

Choosing a Sponsor

The Confirmation Sponsor

- The candidate **may** choose one of their godparents. This shows the ties between Baptism and Confirmation.
- The candidate may pick a sponsor who is **not** one of their godparents. This should be someone the candidate sees as a positive faith-filled Catholic role model in his/her life.
- Since it is assumed that parents are already role models of faith for their children, that is a central reason to **not** have the parent of the candidate serve as the sponsor. This enables the candidate to get the reinforcement of the importance of faith and guidance from yet another source.



Qualifications of the Sponsor

- Must be sufficiently mature in his or her faith commitment and at least 16 years or older.
- A sponsor can be of either gender and must be a faith-filled Catholic individual.
- The person chosen must have the intention of performing their role; assume an ongoing spiritual relationship with the candidate and help to strengthen the Candidate's relationship to God and the Church. (Not merely function as a passive witness to the Rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation.)

Ask your sponsor to sign the **Sponsor Form** and turn it in by **January 21 or 22, 2018** (bring it to your January Session)

A Sponsor is:

- A **Representative** of the Catholic Community: The sponsor is the personal representative of the entire Catholic Community to the individual candidate.
- A **Companion**: A sponsor should serve as a companion or guide for the candidate along the journey. The sponsor should **listen** and **offer support** and **guidance** when you have doubts or questions about your faith. This person should also **challenge** you when your enthusiasm or interest is at a low point. This companion should be someone you can **trust**, turn to and talk things over with.
- A **Mentor**: A sponsor should be someone who is open to growth in one's faith and putting into action what that faith requires. This person should be a **faith example** who you look up to and would like to emulate.

The Role of the Sponsor

- Assist in the preparation for the Sacrament in a variety of ways, but specifically through the formational packet which will be passed out at the second Confirmation Prep Session.
- Accompany the candidate and present him or her to the bishop at the Confirmation ceremony.

Traits of the Sponsor

- A sponsor attends Mass and strives to live out his/her faith.
- A sponsor listens to his/her candidate, prays for him or her, and talks about faith with him/her.
- A sponsor serves as a bridge, helping the candidate understand and become familiar with the people, places and traditions of the Catholic faith.
- A sponsor respects the candidate's freedom, allowing the candidate to decide whether this is the right time to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sponsors are encouraged to become involved by:

- Attending the second and third Confirmation Prep Session with the candidate.
- Deepening their faith relationship with the candidate during the time of preparation for Confirmation.
- Attending Mass as often as possible with the candidate.
- Participating in a service project with the candidate if possible.
- Continuing to be a source of encouragement and guidance for the candidate after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Save the Dates! 2018

- Confirmation Prep #2 (teens & sponsors attend together) on January 28th* 4:45–6:15 pm or January 29th 6:30-8 pm
- Confirmation Prep #3 (teens & sponsors attend together) April 8th* 4:45-6:15 pm or April 9th 6:30-8 pm
- Sacrament of Confirmation & Rehearsal
* Please stay for 6:30 pm Life Mass!

Important Notes

- Candidates need to inform sponsors of the dates of the Confirmation Mass, rehearsal and of the need to schedule time for the “formational packet.” The packet will be handed out in January; set times that are convenient to meet and discuss the information.
- In some special circumstances, a proxy may be chosen to stand in the place of your sponsor if he/she cannot attend the Rite of Confirmation Mass.