

The Confirmation Sponsor



The Sponsor presents the Candidate to the Bishop at the time of Confirmation and should be able to help the individual fulfill the Baptismal promises faithfully.

Guidelines for Selecting a Sponsor:

1. The Sponsor must be a Confirmed and Practicing Catholic, at least 16 years of age.
2. ****A Sponsor Certificate MUST BE obtained from the Parish at which the Sponsor resides.** ALL Sponsors, including those from Saint Paschal Baylon, must obtain this certificate. These are available in Parish Offices. This must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **January 13, 2019.**
3. It is recommended that the Candidate's Baptismal Sponsor act as Sponsor for Confirmation, as an expression of the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. But this is not required.
4. Parents may NOT act as Confirmation Sponsors for their child.
5. The Sponsor should be someone who would be able to meet fairly often with the Candidate, particularly during the time of immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **The Sponsor is required to attend the Confirmation Retreat Day with the Candidate, as well as Confirmation.**
6. Sponsors ought to be able to share their experience of living the Christian faith in the Community, while guiding and encouraging the Candidate to be faithful to his/her practice of the faith.

There are some practical points to consider before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Ultimately, these decisions are yours, but it might be helpful to talk about the following points with your parents or loved ones.

YOUR SPONSOR

First, let's spend some time clarifying the role of the Sponsor. Your Sponsor should be a person who can travel with you on your journey to Christian maturity. This person should really know you and be readily available to listen to your concerns and questions about your faith or about the Church. One of your godparents, who may already be very much involved in your life, would generally be the best choice for the role. An aunt or an uncle might be an appropriate choice if he or she lives within a reasonable distance. Another choice for a Sponsor might be a teacher, catechist, or parishioner whom you admire, see quite often, and with whom you will likely have a long-term relationship.

Whomever you choose, your Sponsor must be sufficiently mature, belong to the Catholic Church, and be initiated into the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Most importantly, *your sponsor and you should have more than an "acquaintance-type" relationship. Your Sponsor needs to be a spiritual friend to you.*

YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this Sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to recommit yourself to your baptismal name, especially after you reflect on its meaning and discover some of the people who shared your name in Christian history. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. Whether you decide to stay with your baptismal name or pick a new name, take the time to

research and explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says, "Yahweh calls each of us by name."

READINESS FOR THE SACRAMENT

The most important of these practical concerns is your personal "readiness" for the Sacrament. Confirmation involves no "magic." If you truly wish to become "fully immersed in the life of your Church," you will need to honor your commitment through real work and effort. Ask yourself the questions: "Am I ready to commit myself to Christ's mission? Am I really ready to be Confirmed?" *Readiness is not determined by parents, teachers, or pastor. Readiness is not determined by age or grade level. Your friends' readiness does not determine your own readiness.*

Readiness to say, "Yes, I want to commit myself to Christ and live a full and involved Christian Life" requires a very mature, honest decision. If, after prayerful reflection and consultation with your parents and your pastor, you choose to postpone your decision to be Confirmed, you again are making a mature, honest decision, and it will be respected.

Remember, however, you do not have to be a "saint" to be ready for Confirmation. You do not have to be "perfect" or "have it all together." Faith is a great journey – You must only be willing to grow and to travel in the footsteps of Jesus.