

## **ROLE OF THE SPONSOR** *(Please give this information to your Sponsor)*

### **What is a Sponsor?**

A sponsor is a mentor for the Confirmation Candidate. It is suggested that a godparent be the Confirmation sponsor because it shows the unity between the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If the sponsor is not the godparent, the sponsor **MUST** be at least 16 years old, a practicing Catholic who has received the following three sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The sponsor must lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken. The sponsor is a person who shares his/her life and faith with the candidate. S/he will spend time with the candidate ~ talking and listening with/to the candidate. A sponsor is an example of what the candidate is becoming ~ a practicing Catholic: he/she goes to Sunday Mass regularly, volunteers his/her time to serve others, prays and lives a moral life. A sponsor will go to Mass with the candidate, will talk to the candidate about his/her faith life and journey, will talk to the candidate about the preparation for Confirmation, will pray with and for the candidate throughout the preparation and the rest of the candidate's life. A sponsor is supportive, caring, and enthusiastic about his/her faith and will share that with the candidate. **Parents and step-parents may not sponsor their own children.**

### **What a Sponsor can do with and for the candidate:**

- **MUST ATTEND THE SPONSOR/CANDIDATE Sessions at the end of Year 2.**
- Attend the Rite of Becoming a Candidate
- Attend Sunday Mass with the candidate
- Spend time with the candidate during and after the preparation for Confirmation
- Be a Spiritual Guide by sharing your Catholic faith/life story
- Attend the Covenant Mass
- Be a good companion:
  - ~ Spend time with the candidate.
  - ~ Be a loving presence in the candidate's life—a Christian model for him/her at all times.
  - ~ Discuss with the candidate what is going on in his/her life, and what the Confirmation process has meant to both of you.
- Pray with and for the candidate
- Share good as well as bad times, events and situations with the candidate

### **What the Sponsor needs to complete and return to the Youth Ministry Office:**

- Complete the **SPONSOR CERTIFICATE** and return to the Faith Formation Office or hand in at a Sponsor/Candidate Session. The certificate must be completed in its entirety, signed, and sealed by the Pastor of the sponsor's church. Even sponsors who are parishioners of St Michael Parish need to complete a sponsor certificate. **The Certificate is due by March of Year 2.**
- Complete a **LETTER TO THE CANDIDATE** affirming, supporting and encouraging the candidate. This letter will be given to the candidate at the Confirmation Retreat and is meant to be a **SURPRISE**. Please seal the letter in an envelope and address it as follows:

Name of Candidate  
Care of Carlo Stebbings  
St. Michael Faith Formation  
401 S. Main St  
Newark, NY 14513