full measure when they are shared.

## **Scripture Lessons**

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages together with your candidate. Then discuss the passages by answering the questions for each of the scripture readings. Be sure to pray before reading the scriptures so that your minds will be opened to the word of God and that the Spirit reveals himself to you as you discern and seek to understand what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

Read and discuss the questions on the back of this page for each of these readings.

Note: It is intended that this process may take several meetings between the sponsor and candidate. There is no time limit. Simply sit together with the word of God and see where that leads you.

## **Readings:**

- John 7:37-39
- John 14:15-17; 25-27
- Acts 2:1-13
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Romans 12:1-21
- Luke 7:20-49
- Matthew 18:1-35
- Mark 4:1-20

(Discussion Questions on Back)





## ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit?***

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the gifts that incline (draw) us to the prompting of the Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are unmerited and are not for our self-glorification but intended for the building up of the body of Christ – the Church.

***Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge,  
Counsel, Courage, Reverence,  
Wonder and Awe***

- What is **wisdom**? (the ability to look at reality from God's point of view)
- What is **understanding**? (it enables us reflect on the deeper meaning of our faith)
- What is **knowledge**? (it helps us to gain more complete grasp of our faith and God in the world)
- What is **counsel**? (right judgment – it helps us form our conscience in light of Jesus' teaching)
- What is **courage**? (it gives us the strength and courage to do the right thing)
- What is **reverence**? (reverence of the Lord, respecting the dignity of others, and genuine humility).
- What is **wonder and awe**? (utter amazement at the power of God's love and mercy shown to us)

## ***Fruits of the Holy Spirit:***

These are the results from inviting the light of the Holy Spirit to not only burn within us but to guide and inform our decisions. The hardest thing we will ever do is to learn how to discern our selfish desires from our desire to be Christ to others. Through prayer and discipline the process of discernment becomes second nature to us. As we listen the Spirit prompts us to seek the will of God over our own.

***Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity,  
Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control***



One of the ways to identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to look at the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The reception and practice of spiritual gifts lead to spiritual fruits.

### **Questions for you and your candidate to discuss:**

- Which of these fruits do you find in abundance in your life? What gifts of the Spirit have helped you to attain these spiritual fruits?
- Which of these fruits do you lack or need in your life? What gifts from the Spirit would help you to develop these fruits in your life?