



St Mary Catholic Church
Sponsor Night

Rushville, IN

18 September 2016

Sponsor Night - Schedule

- 5:30p – Split Sessions
 - Sponsors in Multipurpose Room with Fr Gries
 - 8th graders in 4th grade room
Tom Giesting & Dr Steve Sickbert
- 6:15p – Joint Session I
- 6:45p – Break
- 7:00p – Joint Session II
- 7:30p – Closing Prayer

Sponsor Night – Split Session

- What is Confirmation
 - Sacrament that seals and strengthens one with the Holy Spirit
 - Welcomes us and deepens our belonging to the faith community – Church
 - Deepens our relationship to Triune God
 - Strengthens us as disciples
- Ok, so what is a Sacrament?
 1. Exterior Sign
 2. To bestow Inward Grace
 3. Instituted by Jesus Christ

Sponsor Night – Split Session

- Ok, so what is a Sacrament?
 1. Exterior Sign
 2. To bestow Inward Grace
 3. Instituted by Jesus Christ
- One way that God loves us and calls us
- God's love expressed as free, undeserved gift
- Sacrament is God using visible signs to communicate invisible love
- Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
Confession, Anointing, Marriage, Holy Orders

You're a Sponsor.
Now what?



Joy &
Happiness



Sponsor Night – Split Session

Congratulations! You have been chosen by a young person for a special role.

As a Confirmation sponsor, you have accepted a responsibility that is an honor in our Church.

Your role is to spiritually walk with the candidate

Means you need to be walking with Christ and the Church

Your special role does not end at the Confirmation liturgy; you will help the young person live the Holy Spirit.

Sponsor Night – Split Session

About the Candidates:

- Freely choosing Confirmation
- State of Grace to receive
- Adequate Knowledge of Catholic Faith
- Practice/Live their Faith
 - Including regular (i.e., weekly) Mass attendance
- Committed to continual Spiritual and Religious Growth with Jesus Christ and Church

As Sponsor, you can aid & facilitate the above

Sponsor Night – Split Session

About the Sponsor:

- Baptized, First Communion, Confirmation
- Married in the Church
- Committed to Lifelong learning of Catholic Faith
- Committed to continual Spiritual and Religious Growth with Jesus Christ and Church
- Practice/Live their Faith – model for others
 - Including regular (i.e., weekly) Mass attendance
- Missionary Disciple of service to others

Sponsor Night – Split Session

What do Sponsors do:

- Pray for your candidate
- Encourage your candidate
- Discuss Faith with your candidate
- Help answer questions for your candidate
- Invite your candidate to be involved in Parish
- Walk with your candidate

Sponsor Night – Split Session

Twenty Tips for Sponsors:

1. Participate with youth in activities
2. Establish regular times/ways of communication
3. Encourage youth to journal
4. Discuss how & why to make life-choices
5. Recommend & share in spiritual reading
6. Encourage prayer/discussion/understanding about vocations
7. Ask open ended questions (why, how, when)
8. Share in service together

Sponsor Night – Split Session

Twenty Tips for Sponsors:

9. Encourage the youth to become involved
10. Explore different types of prayer & devotionals
11. Discuss Scripture or Sunday Readings
What would you talk about if you had to write a homily?
12. Keep a prayer list – persons, intentions, situations that you pray for together
13. Help your candidate remember their Baptism
14. Support your candidate in their everyday life & struggles

Sponsor Night – Split Session

Twenty Tips for Sponsors:

15. Support Mom & Dad of youth
16. Help youth to understand their Mom & Dad
17. Identify & Invite five people to pray for your candidate
18. Share how the Jesus Christ impacts your life
19. Share how the Church influences your life
20. Pray for the young person
21. Show humility, and ask the young person to pray for you!

Sponsor Night – Split Session

How do I share my faith?

- Ask them why they chose you to be their sponsor, they see something in you!
- Be willing to share your self, your stories of your faith life
- Don't talk down to, but talk across to
- Try to make connections between Gospel & their current life/situations
- Be willing to answer questions? Recognize you don't know? Look up answers & report back.
- Be not Afraid

Sponsor Night – Split Session

How do I share my faith?

- Affirm where you see Jesus in their lives
- Read the Scriptures & Catechism yourself
- Build a relationship with them, faith will follow
- Be authentic
- Be not Afraid



Sponsor Night – Joint Session I

Bible Time Line

- Video Session 21 on Pentecost
Start at 16:38 to 34
- Jeff Cavins



Sponsor Night – Joint Session I

Sponsor

- What do you remember of your Confirmation, share with your candidate
- Would you think & experience it differently today? why?
- Do you read the Bible? Why/why not?
- Have you ever been asked about your “personal relationship with Jesus?” What do you say?
- What other ways help you experience Jesus?



Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

Discuss how Baptism has shaped your life

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Mt 3:13-17)

How has the Holy Spirit been present in your life

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.(Acts 2:1-4)

*When has the Holy Spirit
helped you witness/evangelize*

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many... Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. (I Cor 12:12-13, 27)

How have you served the Body of Christ?

*When have you (and when have you not)
felt like part of the Body of Christ?*

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:42-47)

What is meant by the Apostle's teaching & breaking bread?

Are you joyous & sincere in prayer & Mass?

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas.” The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip... Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law...Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”(Jn 1:40-45)

How did Andrew and Nathan help?

How will your sponsor help you to know Christ?

Sponsor Night – Joint Session II

Whenever someone says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. (I Cor 3:4-6)

Have you ever doubted or questioned your faith?

Who did you turn to or how did you resolve it?