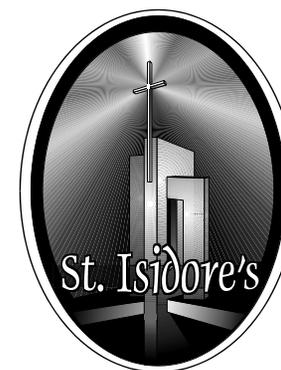


**St. Isidore's  
Catholic Student Center**

*Being an  
RCIA  
Sponsor*



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ST. ISIDORE'S

## What is an RCIA sponsor?

“What does a sponsor actually do?” is a question often asked, even by people who have already agreed to be a sponsor. The primary role of an RCIA sponsor is to support a person as they examine their relationship with God. You also help support them as they try to decide whether becoming a full member of the Catholic faith will help their relationship with God.

Although the responsibility of sponsor for a catechumen in the RCIA belongs to the whole Church, it is difficult for a large group to minister personally to each catechumen. This is where you fit. As a sponsor, you are the personal representative of the Church for the catechumen.

As a sponsor, you will not only sit with the catechumen during the RCIA meetings, but you will also serve as a bridge between them and the larger community, the Church. By following some of the “Check list points” in this brochure, you can help the catechumen feel welcomed by the larger Catholic Church.

One question many sponsors ask is, “Do I have to be the person with all of the answers?” Your role is not to have all the answers about the Catholic faith, but to witness to the faith by how you live your life. By sharing your faith experiences with the catechumen, you will be guiding them in their faith journey.

### Check list points for RCIA sponsors

- ⇒ Pray daily for all the catechumens, other sponsors and the team. Especially pray for the catechumen you are sponsoring.
- ⇒ Attend all RCIA meetings with your catechumen.
- ⇒ Call or visit with your catechumen at least once a week. These do not need to be formal visits, just doing something fun with them allows the opportunity for concerns or questions to arise.
- ⇒ Invite your catechumen to other events going on at St. Isidore's. There are various retreats, social gatherings, daily Mass and educational classes. All these events will be announced at RCIA meetings, but an invitation from you might help the catechumen feel a little more comfortable attending.
- ⇒ When you see your catechumen at Mass, or any other event at St. Isidore's, sit with them or ask them to join you in the activity.
- ⇒ Introduce your catechumen to other people you know at St. Isidore's. If you don't know many other people, maybe you could reach out and meet new people together.
- ⇒ Encourage your catechumen to not only attend Mass every Sunday, but to become involved in Sunday Mass. Encourage him/her to become a greeter, lector or choir member.
- ⇒ Take a trip with your catechumen to other Catholic churches in the area. Help them discover that not all Catholic churches are like St. Isidore's.
- ⇒ If your catechumen has strong roots in another religious faith, offer to learn some of his/her cherished prayers.
- ⇒ Invite your catechumen to go out for coffee. These occasions can be after Sunday Mass, or after RCIA meetings, or any other time during the year.
- ⇒ Encourage your catechumen to ask questions during the RCIA meetings. If they have a question, probably many others will be wondering the same thing.
- ⇒ Trust in the Lord! Be yourself. Stay genuinely interested in the catechumen, and your support will come across naturally. Keep a good sense of humor. Be ready to laugh and socialize with your catechumen, as well as to pray and study.