

## **Sponsor & Candidate Encounters:**

### **Explanation & Options**

**Goals: To emphasize the importance of faith sharing and the role of sponsors in the faith formation process as lifelong mentors & companions on journey of faith.**

**Instructions:**

- Read through the Sponsor & Candidate Encounter Options
- **Choose *two* Encounters** to complete as a necessary component of our Confirmation Preparation Program
- Complete that Encounter & associated proof-of-completion email by the date in the schedule
- Complete additional encounters as you please to continue to facilitate faith-based discussion and sharing between sponsor & candidate, no proof-of-completion emails needed for additional encounters

**Proof Of Completion Email Instructions:**

- Sponsor & Candidate together write an email to the Confirmation Director (Mrs. Catherine Broussard) that answers the following questions:
  - Which encounter did you choose?
  - Why did you choose it?
  - What is one thing that stood out to you from completing this encounter?
  - When did you complete this encounter?
- This email should be sent to [CatherineS@st-george.org](mailto:CatherineS@st-george.org) with the subject line of “[Last Name] | Confirmation | Sponsor/Candidate Encounter”
- **You should send one email for each encounter you complete. See schedule for due dates.**

*Note that each encounter option will have instructions on how to access the content or components of said encounter, please read through those instructions and if you have further questions about any encounter reach out to Mrs. Catherine at least one week prior to the due-date.*

**Encounter Option 1 | Sponsor & Candidate | Adoration**

- **Components:**
  - Access to an Adoration Chapel [see Adoration Supplement for times & info]
  - Journal/notebook
  - Bible and/or Rosary
- **Estimated Time:** 90 minutes
- **Instructions:**
  - Go to an Adoration Chapel
  - Spend approximately 60 minutes inside in quiet adoration - if you need ideas for focusing on something in Adoration see below:
    - Pray a Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet
    - Read the Gospel of John Chapter 6
    - Journal your thoughts & prayers
  - Follow the 60 minutes of adoration with some discussion together, using the prompts below
- **Reflection/Discussion Questions:**
  - What do you like about Adoration? What's difficult about Adoration for you?
  - What comes to mind when you look upon the Eucharist?
  - How does Adoration help reveal God to you?
  - Do you feel like God was looking at you as much as you were looking at him?
  - How did you choose to pray in Adoration? What was easiest? What stood out to you?

**Encounter Option 2 | Sponsor & Candidate | *A Chosen Experience***

- **Components:**
  - Access to watch *The Chosen* [Available on Prime or through the Chosen App]
    - Season 2 Episode 2
  - Bible Supplement A [Episode 2:2]
- **Estimated Time:** 90 minutes
- **Instructions:**
  - Together read aloud the scripture passage for the episode you chose
  - Watch the episode in its entirety
  - At the conclusion of the episode, again read the passage aloud
  - Follow the reading with the discussion questions below - perhaps take time to answer them yourselves before discussing your answers together.
- **Reflection/Discussion Questions**
  - ***Episode 2:2***
    - What was the same about the episode & the scripture passage? What was different?
    - Have you ever felt like you hit rock bottom? Like your world was crashing?
    - Why do you think God allows us to crash sometimes in life?
    - Which character in this episode did you relate to most? Why?
    - What stood out to you the most in this episode? Why?

**Encounter Option 3 | Sponsor & Candidate | *The Heart of God in the Word of God***

- **Components:**
  - Bible or Bible Supplement B
  - Journal/Pen/Pencil
- **Estimated Time:** 45 minutes
- **Instructions:** *Lectio Divina Together*
  - See Supplement C for detailed instructions on the steps of Lectio &/or watch Fr. Josh Johnson's "What is Lectio Divina?" Video available on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKYEoc3ik9k&pp=ygUaam9zaCBqb2huc29uIGxlY3RpbYBkaXZpbmE%3D>
- **Reflection/Discussion Questions:**
  - What word or line stood out to you most in this passage?
  - What do the talents represent to you?
  - Why was it wrong to bury the talents?
  - Who did you picture yourself as in the meditation? Why?
  - What would you do if you were entrusted with a lot of money to make money for someone else?
  - Why would we be given unequal amounts of talents?
  - What are you going to take away from this scripture today?
  - How can you let this passage transform your relationship to God?

**Encounter Option 4 | Sponsor & Candidate | *Made for Mission***

- **Components:**
  - Access to Dynamic Catholic's *Decision Point* Session 11: You can access the videos and content for this encounter by following the links below, or by simply googling "decision point confirmation program" and navigating the Decision Point website.
  - <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/decision-point-session-11-0.html>
- **Estimated Time:** 60 minutes
- **Instructions:**
  - Watch the videos either together OR separately [ALL of Session 2's videos except 11.3]
  - Answer the discussion questions for each segment below
  - Discuss your answers together and come up with a goal for strengthening your respective prayer lives and habits
  - Read Psalm 141 together (see Bible Supplement C)
- **Reflection/Discussion Questions:**
  - Make sure your candidate knows that they are loved. That they are enough. That they are here for a purpose, intentionally created by our God. If you get nothing else across this session but those point, you've gotten across what matters. I recommend you skip section 11.3 in order to talk about this more.
  - 11.1: In what ways do you think the world is a mess?
  - 11.1: How do you sense God is calling you to make the world a better place?
  - 11.1: What's one thing you can do today to make the world a better place?
  - 11.2: Who do you know who has found and followed their mission in life?
  - 11.2: Have you ever asked God what mission he has for you?
  - 11.2: How do you think what you want for yourself is different than what God wants for you?
  - 11.4: Who do you know who is great at serving other people?
  - 11.4: What does the story about the rich man and Lazarus make you think about?
  - 11.4: Do you think you will be happier if you find and follow your mission?
  - 11.5: What are you afraid of?
  - 11.5: How available are you to God?
  - Do I know that God loves me?
  - Am I open to saying "yes" to God? Will I allow God to radically change my life?

## Bible Supplements:

- **Bible Supplement A: *The Call of Philip & Nathaniel* | *John 1: 43-51***

- The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Beth-sa’ida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathan’a-el, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathan’a-el said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathan’a-el coming to him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathan’a-el said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathan’a-el answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

- **Supplement B: *For Lectio Divina* | *Parable of the Talents* [Matthew 25:14-30]**

- “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

(see next page for Lectio Divina Steps)

○ **Lectio Divina Steps:**

■ **LECTIO: TO Read**

- Read the passage aloud 3 times:
  - The first time, do not analyze, note, or make any marks
  - The second time, notice if something jumps out to you. Circle it. Highlight it.
  - The third time, focus on that which stood out to you while letting the rest of the passage provide context

■ **MEDITATIO: TO Meditate**

- Take turns reading the passage aloud each one more time
  - Use your imagination to put yourself into the scene. Ask yourself:
    - Who are you in the scene? An observer? On the boat? Waking Jesus up? Jesus?
    - What do your senses understand? How does the water feel? The rain? Are the waves loud? Is the storm noisy? What voices do you hear? Do you taste the salty water of the sea? Are your clothes soaked through? What does it smell like? Is there sudden silence after the storm is calmed?
- Set a timer for 2 minutes after reading the passage aloud and let yourself continue to ponder the above questions, especially around anything that stood out to you in the passage.

■ **ORATIO: TO Pray**

- Set a timer for 2 minutes & privately start a conversation with God
- Bring to him whatever it was that stood out to you - word, phrase, sentence, or **nothing**. You didn't do this wrong if nothing stood out to you. Ask him what he wants you to do with it. Surrender it to him Tell God about your day, about your worries, your joys, your trials
- *Listen* to God. A conversation goes two ways.
- Together pray a 'Glory Be' when the timer goes off

■ **CONTEMPLATIO: TO Contemplate**

- This is where you *rest* in God's presence. He is all around you. Set a timer for 3 minutes.
- Sit in quiet, trying to have your thoughts only be on God
- *When* you get distracted, acknowledge the distraction and bring it to God. Repeat as needed
- When the timer goes off, read the passage aloud a final time.

- Move to the discussion questions. Take 10-15 minutes to answer them each for yourselves before sharing them with one another and discussing differences, highlights, struggles, etc.

**Bible Supplement C: *For Made for Mission* | *PSALM 141***

I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.  
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.  
Do not turn my heart to any evil,  
to busy myself with wicked deeds  
in company with those who work iniquity;  
do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me;  
let the faithful correct me.  
Never let the oil of the wicked anoint my head,  
for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.  
When they are given over to those who shall condemn them,  
then they shall learn that my words were pleasant.  
Like a rock that one breaks apart and shatters on the land,  
so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol.

But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord;  
in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.  
Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me,  
and from the snares of evildoers.  
Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I alone escape.

## **Adoration Supplement:**

### **St. George:**

- Hours: Monday 7 AM - 6PM, Thursday 7 AM- 7 PM, and Saturday 6 AM - 8:30 AM
- Access Code: None needed
- Chapel Location on Campus: At the corner of Kinglet drive and St. George Drive, entrance through our Marian Prayer Garden.

### **Most Blessed Sacrament:**

- Hours: 24 Hours/7 Days with access code
- Access Code: 1108\*
- Chapel Location on Campus: Enter off of Jefferson Hwy, park on left side of church, Chapel door is at the end of church building.

### **Sacred Heart:**

- Chapel Location on Campus: On the back side of the church - enter through the door at the top of the ramp in the parking lot behind the church.
- Hours: Sunday – Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please call the Parish Office at 225.387.6671 to obtain the door code for entry. Please note: Security details are not provided.
- Information: The (heart)doors on the Tabernacle can be opened during your visit and closed when the chapel is unoccupied. The restroom is inside the chapel behind the crucifix adjacent to the statue of the Blessed Mother.

### **Our Lady of Mercy:**

- 445 Marquette Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-926-1883
- Hours: 24 hours / 7 days a week
- Access code: None needed
- Chapel location on campus: Near prayer garden between church and parish office