

Nativity of Our Lord Confirmation Program

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

***Please note, there is time sensitive information, please give this packet to your sponsor ASAP. They will need time to get information from their home parish. THANK YOU.**

A sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for Confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the life long journey toward Christ.

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Although one of the Confirmation candidate's godparents is the ideal, this is not the only choice. (CCC 1311)

Like the godparents chosen at Baptism, sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help (the Confirmed) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function....bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255)

Like parents and godparents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, The Trinity's Embrace), the sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

Specifically, sponsors must:

1. Commit the time to help prepare the student for Confirmation during their 7th and 8th grade years.
2. Meet four times with the student and discuss questions found on the next several pages of packet.
3. Write a letter of support sharing why the student is ready for Confirmation. A template of this letter can be found on our website if desired.
4. Participate in at least one service experience with the student.
5. Attend special Confirmation liturgies including:
 - a. Covenant Mass (Fall of 7th Grade) *TBD if this is able to happen in 2020.*
 - b. Confirmation Vigil (Fall of 8th Grade)
 - c. Confirmation Liturgy at Cathedral of St. Paul (Fall of 8th Grade)
6. Attend Mass with the student when possible.
7. Make themselves available to guide the Confirmed after Confirmation.
8. Encourage the Confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as good examples to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

Sponsor Requirements

In accord with Canon Laws 874 and 892, the Sponsor is asked to provide the following information. If you have any questions, please call the Director of Faith Formation at 651-696-5441.

1. A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. A sponsor cannot be a parent of the child to be confirmed.
4. A sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
5. A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. *(Please refer the Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 2041-2043 for further explanation about the Precepts of the Church).*

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Information

Students are asked to complete the meeting log of the four meetings with their sponsor. This replaces what has been called our “faith sharing program” in past Confirmation years. We have given candidates and sponsors each a set of questions to ask one another during their four meetings. Students are asked to write a reflection after each meeting to summarize their visit. This reflection should work to answer the questions below and can be 1-2 pages in length, please include the date and location of the meeting with your sponsor. It is OK to meet via Zoom or telephone if you are unable to meet in person.

Meeting #1 – Complete By: October 21, 2020

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. At what age did you get Confirmed?
2. What do you remember about getting Confirmed?
3. What did you like about Confirmation and what did you not understand?
4. How has the Holy Spirit played a role in your life?
5. Since getting Confirmed what has been your most influential faith moment?
6. Did you choose a Confirmation saint? Do you have a favorite Saint?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. What is your relationship with God like?
2. What have been some impactful moments of faith in your life so far?
3. What have been some of the struggles you have experienced in life and/or your faith?
4. Have you thought about your Confirmation Saint?
5. How can you make time for prayer in your life right now? When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray?
 - a. Possible Prayer Idea: Every week we make a profession of faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. These are the beliefs of our faith. Read over the creed. Christians of every century have held strongly to these beliefs. Some have even given up their lives to defend them. Why are these important to you?

Meeting #2 – Completed By: December 2, 2020

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. When did you get baptized? Were you a baby or did you go through RCIA?
2. How did you first learn about what it means to be Catholic?
3. What does it mean to be Catholic for you?
4. How has the Catholic faith strengthened and nourished you?
5. How has your appreciation of the Mass changed for you over your life? Was there a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? And Why?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. How have things been going with your prayer life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. Look up together the definition of a sacrament. What is it? Name the seven sacraments and discuss your experiences with each sacrament.

Meeting #3 – Completed By: March 3, 2021

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. What does “forgiveness” mean to you? How does this understanding of forgiveness help you with the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
2. What has been your experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Has it been a rewarding experience for you?
3. Do you have a favorite place and time to pray? Describe a time when it was challenging to pray and a time when you really felt God’s presence.
4. In what ways have being Christian shaped your life?
5. Describe a time when you felt really close to God.

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. When has it been most difficult to find Christ in your life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. What are the spiritual and corporal works of mercy? How can you and your candidate work together to complete the Works of Mercy?
5. Do you see your plans for service as closely related to one or more of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy? If so, which one(s)? Explain

Meeting #4 – Completed By: April 28, 2021

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. Who has been a good role model for you? How has this person taught you or shown you what it means to be Catholic? How has this person deepened your faith?
2. In what areas would you like to see growth in your Catholic faith?
3. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Why?
4. What advice would you give to a Confirmation candidate about ?
5. What is the greatest challenge of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. How have things been going with your prayer life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. Look up 1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13 and read it aloud. Evaluate each other on it. How well do you love? Reread 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 7, but this time say your own name wherever it lists the word "love."
5. What are you doing to show you are really interested in being a member of this faith community and that you are serious about getting Confirmed?
6. What are your most recent efforts of service to your parish?

Recommendation of Candidate by Sponsor 2020-2021

Please write a short recommendation letter for your candidate. You may include the following items. (It does not have to be a certain length). **Please turn in no later than May 12, 2021.**

- Note the growth of faith and relationship with God of the candidate throughout the year and any significant points of transformation.
- Affirm the gifts/talents that you see in the candidate that will help build up the Church and the Kingdom of God.
- State why you know the candidate is ready for Confirmation

You may write a letter (preferred) or use the following form.

Please fill out and hand in with the Sponsor Summary of Meetings on the front

Recommendation Form

I, _____ (sponsor's name) recommend _____ (candidate's name) for Confirmation. He/She has grown in their relationship with God in knowledge and love in this manner: _____

He/She has also shown gifts/talents in the following ways:

in furthering the kingdom of God and building up the Church. I consider him/her to be ready for Confirmation and open to all the Holy Spirit has for his/her life by virtue and example.

Signed: _____ Date: _____