

Choosing a Sponsor

What is a Sponsor? A sponsor is your guide, your Catholic friend, on your faith journey. Think about how important friends are in your life. The guidance, strength, love and encouragement that you get from your friends is the same as you should get from your sponsor. He or she will be there to support you, to challenge you, to pray with you, to share with you, to listen to you and to be your spiritual friend.

At your **Baptism** your godparents were chosen to be your guides. Your parents and godparents, promised to raise you in the Catholic faith. They spoke for you and professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself.

In **Confirmation** you will speak for yourself; you will renew your baptismal promises. You will choose your guide. You are encouraged to choose one of your godparents, if they are close and have been active and supportive in your life. You may however, choose a new guide. Your sponsor should be a baptized Catholic who is confirmed and regularly participates in Sunday Eucharist celebrations. He or she must be at least 16 years old. **Your parents may not be your sponsors.**

Some questions to ask yourself in choosing your sponsor:

Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable sharing my faith?

Is this person willing and able to take an active role in my life?

Does he or she participate in the liturgy regularly?

Does he or she live a faith-filled life?

Will he or she challenge you to a deeper faith commitment through his or her own faithfulness?

Write a paragraph explaining why you have chosen your sponsor. Include what it is about the way they live their faith that attracted you to choose them.

Please return your paragraph and completed sponsor form to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, January 11, 2009.

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PLEASE PRINT

CANDIDATES NAME:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
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SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPONSOR'S PARISH: _____

Each sponsor needs to provide a Sponsor Certificate. The certificate states that you are a member of a parish and a practicing Catholic. You can obtain this certificate, by contacting your church's parish office and requesting one. It can be mailed or faxed to our office.

265 Baker Street
Berea, Ohio 44017
Fax 440-243-8411

If you are a member of St. Mary of Berea, we will contact the Rectory and obtain your certificate for you.

This form needs to be completed and returned to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, January 11, 2009.

Important Dates for Sponsors:

Sunday, February 1, 2009 12:00 pm Mass at St. Mary's Church - Rite of Enrollment for all Candidates and Sponsors

Saturday, March 14, 2009 Confirmation Retreat for all Candidates Sponsors invited to attend 5:30 pm Mass and Dinner following

Thursday, May 14, 2009 6:30-8:30 pm St. Mary's Church - Practice for Candidates and Sponsors

Sunday, May 17, 2009 12:00 pm Confirmation Liturgy at St. Mary's Church
