

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

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

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

Our Church wants us to journey with others in the community also. 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 FOR 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?

EXPLANATION OF WHO CAN BE A SPONSOR

QUALIFICATIONS

Canon Law #874

1. This means that the Candidate in conjunction with their parent or guardian choose the person who is to Sponsor. This should be a reflective experience in which you think about a “person of faith” sponsoring for Confirmation, not just someone to perform a ceremonial job.
2. In our parish, it is preferred that the person who is sponsoring be an adult (who has been living out their faith on their own.) Exceptions are made by our pastor with good cause.
3. The Sponsor must be Catholic. They must be fully initiated, having been baptized, received their First Communion and Confirmation.
 - Important – “leads a life of harmony” means that they are active Catholics receiving the Sacraments regularly, attending Mass regularly, and supporting their local parish regularly. This is verified by their pastor. If the Sponsor comes from Holy Cross Church, we will verify this. If they come from another parish, they will need to get a verification slip from their parish. They will have to request it and give it to you. (Or you may use the form provided by our parish.) Then you need to bring it to the Religious Education Office for the Candidate’s file. This ensure the integrity of the Rite, and that those participating as sponsors are worthy of that role.
4. This means the person that you choose must be allowed, by Canon Law, to fully participate in the Sacraments. An example of a person who cannot be a sponsor because of canonical penalties is a person who was married in the Church, got a divorce, and then remarried outside of the Church. (If you have any questions on this, please call.)
5. A parent cannot act as a sponsor, but a grandparent may.