

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

SPONSOR & CANDIDATE ACTIVITY #1

Please complete this Sponsor & Candidate Activity by January 23, 2022.

Plan to spend 90 minutes with the candidate for this activity. Try to pick a site where the two of you will be free from continuous distractions and the business of everyday life. Local restaurants and parks tend to be good settings for one-on-one discussions. Sharing a meal together is a good way to begin or conclude.

HERE ARE SOME TOPICS TO DISCUSS DURING YOUR SESSION:

- Read, “John Baptizes Jesus”, from the Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17. Talk with your candidate about how God has been a part of your life, about the actions and values of Jesus which draw you to him. Talk also about whom the Spirit is to you and how you feel the Spirit is working in your life right now.
- If you were at the candidate's baptism, share some memories of that experience. Also share memories of your own Confirmation.
- Read “The Walk to Emmaus” from the Gospel of Luke 24:13-32. Discuss how Jesus is present in our daily lives, and how when we encounter Jesus we are changed. Talk about ways to encounter Jesus today.
- Discuss why the candidate chose you to walk along side of him or her for this journey of Confirmation preparation.
- Ask the candidate how the preparation is going. Ask him or her about the topics being discussed in the classes.
- End the activity with a short prayer.

Feel free to add to this list of suggestions. Try to make the activity more of a casual discussion than a formal question and answer session.

If any issues come up that you think the parish staff should know about or you want ideas for resources you can use, feel free to call Stephanie Snyder, Director of Youth Ministry, at 630-852-3303 ext. 6 or stephanie.snyder@ourladyofmtcarmel.org. We are ready and willing to guide the candidates, sponsors, and families through this preparation process.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

(Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus left Galilee and went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John kept objecting and said, "I ought to be baptized by you. Why have you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do." Then John agreed.

So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him."

THE WALK TO EMMAUS

(Luke 24:13-32)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him. Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"