

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Each confirmation candidate (also known as a *confirmandi*) will have a sponsor to represent the support and faith of the community. The sponsor is a vital part of the preparation process who gives witness to faith that is alive through his or her example of prayer, ministry and honest sharing. The Confirmandi and their sponsor will spend a lot of time together talking, reflecting on scripture, and praying. The sponsor will help the confirmandi process their thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Officially in their Canonical role sponsors present candidates to the Bishop and the community for Confirmation. In addition, the sponsor might be called to be the confirmandi's Confirmation companion at some of the parish confirmation gatherings or retreats.

As you can see, it is important that the sponsor and confirmandi know and be comfortable with each other. We will provide him/her with the information, skills, suggestions and support for the sponsor role. Sponsors don't have to know *everything* there is to know about the Catholic faith. The important thing is that they personally value being a Catholic – a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Church. Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor not an imposition.

The "rules" for choosing a sponsor are that they must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic; at least 16 years old; male or female. They cannot be your parent, however your parent may be a sponsor for another candidate. Spouse and *romantic* relationships are also strongly discouraged. Are the baptismal godparents still an important part of your life? They would be a natural choice. It is preferred that the person be a member of this parish, because the sponsor represents the parish community, plus, the ease of contact with you.

Prayerfully consider your choice of a confirmation sponsor. If you can't decide whom to ask, we can help you find a sponsor here in the parish. If you need a sponsor, please contact me as soon as possible.

The ministry of Confirmation sponsor is a very important and rewarding one. The feedback we have received from previous sponsors is that the time was one of learning about and deepening their own faith – for both the confirmandi and the sponsor. Many sponsors feel that they didn't really appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own lives, until they shared the journey with their candidate.

Choosing a sponsor is an important part of the confirmation process.

Please direct any questions or comments to the Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry, David Hall at 720/842-4106