



Holy Cross Faith Formation

7851 54th Avenue North St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

Phone 727-546-3315

www.holycrossrcc.com

Certificate of Eligibility for Sponsors DUE September 11, 2022

To be chosen as a Sponsor for Confirmation is a great honor that carries with it great responsibility, namely, to instruct, to encourage and to inspire the newly confirmed Catholic to live an authentic Catholic life. Therefore, in accordance with the Code of Canon Law (canons 872, 874, 892, 893) Holy Cross Catholic Church stipulates that a person who aspires to be a sponsor for Confirmation must:

1. Be a person of faith, suitable for this important role, selected by the candidate and his/her family, and have the intention of fulfilling the responsibility of sponsor, namely, to assist the young Catholic in living his/her Catholic life (see "Duties & Responsibilities" page).
2. Be a baptized and practicing Catholic who lives his/her faith in word and deed, has been Confirmed, attends Mass weekly, frequently receives Holy Communion, and makes a good confession (sacrament of Penance) at least once per year.
3. Follow all the laws of the Catholic Church (including those governing the sacrament of Matrimony).

As Sponsor for: _____
(Full name of youth to be confirmed)

I affirm my faith in Jesus Christ and attest that I live that faith through daily prayer, regular attendance at Mass (at least all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation), and that I follow all the laws of the Church (including those governing Matrimony). I have been Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church and frequently receive Holy Communion.

I have read the "Duties & Responsibilities" page and I understand the responsibility I am undertaking. I will do all in my power to assist in the Catholic formation of the person I intend to sponsor by the Catholic example of my own life, by my prayers for him/her, and by ensuring his/her continued growth in living and learning the Catholic Faith.

Signature of Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Information

Name of Sponsor: _____

Parish of Sponsor: _____

Location of Parish: _____

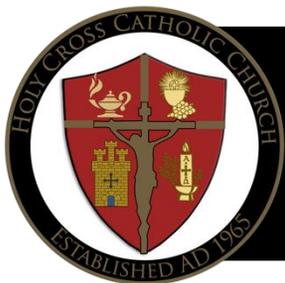
Sponsor's Parish Verification

Printed Name of Pastor: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN TO HOLY CROSS PARISH
7851 54th Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33709
727-546-3315
Email faithformation@holycrossrcc.com





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Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Duties & Responsibilities

The sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a great responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose **only one sponsor**; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), "The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person's godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor needs to be a registered member of a Catholic parish to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor. Moreover, a sponsor must have intellectual and physical faculties to be a sponsor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older.
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.
- Must not be a parent of the one to be Confirmed.

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Therefore, the following persons **are not eligible** to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church.
- Persons who miss Sunday Mass and Holydays of Obligation and/or consider Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation optional.
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage.
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children.
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their "Easter Duty" that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin.
- Those who give public scandal in any way.

If the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation Mass in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the above qualifications, may stand in for the sponsor during the liturgy. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, he or she must notify the Faith Formation Office in advance. A parent **may not be a sponsor**, though they may act as the proxy if the sponsor cannot attend.