

Mary's Nativity St. Ann



"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2)

Dear Confirmation Candidates,

You're on your way toward a deeper understanding of your faith and preparing to witness to your community that you have chosen to follow Jesus Christ, like so many of the Saints you have learned about. Below is a set of guidelines in order to help you make your decision in choosing a Sponsor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Faith Formation at marysnativitystannre@gmail.com 347-644-4857

The Role and Requirements of a Confirmation Sponsor

Because Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, the Liturgy of Confirmation is patterned after the Baptismal Liturgy. Sponsors will serve like the Godparents at Baptism. S/he will stand behind you at the Confirmation Mass when you step forward to be confirmed. You are encouraged to choose someone whom you consider to be a role model for living the Catholic faith. The requirements for a Confirmation Sponsor are listed below, followed by some information on how to choose a Sponsor.

- A sponsor must be a Catholic who practices the faith and has received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old
- If married, s/he should be married in church
- A sponsor need not be the same gender as the Candidate
- A sponsor may not be the parent of the Candidate
- We request a letter from your Sponsor's parish stating s/he received Confirmation and is a practicing Catholic

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Why have a Sponsor?

A Confirmation sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate (person preparing for Confirmation) as an example of a Catholic Christian living. At baptism, our godparents were given the responsibility (along with our parents) of helping to raise us in the faith. They promised to be models of Catholic living for us as we grew. For this reason, traditionally, our confirmation sponsors have been our baptismal godparents. Theoretically, we have spent much of our lives watching them and learning from them, so their presence as a sponsor at confirmation is a natural one for some.

Who can be a Sponsor?

We know that, for a variety of reasons, not all of us would be comfortable choosing a godparent as our Confirmation sponsor. Your sponsor can be any confirmed, adult Catholic that you choose. Your sponsor may be related to you (not a parent, parents already guide you). Your sponsor should be a practicing Catholic who has been a role model for you of what it means to live out the mission of a faithful person.

What is the role of a Sponsor?

Officially, the Church asks that a Confirmed member of our faith - present you to the bishop at the time of your Confirmation. However, your sponsor will have other, equally important roles in your faith journey. He or she will pray for and with you throughout your Confirmation preparation. Your sponsor will be asked to be present at Confirmation, the practice, and the Confirmation Commitment Ceremony. You will need to set aside time to meet with your sponsor to spend time together. Finally, your sponsor will make a commitment to help you continue on your faith journey and help to hold you accountable to the mission you will be empowered with after your Confirmation is over.

How should I choose my Sponsor?

It is important that you ask someone you can be comfortable with. They do not have to know everything there is to know about the Catholic Faith. The important thing is that they personally value being Catholic - a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Church. Is there a Catholic that you especially admire? Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor. Pray about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose the right person.