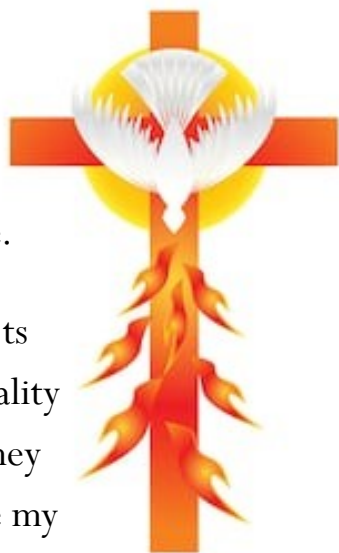


SPONSOR'S PRAYER



Welcoming Lord, stand by me.

Favor me with insight into hearts
hungry for welcome, with hospitality
to accept and respect the gifts they
bear, with the generosity to share my
gifts, and with faith to share
the gift that is You.

Fill me with your powerful Spirit,
that I might lead, guide,
sponsor, and support.

Speak your Living Word to me and to
the one I sponsor along Your Way.
And when I do not know what to say,
keep me quiet, Lord, and let
Your Spirit do the talking.

Amen.

CONFIRMATION

St. Ignatius, Hickory

Not too long ago, the sponsor for Confirmation was a friend or relative who showed up at the ceremony of Confirmation — and that was about the end of it. Well, the Church has now returned to an ancient practice whereby the sponsor has an active and practical role in the initiation process. A person often wanted to join the Church because of a Christian's personal example. Naturally, that Christian became the interested person's sponsor.

The sponsor walked with the new member, helping him or her understand the way of Christ and the Church. The sponsor served as a model of what it meant to be a person committed to journeying in the way of Christ.

That is where you come in. Today, the Church has reclaimed this ancient way of sponsoring new members. The Church recognizes sponsors as people who are guides, models, friends, companions and witnesses — responsible people the parish entrusts to accompany the candidates on their way towards the sacrament of Confirmation.

A young candidate for initiation from St. Ignatius, Hickory parish has chosen you to be his or her sponsor as he or she approaches Confirmation. Are you ready for it? You probably are, for the role you have been asked to play is not as scary as it sounds. In fact, sponsoring a young person on the way to Confirmation can be an exciting and rewarding adventure for you both.

A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who has been Confirmed and is at least 16 years old. Must be registered in a Parish as well as practicing and living their faith. Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children.

BEING A SPONSOR

SUGGESTED WAYS TO SUPPORT A CANDIDATE

- ✦ Help the Candidate become aware of his or her reasons for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✦ Help the Candidate understand and appreciate the sacrament of Confirmation, and have the right intention for receiving it.
- ✦ Help the Candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and to become actively involved in the life of their parish.
- ✦ Support the Candidate and their family, and be a good example of Catholic Christian living.
- ✦ Meet with the Candidate on a regular basis for Mass, prayer, faith-sharing, reading Scripture, and discussions about the Christian life.
- ✦ Help the Candidate understand what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.
- ✦ Present the Candidate to the bishop for Confirmation.
- ✦ Ensure that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.
- ✦ Continue to encourage the confirmed person to live a Catholic Christian life through:
 - prayer and the celebration of the sacraments
 - living the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - turning to other Catholics for support and guidance
 - studying the Catholic Faith

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SPONSOR

You will be called upon to participate in the following activities:

- ✦ Complete the **Sponsor Certification Form** and turn it into the Parish Office by **October 3, 2021**.
- ✦ Pray for your candidate during the Day of Awakening on **Sunday, September 12 or 19, 2021** and attend the Mass of Enrollment that day at the 12 pm Mass.
- ✦ **Write a letter to your candidate**, prior to retreat, outlining what you feel are their gifts and talents and pledging your continued prayer and support. **Due by October 27, 2021**.
- ✦ Accompany your candidate to the Sponsor/Candidate Gathering on **Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM**.
- ✦ Meet with your candidate on a bi-weekly basis throughout the entire preparation for Confirmation and the following year, to **provide the candidate with guidance and faith-building**.
- ✦ Commit yourself to **daily prayer** for you candidate.
- ✦ Be willing to contact **Ken Goedeke**, Youth Minister at **410-879-0959** or **kgoedeke@stignatiushickory.org** if you have any questions or concerns.
- ✦ **Join with St. Ignatius, Hickory and your candidate** in celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm** (rehearsal begins at 4:30 pm).
- ✦ **Continue to support the newly-Confirmed** person as they discover more about the wealth of their faith.