



A **spiritual gift**
is **given** to each
of us so **we** can
help each other.

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

From the time you were welcomed into this community of believers we call Church at your Baptism, you have been surrounded by people to support you and help you grow in your love for God.

At your Baptism, your Godparents represented the community of faith in welcoming you to the family of the Church. They and your parents accepted a responsibility at your Baptism to help you grow as a Catholic.

Our Church wants us to journey with others in the community. A part of this community is our families, in fact we call the family the domestic church. This is where we first learn about God.

In order to be blessed during your preparation for Confirmation by the example of people who live lives of Christian witness and discipleship, the Church asks that you choose a sponsor for Confirmation, someone other than your mom or dad. This special person represents the faith community at the Rite of Confirmation; this person symbolizes the support of the entire Body of Christ for you in your life as a disciple.

The sponsor whom you choose joins your parents and family in journeying with you throughout the Confirmation preparation period. He or she supports you and helps you grow in the life of faith. The sponsor is your challenger and your guide in discovering what it means to be a true witness of Christ.

Who should you choose as a sponsor?

At Baptism your Godparents were witnesses to your belonging to the Church; Baptism and Confirmation are intimately connected. Consider choosing one of your Godparents as a Confirmation sponsor. Talk with your parents about who can best support you during the Confirmation preparation as well as after – who will support you in living out your Baptismal promises?

- Consider a person you know who is a role model, who truly lives the Good News.
- Consider a person you can learn from by his or her example of Christian living, a person who is Catholic and has received the three sacraments of initiation.
- Who, for you, is a spiritual role model who will be willing to make the commitment to be with you at this time and beyond the celebration?

Choosing your Sponsor

Choosing your sponsor is an important decision. It is not only a privilege and honor to be a Confirmation sponsor, but also a responsibility. The church teaches us that “it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the sacrament.”



The responsibility that a person accepts in being a sponsor, then is more than just being present for the Confirmation ceremony. The sponsor's role is much more. It is to help, support and encourage the candidate in his/her overall preparation for Confirmation. For this reason, we are asking that you select your sponsor soon. You should feel free to discuss with that person any questions or problems that arise and share the joy you experience in your personal faith life.

Your sponsor should show concern for the progress you are making in the faith and in meeting your church obligations. By choosing this person soon, he/she will have time to journey with you through this preparation time.

Here are some guidelines to help you choose a sponsor:

1. Parents cannot act as sponsors for their children because of the special relationship that being a sponsor involves. As a parent, you are already the natural sponsor of your child's faith life.
2. A Baptismal sponsor (Godparent) is a very favorable choice as your sponsor for Confirmation. However, if it is not possible or desirable, then a different person may be chosen.
3. Your decision should not be based on social reasons. It is more important that you trust and respect them for their maturity and faith.
4. A Confirmation sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and may be either sex. They must be a Roman Catholic and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. If married, they must conform to the regulations of the Roman Catholic Church.
5. Your sponsor must obtain a letter of recommendation from their parish priest. The letter states that the person is registered in the parish, is receiving the sacraments on a regular basis and attends Mass regularly. **Have your sponsor give you the letter and return it when you come to class by September 10.** If a letter is not obtainable, you must select a different sponsor.

If your sponsor is a registered parishioner at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, do not request a letter but indicate that on the Sponsor information form enclosed. The names of the all sponsors from this parish will be given to Fr. Adolph for recommendation.

When you have made your decision, ask that person right away. Once they have accepted, complete the enclosed sponsor information form and return it to Mrs. Lipczynski.

Remember, these forms are due by September 30.