

Choosing Your Sponsor



What does the word “sponsor” mean? The word “sponsor” comes from the Latin word *spondere*, which means to "give assurance, promise solemnly."

The sponsor’s role is to assist the person in Christian initiation. The sponsor’s role is, together with the parents, to present the child for the sacrament and help him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian. Being a confirmation sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed. A sponsor also plays a vital role in the candidate’s continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. A sponsor of a Confirmation candidate:

- 1) Supports and guides the candidate in their commitment to be a disciple of Christ. Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate. May also help the candidate prepare for Confirmation.
- 2) Presents the candidate to the Bishop during the Confirmation Mass.

Basic Church requirements to be considered as a sponsor:

To be qualified to be chosen as a Confirmation sponsor an individual must:

- 1) Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
- 2) Have been initiated in the Catholic Church through receiving the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist and be in good standing with the Church.
- 3) Be at least sixteen years old (by date of Confirmation).
- 4) Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday and receives the sacraments regularly.
- 5) Display a visible commitment to living out the Catholic faith and have the ability and intention to carry out his/her responsibility as a spiritual guide in your life

Other considerations when selecting a Confirmation sponsor:

- Parents CANNOT be sponsors for their own children because they are already the child’s most important teacher.
- Each Confirmation candidate may only choose ONE sponsor
- Because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, Church teaching states that it is “desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation”, however the selection of a special sponsor is also permitted.
- The choice of who should be your sponsor is YOUR decision!

Things to think about before you ask someone to be your sponsor:

- Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation.
- The person you choose as your sponsor should be someone that you admire and respect and who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith.
- Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life.
- Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic and who will take an active role in your preparation for Confirmation.
- After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.
- PRAY! Spend some time asking God for guidance on who to choose as your sponsor.
- See the Sponsor Interview Questions on the back to help you select your sponsor.

Sponsor Interview Questions

1. Where do you see God in your daily life? When and how do you most feel His presence?
2. How do you live your faith through service to others? Why do you feel called to serve in that way?
3. How do you continue to grow in your faith?
4. Do you find it difficult to live your faith in today's culture? How is it difficult and how do you handle it?
5. What advice do you have for me as I'm preparing for Confirmation?