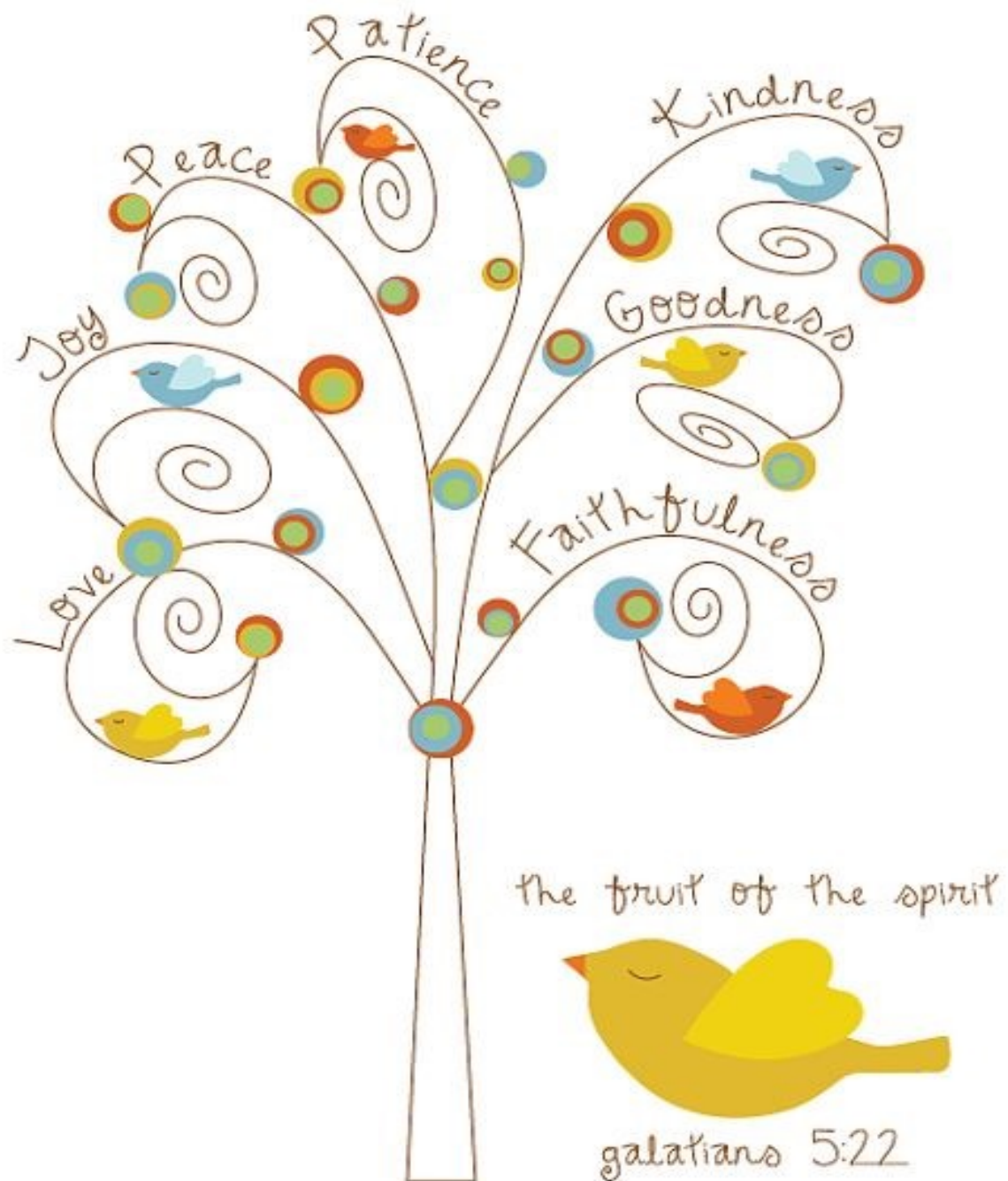


Confirmation Sponsor Faith Sharing Guide



*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your Faithful,
kindle in them the fire of your Love!*

Welcome, and congratulations!

You have been invited to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation at St. Benedict Catholic Church. This is an invitation of great honor and responsibility. “Sponsor” is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. Your candidate has identified you as a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. With this honor comes the responsibility to guide and support your candidate as he or she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation and faith journey. You are called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to your candidate for the rest of your life.

You may have questions and perhaps even some hesitations about your role as sponsor. This guide will help you become an effective sponsor by renewing and encouraging your personal growth in Catholic Faith and life. This Sponsor’s Guide includes practical ideas for engaging your candidate and provides clear answers to questions that are often asked by teens and adults about the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith.

The most important and effective part of your sponsorship is prayer. May the Holy Spirit inspire and encourage you as you accompany your candidate on the journey to the fullness of life in Christ.

Sponsor Faith Formation Information Sheet

Requirements of the Sponsor:

1. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, Baptism and Confirmation, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents (CCC 1311).
 - §1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in (COC 874).
 - §2. It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism. (COC 893 §1, §2)
2. The sponsor must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation and be a practicing Catholic in good standing. If married, they must be married by a Catholic Priest or Deacon.
 - Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:
 - 1/ be designated ...by the parents,...pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
 - 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age...;
 - 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed, received the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
 - 4/ NOT be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
 - 5/ **NOT be the father or mother of the one to be baptized or confirmed.**
 - Can. 874 §2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness.
3. When deciding on a sponsor, choose someone to whom you can talk about the faith, who will also be a good role model for you to follow and who will take an active role as your sponsor in your life.

COC The Code of Canon Law by *The Canon Law Society of America Coriden, Green, Heintschel*

Sponsor Faith Sharing with Candidate

What is my primary role as Confirmation sponsor?

A sponsor has three primary roles: to assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation, to present the Candidate for Confirmation, and along with the parents, to help the confirmed person to live out his or her Christian life faithfully.

The Role of the Sponsor

The sponsor represents the support and prayers of the entire Church. He or she will be the candidate's "spiritual friend." In this program, the following is asked of the sponsor:

- **Submit sponsor verification letter from your church as soon as you are asked but no later than September of your candidate's 10th grade year.**
- **Pray for your Candidate during his or her retreat and submit an Affirmation letter** telling them how special he or she is to you, etc. Check with your candidate for his or her retreat date.
- Share your faith story with your candidate.
Spend time getting to know the candidate, possibly taking him or her out to lunch, or having dinner with his or her family. Use this booklet as a guideline.
- **Attend Confirmation Rehearsal (if sponsor is unable to attend, please bring a proxy). Check with your candidate for the rehearsal date.**
- Present the candidate during the Liturgy of Confirmation.
- Continue to lend spiritual support after the Rite of Confirmation.
(Suggestions: Send a card or note every year on the anniversary of his or her Confirmation, birthday cards, etc.)

These are several ways you can help your candidate.

- **Share your own experiences.** Lead him or her closer to Christ by telling your candidate about your own spiritual Journey.
- **Spend time talking and listening.** Help your candidate grow in understanding and acceptance of Christ and the teachings of his Church.
- **Pray for your candidate regularly.** Pray that he or she will not only come to know about the Faith but also will encounter Christ while preparing to receive the sacrament. As a sponsor, commit to lifting your candidate up in prayer every day.
- **Encourage him or her to grow in virtue** and to set aside any habits that would prevent his or her soul from being fully open and ready to receive all the gifts that God wants to give through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

To help guide you this booklet is divided into three parts: Prayer, Community Service, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. I hope this helps you both with sharing your faith journey together.

A. PRAYER LIFE

PRAYER

Holy and Loving God,
We ask You to be present to us and guide us on our journey of prayer.
Send Your Spirit upon us to kindle the fire of Your love in us.
Speak a deep desire in us to love and know You.
This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SHARING MY FAITH

When do you pray? How do you pray? What does prayer mean to you? Do you feel that your prayers are answered? Why or why not? Jesus teaches us to be bold in prayer.

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mk 11:24)

OUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE TOGETHER

- Pray the rosary together
- Attend adoration together
- Attend Mass together
- Encourage each other to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation to discern God’s will
- Read the Bible and discuss scripture together.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICE

PRAYER

My God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

SHARING MY FAITH

What are you doing to show you are really interested in being a member of this faith community? Talk about your recent service in our community and in your parish. How did you feel helping others? How do you think the people felt when you helped them? Reflect on ways both of you can help others and plan a time to do service for our community together.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Lk 10:27)

Read Luke 10:25-37

Have you ever been in a situation that someone needed you? Did you help? Were you too busy?

In the Good Samaritan story which person are you? Why?

If a person found themselves lacking in compassion toward others, how would you suggest that they develop a compassionate heart?

OUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE TOGETHER

- Soup kitchen
- Habitat for Humanity
- St. Vincent de Paul
- North Fulton Community Charities
- Shrine of Immaculate Conception Collecting Men’s Shelter Clothing
- Others

C. GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.

SHARING MY FAITH

Read Corinthians 12:4-13 (One body with many members, many gifts). Paul reminds us that unity amid our differences is central to who we are as Catholics. He sees in the community different gifts but always the same Spirit; different works and deeds, but always the same God working through them; many people to be baptized – Greeks and Jews, slaves and free – but all part of the same body.

- What are your gifts? How does God work through you to touch others with his love and courage?
- Share the spiritual gifts and Christ-like qualities you notice in each other.
- How did you experience God this week through someone's gifts?

Reflect on the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom (Wisdom 7:14; Sirach 1:23, 14:20-27; Proverbs 2:1-6). This is a gift that develops over time. A wise person has learned how to look at life from all perspectives, to see and understand the “whole picture” of a situation. *Q: When have you seen others (in our family, in our world, in the Communion of Saints) act with wisdom?*

Understanding (Wisdom 3:9, Proverbs 24:3). This gift is the ability to see from another person's “heart”, to feel the feelings of others and to put these before our own. *Q: Have you had the experience of feeling that another person absolutely knows how you feel? Name some ways that understanding is needed in the world.*

Knowledge (Proverbs 19:27; 24:3-5). This gift is the ability to find important information and facts and look at them objectively and intelligently. *Q: The more knowledge you have about the world, the better you will be able to make wise decisions and to assist others. Can you think of a person you respect because he or she is knowledgeable and acts for the good because of this knowledge?*

Courage or Fortitude (Psalms 118:6, Philippians 1:12-14). This gift is the ability to follow our convictions and conscience no matter what the cost. Courage gives us the strength to do what is right in spite of obstacles and difficulties. *Q: Can you think of a time when you managed to get through a difficult situation? Explain. This is the gift of fortitude at work.*

Counsel (Sirach 32:16 – 19; 37:7-15; Proverbs 15:22). This gift is the gift in which a person is open to others' insights about a problem and to working with them to solve that problem. Q: *Have you had an experience when someone listened to you and then helped you make choices that would help solve your problem?*

Piety or Reverence (Psalms 118:23-24, 29; Sirach 42:15-25; 43). The gift of piety is devotion and reverence to God and God's people. Q: *What is your favorite way to pray? This is one of the ways the gift of piety works in you.*

Fear of the Lord (Isaiah 29:23; Sirach 32:13; 43:28-35). A great awe and reverence for Our Lord, which keeps us from offending Him by sin. The ability to be amazed by things in life, to be awake to the realization that we are always in God's presence. The gift of wonder and awe tells us that God created the beauty of the universe, but also cares for us, listens to us and love us beyond all measure. Q: *Have you ever had a time when you strongly felt God's presence?*

Prayer

***Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.***

***Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work too may be holy.***

***Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy.***

***Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.***

***Guide me then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.***

-St. Augustine

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