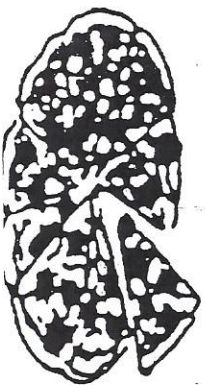


## Sharing A Meal Together

A meal is a wonderful celebration that brings us together in so many different settings. Sharing a meal together enables us to experience life with each other on an informal basis. Try to find some time to take your candidate out for a meal and share your gratefulness for having been chosen as a sponsor. Just enjoy being together. One of these occasions could also be a good opportunity to discuss questions provided on the following page. Let your candidate know your willingness and support in helping him/her live out the Confirmation commitment.



# PIZZA

## Sponsors Represent the Church

Although the responsibility toward those preparing for Confirmation is with the whole parish, it is difficult for a large group to minister personally to each candidate. That's why your role as sponsor is important. you are the **personal** representative of the church for the candidate.

## Sponsors Are Companions

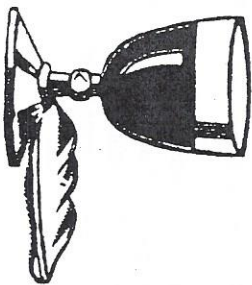
Being a sponsor means that you serve as a companion or guide. You are asked to walk with the candidate on his/her faith journey. From the beginning, be open to the realization that this process can be just as much of a journey for yourself as it is for the one you sponsor. Welcome this opportunity as an occasion to renew your own faith life. Your own openness to spiritual growth will help the person you sponsor be more open to growing in the faith.

## A companion needs to be available.

Assure your candidate of your willingness to help whenever you are needed. Most of the time the need is to offer support when there is hesitation, understanding when there is doubt, or comfort when there is inner conflict. Occasionally the candidate may need to be challenged by you when his or her effort or enthusiasm weakens.

## Sponsors Are Models and Witnesses

Being described as a model for faith can be frightening! Faithfully participating in the Sunday Eucharist is one of the more important ways of witnessing to our Catholic way of life. The desire to **celebrate the Sunday Eucharist on a weekly basis** with the community is one of **the most important criteria** by which the candidates can judge their own readiness to celebrate Confirmation. They may need your encouragement or your willingness to accompany them in order to live up to this commitment.



Confirmation catechesis also includes helping the candidates become more aware of their responsibility as Catholic Christians to **reach out to others in service**. Jesus was truly a person for others. By our Baptism and Confirmation we, too, have been given that challenge to be of love and service to others. Please try to join your candidate in a service project or include him/her in a ministry in which you are already involved.

Welcome this opportunity of being a sponsor as an occasion to renew your own life of service.



## A Sponsor Prays

Being a Confirmation sponsor is not only a special privilege but also an awesome responsibility. Prayer will help you carry out this special ministry. In fact, your role as sponsor can serve as an incentive to deepen your own prayer life. In prayer one learns to rely upon the Spirit for guidance so that our Catholic faith may be handed on more effectively.

A rich source of prayer can be found in our day to day experiences. The people we encounter, the places we visit, our successes and failures, all that fills our memories can be the subject of reflection and prayer

The Scriptures are also a great source for prayer. Learning to take just a few lines from Scripture and spending time in silent reflection on the message can be a rich experience. The Sunday Scripture readings are an excellent source for this type of prayer.

Finally, do remember to say a prayer **each day** for your candidate. Pray, too, for the grace to be a supportive sponsor.





## *Sponsor's Prayer*

*God of all ages,  
you sent your Spirit to  
touch the hearts of people  
so that they may believe in you and in Jesus, whom  
you sent to teach us your ways.*

*Look kindly on all our Confirmation  
candidates as they listen to your voice.  
Open their hearts to your Spirit so  
that you may bring to fulfillment the  
good work which you have begun in them.*

*Deepen my faith in the Gospel so that  
I may pass it on by the way I live my life. If someone  
is hesitant or afraid, let me offer encouragement.  
If someone is weak, let me be a  
source of strength.*

*I pray that you will guide me in my ministry  
as sponsor. Continue to sustain me as I offer my  
support to this young person whom you  
have entrusted to my care.*

*I praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Dear Sponsor,

Congratulations on being chosen to be a special kind of friend to a young person preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation! As a sponsor you take on a lifelong commitment to help your candidate live out the responsibilities that accompany this sacrament. Through your companionship with the one you sponsor, you will pass on the spirit of the Church.

In order to do this, it is important that you keep in close contact with the candidate so you can share your own faith, knowledge and experiences of being a Catholic Christian.

The Confirmation preparation program here at St. John's will give you several opportunities to be with your candidate. One of which is at the 'Rite of Enrollment' which will take place at the Sunday Eucharist. We ask that all sponsors attend if at all possible.

Your ministry as a sponsor will allow you to sense how God works through you to help form the mind and heart of the one who seeks to be confirmed. As a sponsor, accept and value the gifts you have received from God. It is your own faith values, your love for God and the Church, as well as your love and respect for others that will ultimately serve you best in helping prepare your candidate for Confirmation.

Be grateful and proud to participate in such an important work of the Church.

My God bless you in this special ministry!