

Sponsor Information

What is the role of the Sponsor?

The role of the sponsor involves:

1. Representing, in a personal way, the witness and support of a faith community.
2. Sharing faith through friendship, prayer and example.
3. Guiding the candidate in the process of discerning and confirming his/her faith.
4. Helping the candidate to discern his/her special gift(s) for service and to reaffirm the candidate in the service.
5. Continuing to encourage and support the confirmed to live the faith beyond the celebration of the Sacrament by periodically meeting with him/her.
6. Attending the meetings and rituals/rites of the confirmation preparation process.

How does the sponsor fit into the Confirmation program?

The role of the sponsor gives a uniquely personal dimension to the Confirmation Program. The sponsor should be aware of what the Candidate is experiencing in the program, and, as stated above, the sponsor is *expected* to attend the meetings listed on the Confirmation Preparation calendar.

If the Confirmation Candidate misses a session, we recommend that the Sponsor and the Candidate meet to discuss the topic together.

Together the sponsor and candidate with complete a video series on various aspects of our faith. You can do it remotely if distance is a hindrance but we recommend completing it together in person.

Is there anything else that the sponsor is expected to do?

Yes. The Sponsor should meet with the Candidate individually to get to know him/her on a less formal basis. The Sponsor is asked to meet with the Candidate, e.g. for a meal, to discuss the following reflection questions:

1. What is in your heart and in your head when the word "God" comes out of your mouth or from the tip of your pen?

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WHO MAY BE A SPONSOR FOR CONFIRMATION?


- A candidate for Confirmation should have a sponsor.
- The sponsor must be designated by the one to be confirmed.
- The sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic who has received the sacrament of the Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
- The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- Parents may not be sponsors for the Confirmation of their children. Parents may "present" (i.e., accompany) their children for confirmation. This holds regardless of the age of the child(ren).
- It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the Confirmation sponsor in order to express the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation clearly. However, in practice, this is sometimes not possible.
- A Proxy may stand in for the sponsor during the Confirmation celebration if circumstances require. A parent cannot be a Proxy.
- We recommend choosing someone who resides nearby as a sponsor, so he/she may participate as fully as possible in the immediate preparation. A sponsor who is hindered by long distances is encouraged to seek ways to correspond with the candidate to fulfill the sponsor role describe within.

2. Thoughtfully tell about your life with God since your childhood. When did you feel close to God? When did you drift away? How has this mysterious relationship evolved? How is your "spiritual life" going now?
3. What legitimate claim do the poor have on your time/money/talents/energy?
4. Describe your dream of a world that is beautiful and at peace with itself.
5. What happens to us when we die? Why do you believe this?
6. Who was your Confirmation sponsor? Tell something about this person. Describe what influence he or she had on your life.

The Sponsor encourages the Candidate to participate in the spiritual and community life of the parish, possibly inviting him/her to special parish liturgies and community activities (e.g. Holy Days, Family Life events, Reconciliation Services, Christmas Mass, Lenten Devotions, Holy Week Services, etc.), as well as encouraging him/her to be active in Youth Ministry.

A final word for Sponsors...

To sum up, the Sponsor is literally 'standing up' for the faith of the Confirmation Candidate and should take every possible opportunity to get to know the Candidate as a whole person. Hopefully the relationship formed between the Sponsor and Candidate will last well beyond the celebration of Confirmation.



***THE SPONSOR MUST COMPLETE THE
CERTIFICATE FOR A SPONSOR OF A HOLY
SPIRIT CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE AND THEN
SUBMIT IT TO PARISH OFFICE.***

THANK YOU for considering being a Confirmation Sponsor for a young person from Holy Spirit Parish. We feel that our young people learn best by sharing faith with committed and dedicated persons like you. For it is through people like you that the message of Jesus continues to be shared throughout His Church.

If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 330-699-4500.