



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Wakefield, Rhode Island

The Role of Your Confirmation Sponsor

The most important role of a Confirmation sponsor is to help you live a life befitting a Catholic Christian. Confirmation sponsors are like spiritual coaches or mentors. They affirm your strengths and point out ways you can grow and become better in your practice of the faith. A Confirmation sponsor participates, together with your parents, in your preparation to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament of Initiation and presents you to the bishop during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Each candidate at the completion of the Confirmation One summer program will choose a sponsor. The sponsor will receive a "Sponsor Certificate" form from the Confirmation candidate at St. Francis and will be required to fill it out and **have it signed by the priest of the parish that they now belong to. This includes those sponsors from our own parish.**

Guidelines for selecting a Sponsor

Sponsorship implies that person has a real appreciation of the faith, a steadfast practice of it and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed. Here are some suggestions to help you as you make your choice:

Sponsors should have already received the three sacraments of Christian initiation: namely Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation and be at least 16 years of age and thereby be able to assume the responsibility which God and the church place before them in serving as guides and companions for those being confirmed.

Sponsors should also be practicing Catholics. They should participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and they should receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. The whole purpose of the sacramental life of the Church is to nourish us on our journey of faith. If those who lead the way are not nourished properly, they will falter and eventually be unable to keep up with the pace of Christian living. When that happens how can they lead others?

Sponsors should be living the Christian vocation faithfully and conscientiously either as a single person or as persons validly married in the church. Religious and clergy can also serve as a Confirmation sponsor. Some married persons, unfortunately may not be eligible. Those married by a justice of the peace, those living together with the benefit of marriage and those who have been divorce and remarried without a declaration of annulment from the diocesan tribunal concerning the previous marriage are not eligible to fulfill the role of a sponsor for Confirmation. It is possible to rectify that situation, but

unfortunately it takes time. They are not excluded from the church community but they have incurred some impediments which limit their participation in the full sacramental life of the church.

Parents of those to be confirmed are not eligible to serve as sponsors since they are already considered the “first and best teachers of the faith” for their children. Grandparents, baptismal godparents and siblings are eligible.

Last but not least, sponsors should promise to give their support to the Confirmation candidate by their prayers and the example of their Christian lives each and every day. The roles of the sponsor are serious and effective evangelizing resources for our church’s mission and together with the candidate’s parents and godparents are the principal mentors in the way of Christian living.

Here are some suggestions to help you as you make your choice:

1. Ask yourself if one of your godparents would be a good sponsor. Having one of your godparents shows the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation,
2. Sponsors **cannot** be one of your parents.
3. Sponsors do not have to be of the same gender as you.
4. Talk with your parents, other family members, or your catechist about who would be a good choice.
5. Most importantly, pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.