

What does a Confirmation sponsor do?

Sponsors affirm Catholic Identity and relationship with Christ.

As a confirmation sponsor you will support your candidate in the struggle to live the Christian life. This is not easy, and we continually must strive to do better. Therefore, regularly receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion sustains us as God gives us the grace, we need to live our state in life.

As a mentor of the Christian life, you will challenge the candidate on unchristian attitudes or actions. You will also pray with and for your candidate. **This relationship should continue in life well after the celebration has ended.**

Suggestions of things you can do with your Candidate:

- Be able and willing to listen and share your faith experience
- Give them a call or invite them to lunch or for coffee
- Invite them to Sunday Mass
- Send a card or email occasionally
- Pray for your confirmand every day and invite them to pray for you as well as for their personal needs and concerns
- Invite them to parish activities and go with them
- Participate with them in some other ministry in the parish
- Introduce them to members of the parish
- Encourage and affirm their growth in the faith
- Take a road trip together to some different churches to experience what is the same and what is different in different churches.
- In preparation for any Sunday Mass, read and study the Gospel reading ahead of time and talk about what you feel that Gospel is asking you to do.

Building a Relationship with your Candidate

You may feel some anxiety or nervousness, hesitancy, awkwardness but you should also experience growth, enthusiasm, friendship, joy, hope and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As a sponsor, we hope that you experience:

- Renewal and deepening of your faith
- Strong experience of community and belonging
- Better sense of identity as a child of God and mentor of a child of God

What are some topics that will be covered during Confirmation classes?

Use the Purpose Story Guide and the conversation starter questions in your packet to follow along with the topics for the year.

Tips when meeting with candidate be authentic and always pray with them during each session.

After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates will enter into a period of “Apprenticeship in the Faith” in which they will learn how to live their lives as newly confirmed Christians. **We encourage sponsors and parents to continue to show their candidate the importance of faith in every aspect of their life.**

What are some other resources to help me become a prepared sponsor and to help my candidate grow in their faith?

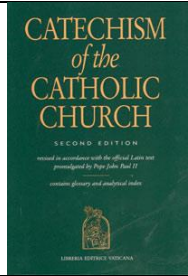
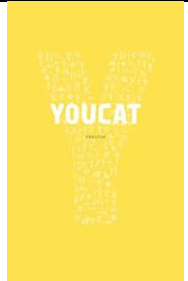
1) **The Bible** (e.g. New American Bible, NRSV Catholic Edition) Complete and approved **Catholic Bibles have all 73 books** and a special statement of approval called an Imprimatur. Each of our students was given the *Catholic Youth Bible*, so we encourage you to use that when you meet with your candidate to encourage them to look in their own Bible when they need the answers.

2) **The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

a. <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/index.cfm>

3) **Catechisms of the Catholic Church:**

There are several versions of the Catechism that are helpful when looking items up. If you want to know what the Catholic Church teaches on topics like: The communion of the Holy Spirit, what is prayer and why it is God’s gift, what the church actually says about homosexuality or marriage, ect.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) is the official catechism promulgated by St. John Paul II, arranged by topic. You can use the online version at: http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/files/assets/basic-html/page-1.html#	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The YouCat (the new Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church) is a condensed version of the CCC aimed at middle school/high school students. It is in the question and answer format to help youth better understand their faith.○ There is a YOUCAT Daily mobile app if interested.	

4) **SiriusXM Catholic Channel 129**

5) **Podcasts:**

- a. <https://www.archmil.org/TwoGuys>
- b. Christ is the Answer - Fr. John Riccardo, priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit
<https://avemariaradio.net/program/christ-is-the-answer/>
- c. **Catholic Stuff You Should Know** - Frs. John Nepil, Nathan Goebel, and Michael Rapp, priests of the Archdiocese of Denver <https://catholicstuffpodcast.com/>
- d. **The Word on Fire Show** - This is Bishop Robert Barron, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Talk: "We Must Go Out" - <https://wordonfireshow.com/>
- e. **Fr. Mike Schmitz** (look up his name on YouTube)
- f. <https://lifeteen.com/blog/ultimate-list-catholic-podcasts/>
- g. [Ave Spotlight](#)
- h. [Lust is Boring: Jason Evert](#)
- i. [Blessed is She](#)
- j. [Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- k. [Do Something Beautiful by Leah Darrow](#)

6) **Other:**

- **Blessed is she podcast, and daily devotional sent directly to your email**
<https://blessedisshe.net/devotions/>

If you want other resources, please don't hesitate to ask Steph Haizel.

How do I set an example as a sponsor during Mass?

Preparing for Mass

Getting ready for Mass includes ensuring you have made time for prayer and are away from distractions. One way is to read the Sunday Mass readings before Mass and to silently pray once you arrive in church. You can encourage your candidate to practice these and other ways to better prepare for Mass and to always observe simple church etiquette.

Dress Code

As a sponsor you are required to attend the Rite of Commitment along with other ceremonies that mark your candidate's journey to Confirmation. All of these ceremonies are celebrated within the Liturgy of the Mass. The confirmation candidates will be presented to the assembly and should present themselves in appropriate attire for each occasion— especially when presented to the Bishop at Confirmation.

Please set an example that at Sunday we are meeting with the Lord and should be so joyful to spend time with him and receive him in the Eucharist and come dressed nicely.

A little guide to help:

Ladies:

- Should avoid plunging necklines, spaghetti straps or halter tops.
- Should avoid bare stomachs and short skirts or shorts.
- Dresses, skirts, or nice slacks are encouraged.
- Avoid extra tight clothing
- Be comfortable but Do not wear pajamas to Church.

Gentlemen:

- Try to avoid casual T-shirts especially ones that make you look like you just got out of bed.
- Try to avoid ripped jeans.
- Be wary of what is written on your shirt. You should probably change if your shirt would offend others.
- Anything from khakis or Dockers with a nice shirt to a suit is acceptable.
- Be comfortable but Do not wear pajamas to Church.

This dress code is to be exemplary for all liturgical celebrations. This means that for Confirmation please dress at least business casual. Thank you!