

HOW TO CHOOSE A SPONSOR

Think about these questions:

- Who is a Christian model for you?
- Would you feel comfortable praying with this person?
- Could you talk to this person about God?
- Does this person attend Mass weekly?

The following guidelines have validity in selecting your sponsor:

1. The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age or older.
2. The sponsor should take an active role in the preparation of the candidate. The sponsor helps and guides the candidate in the Christian way of life and should take some responsibility for their continued spiritual development.
3. The sponsor should be spiritually qualified and sufficiently mature for this role. The sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic, i.e. they must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The sponsor acts as a witness and spokesperson for the entire Church. The sponsor presents the candidate to the Bishop and in doing this states that he/she feels the candidate is ready, not only to celebrate the Sacrament, but also to live a Christian life.
4. It is highly recommended that the godparents at Baptism be the sponsor at Confirmation; however, this is often impossible. Parents may present their child for Confirmation **but may not be the sponsor.**

Some vital questions about your sponsor:

- Is he/she a confirmed member of the Catholic Church?
- Is he/she sufficiently mature to help you be a better member of the Catholic Church?
- Is he/she a practicing Catholic (go to Mass every week)?

Practical Suggestions:

If the person you would like to be your sponsor does not live locally and, therefore, could not participate in your preparation program (can you and your sponsor use Skype, e-mail, phone), you should select a local sponsor.

THE CHOOSING OF A CHRISTIAN NAME

Many people choose an additional saint's name at Confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name (provided it is a Christian name, unlike Brandy, etc.) because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation.

If a new name is taken, however, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron's saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that the person led.

The Faith Formation office has many sources of names and biographies of Saints.



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Dear Sponsor,

Your name and address has been supplied to me by an eighth grader here at Immaculate Conception as he/she has chosen you to be his/her sponsor for Confirmation.

Please take the attached form to your parish and have the pastor sign and seal the form attesting that you meet the qualifications for sponsor for Confirmation. You may then return it to me at the above address.

To qualify to be a sponsor, you must be at least 16 years of age, confirmed yourself, and a practicing Catholic.

If you have any questions, please contact me using the information at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

Deacon Bill
Director for Religious Education

Attachment

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE OF ELGIBILITY

As a registered, participating member of _____ Parish, I affirm that:

I am at least 16 years of age and have received the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

I regularly attend Mass on Sundays and designated Holy Days; and I strive to give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and receive Him in Holy Communion, at least during the Easter Season.

I consciously strive to live out my Christian Commitment by a loving response to my parish and to others with whom I come into daily contact.

I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and especially by the example of Christian living.

Sponsor for: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____
(*Please print*)

Signature

Witness: _____
(*Priest or Deacon*)

Date: _____

Seal

Outline for Confirmation Saint's Name Report

Paragraph 1. Name of Saint, birth and death dates (if available), place of birth and death of Saint (if available), and if they are the patron saint of anything in particular. Some Saints are and some are not.

Paragraph 2. Here student is to go into depth about Saint's life, was he/she always a good person, if not, reason for conversion. What the Saint did in his/her life, both good and bad.

Paragraph 3. Was the Saint seen as a saint in his/her own time or shortly after death? If not when was this person recognized as a special person to pray to?

Paragraph 4. What was it about this saint that made you want to choose him/her? Did you like the name first and then looked up the background on the saint or; did you look for a saint and then decide to use his/her name as your confirmation name? Explain in detail no matter which way you chose.

Finally in Paragraph 5. Tell what you learned from studying about the saint you chose and what about your saint can you incorporate in your own life, which is why you choose a new saint's name for confirmation. You are making a change in your own life and get a new name to prove it.

Will also need on a poster:

The feast Day of the Saint, and a picture of the Saint.

What virtues the Saint represents and how the Saint used those virtues in his/her life.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

Guidelines for Service:

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your confirmation and all through your life.

Read through the activities given below. You may wish to check one you could do, make up one of your own, or do one of the projects suggested in your faith formation class.

Service Activities:

- Ask the parish priest for the name and address of a sick parishioner. Call, write, or visit this person regularly.
- Find out what your parish ministries are doing. Join in one of the projects or in one of the following; help at a hunger center or bring food to the elderly, collect food and clothing for the poor or for Birthright, CareNet, Helping Hands, assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its works, or bring books, DVD's or CD's from the library to the elderly.
- Join the choir or liturgy commission and serve; sing, play an instrument, distribute music books, or straighten them in the pews after Mass, or offer to be a lector.
- Help a mission organization of your choice. Gather a group of your friends or neighbors. Organize a raffle or dinner to raise money for the missions. Write a letter to the mission organization explaining your project and enclose your contribution.
- Offer your service to the pastor or an elderly neighbor to do the following on a regular basis: mowing, shoveling snow, raking leaves, weeding, or planting.
- Volunteer to assist the parish DRE with weekly faith formation classes. You could pass out supplies, teach children prayers, or read Scripture stories to children.
- Offer your services to a skill bank in your school.
- Try to do one act of service at home each day. Record it in your journal.
- Use some of your free time or TV/computer/gaming time to do these services: run an errand for a neighbor, volunteer at a hospital or nursing home, set-up chairs and tables for parish meetings, or be an altar server or lector.
- Contact local agencies or care centers and find out if they accept and train volunteers. The Red Cross provides volunteer facilities.
- Help out at a Knights of Columbus IC Council at its activities:
 - Pancake Supper
 - Build a Scarecrow
 - Spaghetti Dinners
 - Movie Night
 - Free Throw Basketball
 - Monthly Breakfasts
- Help out at the local food pantries: Helping Hands, Our Lady of the Wayside, or the one in Hughesville.
- Help out at the local shelter; contact them to see what they are in need of, be it help or supplies. Contact Parks and Rec and see what you can do for them.
- Check out volunteering at the local libraries and schools, and hospitals, and nursing homes, and centers for senior citizens, such as the Ripple Center.
- PTA activities
- Boy Scout, Girl Scouts, and 4H have activities that you can earn hours at if you belong to the organization already.
- Tutoring those who need help in academics.
- Toys-For-Tots type activities.

- Be an aide for Faith Formation, Vacation Bible School, Altar Server, Christmas Pageant, and Living Stations.
- Check out the Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge, Optimists, and Tri-County Animal Shelter.
- IC's Auction and Parish Festival
- Tutoring those who need help in academics.

These are suggestions. I am sure there are other things I have missed.

Before making a commitment to a service project, think about the variety of ways in which you can use your talents and abilities to help others. These suggestions are only some of the ways other candidates have chosen to serve. Perhaps something on this list will help you decide the service you would like to perform. The list may give you some other ideas of what you would like to do. Perhaps you have your own special service in mind.

I am not responsible for arranging hours for your child; that is the responsibility of the child, parent, and sponsor.

