



Selecting the Confirmation Sponsor

Preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate must choose a sponsor. A sponsor's role is that of a companion to the candidate throughout the preparation time. They are a respected mentor and guide who can challenge and guide the child during their faith journey.

In choosing a sponsor, the Catholic Church has these requirements:

- a sponsor must be at least **sixteen years old**.
- 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."
- a sponsor must **not be bound by any Church penalty** (i.e. married outside the Church (a civil marriage), divorced and remarried without an annulment).
- a sponsor **cannot be a parent of the one to be confirmed**.

The following characteristics are important to consider when choosing a sponsor:

- Local residency, to enable consistent involvement throughout the Confirmation process.
- A positive and comfortable relationship with the candidate.
- A willingness and capacity to engage in the Confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic Christian adult.

The person chosen as a sponsor should be willing to participate with the child in the preparation for the sacrament. If they are not able to, you may consider choosing someone to act as a "proxy" for the preparation period. Inviting the sponsor to prayer nights, community service projects, and Sponsor/Candidate events will give him/her an opportunity to join with you during this journey.

It is imperative to prayerfully choose a Confirmation Sponsor.

A *Certificate of Eligibility for Catholic Sponsors (a Diocesan Form)* **must be completed by the Sponsor** and attested to by a priest or deacon of their parish. A copy of the Diocesan Form is included in this packet. It is also available at any parish office in the Diocese. This form must be returned to the Parish Center by the assigned date in December of the first year of preparation. This gives the office time to contact the Sponsor with important activity schedule dates.