

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is someone who journeys with the candidate during his/her preparation for the sacrament. In making this choice, the church recognizes that your sponsor is a partner in your formation, and asks you to be conscious of their influence, trusting they will act in your best interests and in Jesus' name. The sponsor will be asked to formally present you to the bishop at the Rite of Confirmation Mass.

What the Catholic Church says about sponsors...

The role of a sponsor is to "see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament." **The criteria the church asks for is that a sponsor...**

- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be fully initiated into the Church (received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation)
- Lives a life in harmony with the Faith and the role of a sponsor as mentioned above.
- Must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
- One of the Candidate's godparents may be elected as the sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- **Cannot** be the candidate's parent

Other things to consider...

- The sponsor should be someone with whom the candidate feels comfortable talking about faith and religion with.
- The sponsor should be someone the candidate looks to as a role model of the Catholic faith.
- The sponsor is not required to attend program sessions but will be asked to interact with the Confirmation candidate on a regular basis in regard to their Confirmation preparation. So, they should be aware of the program and retreat schedule.
- Should be able to meet in person at **least four times** during the year to discuss what you are learning in the program and your faith.
- The sponsor will need to be present at the **rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass**.

How do I officially designate someone as a Confirmation Sponsor?

In order to designate someone as your Confirmation Sponsor, you simply ask them if they would be your sponsor and then submit the attached blue form. Sponsors are also asked to submit the Confirmation Sponsor Letter of Reference from their home parish verifying their Catholic affiliation.

What Do Sponsors Do?

- Build a positive relationship with you.
- Nurture and support your faith journey.
- Invest quality time with the candidate.
- Pray for you throughout your faith journey

How do the sponsor and the candidate begin their work together?

Here are some activities to begin the process of crossing paths together. Use these as starter ideas to learn to work together as sponsor and Candidate.

- Go to Church together and grab coffee or breakfast afterwards
- In preparation for any Sunday Mass, read and talk about the Gospel reading ahead of time
- Take a trip together to some different Church, Basilicas or Shrines
- Participate with them in some other ministry in the parish
- Do a service project together

If you are having difficulties selecting a Confirmation Sponsor, please don't hesitate to contact Steph Haizel for help.

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