

Confirmation Sponsor Year 1

The sponsor plays an important role in Confirmation; they present the student to the Bishop assuring the candidate's sincerity and readiness for the sacrament, and they represent the entire community in welcoming the student into a deeper participatory-level of involvement in the church and community. **Sponsors assist in the Christian formation process; he/she provides ongoing encouragement and support for the student and should set up times to meet with the candidate to discuss questions relative to their varied stages of growth, before and after the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation.**

Confirmation Sponsor Information:

- Fulfill "Confirmation Sponsor Requirements," see page 2.
- Complete the "Confirmation Sponsor Application." Return form to John Bruscia by January, 2018.
- Be a "practicing Catholic," providing a positive example and role model in sacramental participation and works of charity; attend Mass together, or find other ways to practice your faith together through community service, prayer services, etc.
- Assist in the preparation by engaging the candidate in thoughtful conversation regarding personal faith experience and its lived application. Share your story; be a good listener.
- Pray for the candidate; be someone the candidate can trust and confide in, someone who will be there when needed.
- Participate in two meetings with the candidate during the second year of preparation.
- Participate in the "Rite of Confirmation." Celebrations of the "Rite of Confirmation" normally take place at our 5 p.m. Mass at the end April after the second year of preparation.
- Follow-up after the Rite; provide continued support and assistance to the candidate. Challenge and encourage him/her to continued growth and participation in a life of faith, love, and service.

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements:

The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, and is to be a sufficiently mature, practicing Catholic, who has him/herself been confirmed and has not been prohibited by [Canon] law from exercising the role of sponsor (see #4 below, i.e. if married, according to the marriage laws of the Catholic church). A baptismal sponsor is not only allowed, but is in fact desired as the Confirmation sponsor, so as to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation [Canon 893, #2]. A parent may *not* act as a sponsor for his or her child, but may "present" the child for Confirmation as a "proxy" with another qualified person being the sponsor. Grandparents may be sponsors. [Canon 893 with reference to Canon 874, #5].

See Canon Law sections below concerning confirmation sponsor requirements:

Can. 892 As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 874 To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be [Confirmed], by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
2. have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized or confirmed.