

Role and Responsibility – SPONSOR

The role and responsibility of the **Sponsor** in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is vital and active. The Sponsor is an invaluable assistant to the parents in sharing the faith. The Sponsor needs to be able to fulfill the following requirements:

- The Church requires that the Sponsor be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, one who celebrates Mass regularly and shares time, talent & treasure with her/his parish. How can a person share what s/he does not have?
- It is expected that the sponsor be more mature, informed, and experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate.
- The Sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the candidate.
- The Sponsor should be an older person (not a peer or friend) who has some experience with his or her faith and, hence, a clearer perspective from which to speak. Parents may not be sponsors because it is already inherent in their role as parents. The purpose of a sponsor is to be another person to journey in faith with the candidate.
- We hope that the Sponsor will meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation.
- We would expect the Sponsor to be willing to attend sponsor meetings. The meetings are to update the sponsor's understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, to help the sponsor gain a deeper understanding of his or her role and responsibilities, and to suggest ways to deepen the relationship between the sponsor and the candidate.
- The Sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith, as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his or her life. The Sponsor will provide the spiritual support necessary as the candidate develops his/her prayer life.

It is expected that the Sponsor be able to meet and work with the candidate several times during the immediate sacramental preparation period. If this is not possible, contact Mrs. Farland and she will assign you a mentor from the parish community who will be glad to help.