



Creating Connection in Community – Spiritual Companion Experience at Saint Mark's

SMC parishioners share what it's been like to have or be a sponsor:

“Having a sponsor in preparation for confirmation was a wonderful gift and really made me feel so supported in the process. I chose my sponsor because she was someone I already knew at Saint Mark's and trusted, and I also knew that we shared some similar experiences in our faith journey. She was someone I can look to for guidance and she answered some of the questions I had about the process, as well as someone I can really talk to and relate to. It made me feel so supported on Cathedral Day to have her by my side and feel I had someone who was truly encouraging of my faith journey.”

[Adrienne]

“We set up a time to talk, and any shyness or insecurity I had just melted away within the first minutes of our conversation. My sponsor was warm and engaging and interested in hearing my story. We shared our journeys and laughed a lot. We talked a few more times before my confirmation and have deepened our friendship since then in so many ways. I realize now that this was my introduction into what a friend in Christ can mean – we share our journeys, celebrate and support each other, pray for each other....and I welcome seeing her smiling face whenever our paths cross.”

[Deborah]

“Being a sponsor for a baptismal candidate is a wonderful expansion of that sacred moment that all at Saint Mark's will know: drops of water falling gently on you, while you hear, "Remember your baptism". The time and space for connecting with a new companion in our faith journeys is precious.”

[Sarah]

“A simple way to talk about sponsoring someone preparing for confirmation is to use the language of walking alongside – sometimes quite literally. You meet, you go for a walk or sit down over coffee and begin to share stories of the journey. The context means that you don't have to spend a lot of time on the usual formalities – you both know why you're there, and so you can move pretty quickly into deeper territory.”

[Doug]

“Early Saturday morning on the day of the Great Vigil, I joined my sponsee in meeting with all four of our clergy members in Thomson Chapel, as they explained in depth the evening's liturgy. That evening I had a front row seat with my sponsee and family to watch all of the him at the baptismal font as he chose a full immersion for his baptism. It was a fine and moving experience!”

[Chris]