

GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation and in their life of faith afterwards. The candidates are to choose **sponsors who are active members of the Catholic Church** and are good role models of their faith. Sponsors must be 16 years or older, have received the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), and be in good standing with the Catholic Church. They may be the candidate's Godparents, but the candidate's parents may not act as their sponsor.

Your Confirmation sponsor should be someone whom you look up to and who can support and guide you in your faith. They should be someone that will pray with you and for you. The choice of a sponsor is a very important one and I encourage you to put thought and prayer into your decision.

Sponsors will need to complete the enclosed "Sponsor Certificate" form and return to St. Paul's Parish. The Candidates and their Sponsors will need to complete the "Sponsor/Candidate Interview" form. This is a great way for both the sponsor and candidate to have a meaningful conversation about their Catholic faith.

A sponsor for a candidate for Confirmation must:

1. Be a **practicing** (Is at present, actively a member of their local Catholic Church, i.e. attending Mass regularly, frequenting the sacraments, living out the teachings of the church to the best of their ability, etc.) Catholic.
2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Have received the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: **Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.**
4. Participate weekly in Sunday Mass and give witness to faith in Jesus Christ by receiving Holy Communion as a **registered member of their parish,**
5. Actively strive to share time, talents and substance with the Church.
6. Give support to the candidate with prayers and the Christian example of their daily life.
7. Be available to the candidate to answer questions and concerns that the candidate may have.
8. One of the Baptismal Godparents 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). You may want to consider a grandparent. Sponsors **cannot be a parent** of the candidate,
9. Attend Confirmation Ceremony

Confirmation Sponsor's Conversation with Candidate

Sponsor Interview Due: December 22nd, 2023

As the Sponsor of your Confirmation Candidate it is important to have a dialogue about the sacrament and to promote an open conversation on the subject of our Catholic faith. You are the person entrusted to offer support and guidance during the sacramental preparation period and beyond. Below is a list of questions to get you started in that conversation.

1. What changes have you seen in yourself since the Confirmation process started?
2. What do you hope to get out of this Confirmation program?
3. Do you feel close to God right now? Why or why not.
4. How will you continue to live your Catholic faith following Confirmation?
5. How will you continue to learn more about your faith in the years to come?
6. Why did you choose your Confirmation name?
7. Are you aware of the commitment you are making when the Bishop confirms you?
8. What can we both do to help you continue to keep the promises that you make at Confirmation?
9. Sponsor, please share your faith story with your candidate. How do you actively live out your faith in your life?

You do not need to write the answers to the questions listed above. These are suggestions to get your conversation started.

After the conversation the candidate is to complete the written portion of the interview with the guidance of his/her sponsor. The written portion is due: December 22nd, 2023

Candidate/Sponsor **Written** Interview

NAME: _____

Please answer the following questions per your conversation with your sponsor in **complete sentences**. This portion of the interview will be turned in to Audrey by the listed date.

Candidates

- Why did you choose your sponsor?

- One hope I have for my relationship with my sponsor is...

- I would like my sponsor's guidance to...

Sponsors

- What does the role of sponsor mean to you?

- One hope I have for my relationship with my candidate is...

- How will you help your candidate grow in their faith and lead them closer to Christ?