

Help along the way ..

Guidelines when choosing your CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Not too long ago, the celebration of Confirmation was almost a private affair between the bishop and the candidate. Some intensive cramming took place in the parochial school or the religious education program. The bishop came only every 3 or 4 years, so the classes were big. The parents and family (not to mention the parish at large) were invited only if there was room. *The sponsor for Confirmation was a friend or relative who showed up at the ceremony and that was about it.*

The bishop asked a few questions (some of them a little tricky) of the candidate. The ceremony was long, composed as it was mostly of a long line of candidates, waiting for the personal attention of the bishop.

Now, a lot of that has changed. Confirmation is seen as an initiation milestone. It is important for the life of the parish, and the roles of parents and sponsors have changed.

The candidate is receiving Confirmation because he or she has requested the sacrament personally. The sponsors should be people from the parish who will take an active role in the preparation. Parents should be regularly informed of the progress of preparation, and they too, take a more active role in both the preparation and the celebration.

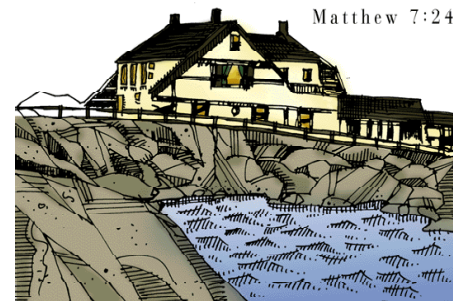
QUALITIES OF A SPONSOR

Here are some of the qualities a candidate can expect from a sponsor:

1. **Hospitality.** A sponsor must be a welcoming and inclusive person -- a host. The sponsor needs to be open to accepting and discovering the person and the gifts of his or her candidate. The sponsor helps establish a sense of belonging in the candidate.
2. **Prayerfulness.** By being a person of prayer, the sponsor will be a person responsive to the needs of the candidate and to the message of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Respectfulness.** A sponsor needs to be open and considerate. The sponsors need to value and esteem the opinions, ideas, gifts, talents, hopes, fears and feelings of the candidates with the utmost confidentiality.
4. **Generosity.** In today's somewhat frantic pace, just to be a sponsor takes a certain generosity. The sponsors will be called upon to be generous with time, talent, patience, and prayer. And the sponsors can't be stingy with their feelings
5. **Faithfulness.** Faithfulness does not mean perfection. But a sponsor should be a practicing member of the Church. In addition, the sponsors should be steadfast, seeking, open, and growing. In short they should be people on the way.

Therefore everyone
who hears these words
of mine and puts them
into practice is like a
wise man who built his
house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24



CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Who may be a sponsor?

- a sponsor should be **at least 16 years of age** and **fully initiated** through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- a sponsor **may be the same as the candidate's baptismal godparent**. This is an encouraged practice. As the godparent was present when the child was baptized into the faith, they can now witness to and support the young adult as he/she commits to the responsibility of their own faith journey.
- a sponsor **may be male or female** (A male candidate does not necessarily have to have a male sponsor, a female candidate a female sponsor)
- a sponsor should be **actively practicing their faith**
- a person **may be a sponsor by proxy**. If they are unable to attend the ceremony, someone may stand in for them.
- **parents may NOT** be sponsors

We will ask that you **have your sponsor have their own parish priest fill out the form to testify that they are practicing Catholic who fulfills the requirements for being a sponsor**. Forms will be made available for you.

If the person who you would like to be your sponsor has “fallen away” from the Church, invite them to return and tell them of the importance for you in having them as your sponsor. This is a real privilege and responsibility to be a good role model as a Confirmed Christian today.

Behold, now is
the acceptable
time,

behold, **now** is the
day of
salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

