

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# **St. Michael the Archangel Pastorate Confirmation Sponsor's Handbook 2021**



**Sacred Heart / St. Augustine / Sts. Peter and Paul  
318 N McKinley Ave  
Rensselaer, IN 47978**

**For questions please contact:**  
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## Confirmation Sponsor and Candidate Manual

Dear Sponsor,

Welcome to the St. Michael the Archangel Confirmation preparation process. As a sponsor, you are taking on a commitment to pray for and work with the candidate this year as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. More importantly, you are also forming a bond of Christian fellowship with the candidate that will hopefully lead to a lifetime of prayer for one another. ***A sponsor is to be an example of Christian living and represent the Church by supporting the candidate, praying with the candidate, and challenging him or her to live a Christian life.*** As you work to prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, take this opportunity to discover more about yourself and learn more about the challenges and joys of being a Catholic; it is both an honor and a great responsibility to be a sponsor!

During this time of preparation the candidates will be challenged to really begin to make the faith their own – through a commitment to prayer and weekly Mass and active participation in the parish. They, like all of us, are asked to prioritize their busy lives and see that God is the foundation of each day. It is emphasized that God is meant to be a part of everything that we do, and that there is a direct connection between their openness to God and the graces that He wants to pour out into their lives. This year is so important in their faith, journey, and life; it will also be a time of many changes. Our team of catechists pray that you too will experience great growth in your own faith.

This “Sponsor Handbook” will help you prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. ***You will be asked to meet with the candidate on 5 separate occasions and go through the topics in this packet together. The questions will be answered by you, the sponsor, and you will be asked to give us your perception of the candidates’ readiness for the sacrament.*** Your responses are read thoroughly and taken seriously and they are a large part of the candidates overall preparation for the sacrament. Throughout the following pages there are also activities that you may choose to do with your candidate throughout this year to help each of you grow more together in the faith. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you!

In Christ,



Father Joshua Bennett  
Missionary Pastor  
St. Michael the Archangel Pastorate

***Come Holy Spirit, kindle in our hearts,  
the fire of your Love.***

# Sponsor's Expectations

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR?

According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the sponsor is a man or woman who knows the candidate, helps them, and witnesses to their morals, faith, and intention. It is a responsibility in their life, to help candidates through doubts and anxieties, to their baptismal life. Their responsibility remains important when the new member has received the sacraments, and needs help to remain faithful to his or her baptismal promises. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Nos. 42, 43).

### Sponsor Checklist:

- Have at least **5 hours** of discussion with your candidate.
- **Complete** each of the 5 discussion topics in the booklet and a written "letter of recommendation".
  - Turn in the sponsor booklet to the Pastorate Office by **July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
- Complete and turn in the Confirmation Sponsor Certificate form by **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**.
- Attend the Rehearsal, **Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 2pm CT**. at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Rensselaer and Confirmation Mass on **Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:30pm CT at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Rensselaer**.
- Periodically, check in with your candidate regarding his/her fulfillment of the candidate's expectations.
- Continue to pray and be a spiritual presence in the candidate's life!



## Session One – Creed

We begin our profession of faith by saying: “I believe” or “We believe.” Before expounding the Church’s faith, as confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy, and lived in observance of God’s commandments and in prayer, we must first ask what “to believe” means. Faith is man’s response to God, who reveals Himself and gives Himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #26).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions about discipleship. (Special note: The Catholic Youth Bible also has reflections on the scriptures that are good discussion starters.)

***Mark 1:16-20 Mark 1:40-46 Mark 2:15-17***

### Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think God might be saying to you through this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you respond to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How have you accepted Jesus’ challenge to be His disciple? How can you become a better disciple?

### Activity:

- Read the **Nicene Creed** together and discuss each line of it. Talk about why we say the Nicene Creed together at Mass.
- Discuss the different parts of the creed and what they mean to our faith as Catholics.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,  
catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sponsors, please answer the questions that correspond to each session each time you meet with your candidate, your responses are taken seriously and reviewed prior to Confirmation.**

## **Session 1: Creed**

**1.** Write down your impression of your candidate's present state of faith development in relation to being a disciple and acceptance of the creed.

**2.** What specific tasks/assignments did you ask your candidate to work on in relation to this topic?

**3.** What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?



## Session Two – Prayer

Only when we humbly acknowledge, “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2559).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

***Matthew, chapters 5-7, Luke 6:46-49, Luke 10:29-37, Luke 12:22-32***

### Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think is the purpose of prayer? How often do you pray and what importance does prayer have in your life?

2. What are some obstacles that affect your prayer life? Brainstorm to find practical ways to overcome these obstacles.

3. How will your prayer life improve your participation in the weekly Eucharist?

### Activity:

- Attend Adoration together or;
- Go to Stations of the Cross or;
- Attend Mass together.
- Pray a special devotion together – ie: rosary, novena, etc.
- Have a discussion about what different types of prayer forms works best for you.

1. What is your candidate’s current perception of prayer? What are some ways that they are open to having an active prayer life.

2. What specifically did you do with your candidate to challenge him/her to broaden and strengthen their prayer life?

3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?



## Session Three – Liturgy

In every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to from his Body. The Holy Spirit is like the sap of the Father’s vine, which bears fruit on its branches (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1108).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

*Matthew 25:31-40 Luke 10:29-37 James 1:19-27 Mark 2:1-12*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is your attitude toward going to Mass? Has this always been your attitude? If not, how has it changed and why?

2. What is something you would like to “improve on.” (Example: Paying attention more during Mass).

3. What prayers do you say after receiving the Eucharist, are there new ones that can be learned?

### Activity:

Attend one of the following together and have reflection time after:

- Sunday or Saturday Mass of Holy Obligation
- Holy Day Mass
- Vespers
- Talk about the liturgical seasons of the Church:
- Learn the Holy Days of Obligation
- Do something special together for one of the feast days.
- Do a special devotion together during the season of Advent/Lent.



### **Session 3: Liturgy**

1. Does the candidate have any trouble believing that Jesus is actually present in the Eucharist and in the community during the Liturgy?

2. What ways did you work on increasing the candidates understanding of the Mass?

3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?



## Session Four – Service

The laity can also feel called, or be in fact called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life. This can be done through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #910).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

***Matthew 25:44-45 Isaiah 58:6-7 Luke 14:13-14***

### Reflection Questions:

1. How does the Bible discuss the topic of service?

2. What kinds of service projects are you involved in?

3. Would this be a service that you would want to continue? Why or why not?

### Activity:

- Discuss what parish ministries you can become involved with after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Example: Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Reader, Youth Ministry, etc.)
- Find opportunities for service within your family or neighborhood and work on a project together.

## **Session 4: Service**

1. How were you able to help the candidate recognize some talents that they specifically have that may be of service to the parish, community, school, etc.?

2. In what way were you able to help the candidate to find a concrete way to put these talents to use?

3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?



## Session Five – Witness

To be a confirmed member of the faith community requires a willingness to “go public” and to make Jesus visible to society at large by one’s own actions and behaviors. For youth and many adults, to witness essentially means that they will provide a good example to others by their words and actions. It takes a willingness to demonstrate to others what Jesus stands for and to oppose those evils that destroy the rights and dignity of others.

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

***Matthew 28:18-20 II Cor. 5:20 Acts 1:8 Romans 10:14-15 Matt. 10:7 2 Timothy 2:2***

### Reflection Questions:

1. What are some obstacles to being a witness that you face in your school, home, peers , etc?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are some ways that you can be a witness to others by your words, actions, etc.?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Name some people who are a good witness to you in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The Church recognizes many who are great witnesses to the faith, who is a saint you admire? What is it about their witness that is impressive to you?

### Activity:

- Read some of the lives of the Saints together. (Help the candidate focus on a Saint who will be a good role model to emulate for their Confirmation name.)
- Discuss concrete ways that the candidate can be a witness in their surroundings.
- Encourage your candidate to attend one of the many events that inspire youth to witness to their faith:  
Example: **March for Life, Destination Jesus Retreat, NCYC, Youth Group, CYO, etc.**

## Session 5: Witness

1. What are some ways in which you were able to help your candidate realize their ability to be a witness of their faith?
2. What were some of the ways you were able to focus your candidate on the examples of Christian witnesses?
3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?





## Baptism/Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

St. Michael the Archangel Pastorate  
318 N. McKinley Ave  
Rensselaer, IN 47978

**THIS FORM IS TO BE SIGNED BY THE SPONSOR AND HIS/HER PASTOR/PRIEST.**

### THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Although one of the Confirmation candidate's godparents is the ideal, this is not the only choice. (CCC 1311)

Godparents and sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function... bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255) Like parents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them.

Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, The Trinity's Embrace), the Godparent/sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I \_\_\_\_\_,  
Godparent/Sponsor's name

A REGISTERED MEMBER OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish name City, State

ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO BE THE GODPARENT/SPONSOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's name

**In accepting this responsibility, I solemnly swear that the statements are true, so help me God:**

- I am at least 16 years of age (unless dispensed by the pastor).
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I am not invalidly married outside the Catholic Church.
- I attend Mass weekly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation and receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance regularly.
- I am not a parent of the candidate for baptism and/or confirmation.

**I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a Sponsor and I promise to be a support and example that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and I am prepared to assist the Candidate by my support, encouragement and prayer.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Signature

### PRIEST'S CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Godparent/sponsor candidate is a registered member of this parish in good standing and to the best of my knowledge, is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of Godparent/Sponsor.

Parish Seal (must be present)

Priest Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_