

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

What is a confirmation Sponsor and why do I need one?

A *Sponsor* is a person who walks with the candidate on the journey of faith leading to Confirmation.

A *Sponsor* represents the larger Church – the entire community of believers.

You, the candidate, choose a *Sponsor* who is a special kind of friend to you, with whom you can share your faith with. If the person whom you have chosen to be your Sponsor lives out of state or a distance where they can not easily travel to attend events with you, please also choose someone that can be a proxy sponsor to participate with you on a more regular basis. Please still communicate with your sponsor and talk. But part of a journey is shared experiences, so we ask that you have someone close that can share these regular experiences and communicate about them.

Sponsors should be willing to share their own faith, knowledge, and experience of being Catholic with you. The Church, knowing the basic need of people to feel secure and welcome, require a sponsor to assist you on the final stages of the initiation process – your journey of faith.

During the Rite of Welcome and at the Rite (or ceremony) of Confirmation your *sponsor* will be your sign of readiness to receive the sacrament. Ideally your relationship with your *sponsor* will not end with the ceremony but flourish as you continue to grow in your faith. Faith growth is a life long process.

Who can be a Confirmation Sponsor? / What should I look for?

- Someone designated by the one to be confirmed.
- Be at least 16 years old. (Recommended age 21).
- A *sponsor* must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
- One who witnesses to their faith by participation in worship and involved in the life of their parish community.
- Not bound by any church penalty.
- A sponsor may not be the parent of the candidate but could be, a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, godparent, parent of a friend, neighbor or parishioner you have come to know and trust.
- A person who lives close enough to you to be present to you as you prepare for Confirmation.
- A person you have a comfortable and positive relationship with which you can share your faith and everyday life experiences.
- A person willing to help you live as a follower of Christ.
- A person willing to engage in the confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic adult.
- A person who will be willing to pray for you on your journey.
- A person who will be able to attend sponsor meeting, Lenten Preparation Sessions, Rite of Covenant, Confirmation Rehearsal and Confirmation Mass.

Fill out and return to Religious Education Office by September 12th 2010

Congratulations!! You have been chosen by a very special young person to serve as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To help the Religious Education Program we ask that you complete this form and return by mail or through your candidate by September 12, 2010.

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's Phone (day / evening / cell / e-mail): _____

Relationship to candidate: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Date / Place of Baptism (*Copy*): _____

Date / Place of Confirmation (*Copy*): _____

As a Confirmation sponsor I affirm that:

- I regularly participate at Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist.
- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support, and loving response to those I meet in daily life.
- I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.

Sponsor's Signature: _____