

Choosing a Sponsor

The Confirmation sponsor is a crucial person in the preparation of the candidate for Confirmation. A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsor should be regularly in contact with the candidate and be able to give witness and encourage the candidate throughout preparation and after Confirmation. Simply showing up to a meeting and the Confirmation Mass does not fulfill the duty that the sponsor has for their candidate.

The Church's tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is one of our most ancient approaches to faith formation. In the early centuries, when the catechumenate (the process of initiation into the Catholic faith) was the entry point for anyone seeking to become a Christian, the sponsor played an extremely vital role.

The sponsor is a living witness and mentor who represents the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the candidate. Furthermore, the role of a sponsor is not over after the celebration of the sacraments. It is a lifetime commitment, a relationship that should last throughout the candidate's journey of faith.

Ideally the sponsor should be the candidate's baptismal godparent, which symbolizes the connection between baptism and confirmation, the Sacraments of Initiation. If this is not possible, for example, if the baptismal godparent no longer practices the faith, then another suitable person may be chosen.

When choosing a sponsor, you are looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire, and who will be there for you. The sponsor is required to be:

- a confirmed Catholic
- at least 16 years old
- a practicing member of the Church
- not a parent

You can choose a relative, friend, or someone from your parish as your sponsor as long as they meet these requirements.

The sponsor must fill out the form included with the folder and have it signed by their pastor. This needs be returned to the parish office.