

SPONSOR GUIDE

Thank you for serving as a sponsor to our St. Thomas More youth!

Sponsors must be aged 16+, in good standing with the Church and have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Parents cannot sponsor their own teens. As a Confirmation sponsor, you have some very important and specific functions! The Church describes them as: Developing a faith relationship with the candidate. Accompanying the candidate, if possible, to special liturgies. Standing with the candidate before the bishop and the community helping the candidate live as a follower of Jesus.

Sponsor Checklist:

- **Register online** as a sponsor by Oct. 1.
- **Add to your calendar** the possible Confirmation Mass dates (Feb. 11, April 14, April 15) and rehearsal dates (Feb. 8, April 12). The Archdiocese will finalize our dates in mid-Oct., and an announcement will be made.
- **Obtain recently-printed copy of your Baptismal certificate with notations showing First Communion and Confirmation** and turn in to Youth Minister by Oct. 29. Alternatively, all three copies of these certificates can be turned in. These can be handed in, mailed, or scanned/emailed to: rebeccah@stmp.org. As a substitute for unobtainable certificates, you may attempt to request that your current registered parish fill out the Sponsor Verification Form.
- **Attend two sponsor sessions** (Oct. 8th & Nov. 5th)
- **Engage with your candidate** at least once a week (see suggestions below)
- **Consider volunteering** as a Confirmation Retreat chaperone (Jan. 12-14)
- **Attend Confirmation rehearsal and Mass** (final dates TBA).

Sponsors are asked to attend all required dates. However, if there is a serious reason a sponsor cannot attend, such as poor health or living out-of-state and unable to travel, then you may arrange with your candidate for a proxy to stand in for you. Proxies must meet the same eligibility requirements as sponsors, except that parents may serve as proxies.

Suggestions for carrying out your sponsor ministry (some may not be possible if you live far away, but be creative):

- Arrange opportunities to spend time with the candidate. Talk, pray or read scripture together. Go to Mass, Confession, or do special devotions together. Keep in contact with your candidate in-person or on the telephone and by e-mail.
- Discuss with the candidate the efforts, progress and problems experienced in preparing for the reception of Confirmation. Help them to study the basic faith concepts and discuss their class work. See if there are any questions or concerns. Offer suggestions and encouragement.
- Perhaps you can help the candidate choose service projects. You might even be able to help carry one out.

Take time for yourself, to strengthen your relationship with God. You could spend time quietly reflecting, journal, or talk with a friend. Regular reception of the sacraments is paramount. Ask yourself: What did my candidate teach me about my faith this week? What did I learn about myself? What can I do to encourage my candidate in his/her faith life? What do I want to especially pray for this week?

We pray that your role as a sponsor will be an enriching one.

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

**God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit to
touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.**

**Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit and
bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.**

**As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your
love.**

**Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help
me to pass it on by my example.**

**With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.**

**I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide
me and sustain me.**

We praise you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.