

SPONSORING

As a Catholic Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor

Relationship With Christ?

The most important part of being a Christian and being a sponsor is having a real, living, and intimate relationship with the Holy Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The essential elements of this relationship are spending time with Christ through prayer and attending Sunday Mass, knowing Christ through study of sacred scripture and other faith formation resources, and serving Christ by serving others and our parish.

Catholic

All sponsors must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. This means that a sponsor has no canonical penalties against them. The most common penalty is being in an invalid marriage. Catholics believe that marriage is so sacred that it is a sacrament. So if a sponsor is married, the marriage needs to be witnessed and validated by the Church.



An Awesome Responsibility

Congratulations on being asked to be a godparent or Confirmation sponsor! The child's parents see you as someone who is able to serve as an example of Catholic Christian living and trust that you will help their child grown deeper in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ and his Church. This is not just an honor bestowed upon a family member or good friend, this is an awesome responsibility and one that must be taken seriously.



Active Member

A sponsor needs to be a member of our parish so that we can recommend them as a valid sponsor. An active member of St. Bernard or Our Lady of Grace participates in Holy Mass on Sundays, receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, and is involved in one of our many ministries. If a potential sponsor is a new member, they must be a member for at least a month before we can sign a sponsor form. We need to get to know our new members!

Responsibilities

Godparents or Confirmation sponsors have very serious responsibilities. Among them are:

- Commit to daily prayer for the person you are sponsoring.
- Offer spiritual support to the person you are sponsoring throughout their lives.
- Model holiness, sacramental living, Christian charity, and prayer to the person.
- Work to draw the person into the life of the parish as a child and as an adult.
- Answer doctrinal questions as you can; direct the person to catechists as needed.
- Gently help the person deal with life situations (family problems, need to forgive, etc.) in a Christian way.
- Strive to love the person as Jesus would.
- Support the person's parents.

At St. Bernard and Our Lady of Grace, we are here to help you become an excellent sponsor—someone who can truly be a witness of the faith to a child or teenager for the rest of their lives. We can:

- Assist you with registration if you are not a member.
- Speak with you about our parish and all of the spiritual, educational, and service opportunities we offer.
- Guide you through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and answer any questions you may have about the sacrament.
- Answer any questions you may have about the Catholic faith.
- Provide resources to help you grow in your faith.
- Connect you with other parishioners and small groups within our parish.
- Need help with something else? Just ask!

Wisdom from a Saint and Scripture on Sponsorship

St. John Chrysostom, 4th Century Bishop of Constantinople

“They should not consider that what they are doing is a routine action. Rather, they should be fully aware that they will share the credit if they guide their charges to the path of virtue by their advice, but if they are negligent, then grave condemnation will fall upon them. For this reason it is the custom to call them ‘spiritual fathers’ in order that they may learn from their office the affection they owe to their charges in giving them spiritual instruction. For if it is a noble thing to lead those who are in no way connected with us to desire virtue, we have a much greater duty to fulfill this obligation to one whom we have received to the position of spiritual son. To sum up, negligence brings no small danger to those of you who are acting as sponsors.”

The Heart of this Ministry of Service

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)