

# OCIA Sponsor Roles & Commitments

This form outlines the distinct roles and expectations for OCIA Sponsors serving **Catechumens** and **Candidates**. Please review the section that corresponds to your sponsorship role.

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## I. Sponsors for Catechumens (Unbaptized)

Sponsors for catechumens are companions in faith who walk closely with the catechumen throughout the OCIA process, offering prayerful support, encouragement, and witness to the Catholic way of life.

### Assignment & Timing

- Sponsors will be **assigned prior to the Rite of Entrance**.
- There are **three Rites of Entrance each year**:
  - January
  - May
  - September

### Formation & Participation

- Sponsors are expected to **accompany their catechumen at weekly catechetical sessions**:
  - **Sundays, 10:30–11:45 a.m.**
- Sponsors should actively participate in sessions, prayer, and parish life alongside the catechumen.

### Length of Commitment

- Commitment length will range from **11–16 months**, depending on the catechumen's Rite of Entrance.
- Catechumens will be **received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil**.

### Sponsor Responsibilities

- Pray regularly for and with the catechumen.
  - Attend weekly Sunday catechetical sessions with the catechumen.
  - Model participation in Mass, prayer, and parish life.
  - Support the catechumen through the various rites and periods of OCIA.
  - Offer encouragement, faith-sharing, and a listening presence.
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## II. Sponsors for Candidates (Already Baptized)

Sponsors for candidates accompany baptized Christians as they prepare for full communion with the Catholic Church or completion of their sacraments through an individualized formation process.

### Formation Track

- Candidates follow an **individualized formation plan** determined by the **OCIA Coordinator**.
- Formation is adapted to the candidate's background, sacramental status, and readiness.

### Meetings & Schedule

- **Sponsor and Candidate meet weekly** to discuss assigned topics.
- Meetings are flexible; sponsor and candidate may **determine their own time and place**.
- **Monthly meetings** with the **OCIA Coordinator** are required:
  - To share and discuss topics covered
  - To review progress
  - To amend the formation schedule, if necessary

### Reception into the Church

- Candidates will be **received into the Catholic Church when deemed ready**, as discerned jointly by:
  - The Candidate
  - The Sponsor
  - The OCIA Coordinator

### Sponsor Responsibilities

- Pray regularly for and with the candidate.
  - Meet weekly to discuss assigned formation topics.
  - Offer faith-sharing rooted in personal experience of Catholic life.
  - Attend monthly meetings with the candidate and OCIA Coordinator.
  - Assist the candidate in discerning readiness for reception into the Church.
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