

## Confirmation Sponsor Guidelines

- Each candidate is to have a sponsor. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to assist the candidate in their faith journey and encourage the confirmed person to mature in Christian faith and witness. Candidates need only one sponsor.
- To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must be:
  1. designated by the one to be confirmed
  2. at least 16 years of age
  3. a Catholic who has been confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist as well as one who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role undertaken as sponsor.
- Sponsors unknown to the pastor are to provide written evidence from their parish that they fulfill these requirements.
- The Rite suggests that the sponsor of the Baptism continue in this role at Confirmation. Parents may not act as sponsors however; they may act as proxy in the absence of the licit sponsor.
- The person chosen as sponsor by the candidate has a role before and after the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:
  1. Sponsorship is an official designated ministry of the Rite of Initiation. Sponsorship is seen by the Church as a ministry of accompaniment, encouragement, witness and support. Effective fulfillment of this ministry demands a high degree of personal commitment. Sponsors should be chosen on the basis of the quality of their Christian lives. In Church teaching, the relationship between sponsor and the candidate is considered sacramental and of lasting character and guidance for support of the newly confirmed.
  2. Prior to Confirmation, a sponsor is expected to spend time, correspond with the candidate or converse with the candidate by telephone to help them accept a more mature role in the life and mission of the Church.
  3. Sponsors should be available to commit personal time to the candidate and be willing to provide example, support and guidance following the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  4. Sponsors are asked to pray daily for their candidates.
  5. Sponsors are to attend the rehearsal for the Rite of Confirmation with the candidate.