

St. Joseph/ St. Vincent de Paul Confirmation Sponsor

The sponsor has an important role in Confirmation—supporting the candidate and the candidate's parents as the candidate prepares for Confirmation.

These requirements are aimed at making sure that a sponsor is more mature, informed, and experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate.

Requirements for a Sponsor (Canon 874.1)

- ✓ Designated by the one to be confirmed. (not chosen by parents)
- ✓ Not be a parent/step-parent of the candidate
- ✓ Have the qualifications and intention of performing this role
- ✓ Have completed the 16th year of age and be of sufficient maturity
- ✓ Be a Catholic who has already celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- ✓ Not bound by any canonical impediment (i.e. Non-Sacramental Marriage, living in co-habitation, or any other lifestyle choice in opposition to Church teachings)
- ✓ Be an active, practicing Catholic, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly
- ✓ If married, married in the Catholic Church
- ✓ Lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

The ideal sponsor:

- ✓ already has a relationship of trust with the candidate
- ✓ is willing to meet regularly with the candidate as he or she prepares to celebrate Confirmation
- ✓ is prepared to accompany the candidate on his or her faith journey after Confirmation
- ✓ is willing to attend sponsor meetings and the celebration of Confirmation
- ✓ is willing to share his or her faith with the candidate
- ✓ is an older friend or relative (parents can be sponsors by exception) in whom the candidate can confide
- ✓ is an open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith

The role of the sponsor is to journey with the candidate throughout his/her formation process and life. As such, a relationship should exist and continue both in formal gatherings at the parish and informal activities in everyday life.

Recommendations for a Sponsor:

- Individuals who live locally and will have a continued presence in the life of the candidate are recommended.
- Sponsors from the St Joseph/SVDP community are to be registered, active participants in St. Joseph/SVDP and should complete the sponsor form.
- **All Sponsors need to fill out the Sponsor Form.**
- **Sponsors from a Catholic community other than St. Joseph/SVDP** are to provide this form to their pastor/pastor delegate for signature and parish seal to indicate they meet the criteria for being a sponsor