

Sponsor Role, Responsibilities and Selection

The Sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in helping nurture our faith. The sponsor needs to be able to fulfill several requirements:

- ❖ The Church requires that the **sponsor be an active, practicing Catholic** who has already celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation and who has completed his or her 16th year. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have. *“Candidates for Confirmations, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents.” (CCC sec 2, 1311)*
- ❖ Parents cannot be a sponsor to their own child.
- ❖ It is important that the sponsor be more mature, more informed and more experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate is, offering a clearer perspective from which to speak.
- ❖ The sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the candidate; an older friend or relative, in whom the candidate can confide, is an ideal sponsor.
- ❖ The sponsor needs to be willing to attend a candidate/sponsor workshop, and if possible, the Rite of Enrollment Mass.
- ❖ The sponsor also needs to be willing to meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation.
- ❖ The sponsor should be willing to share his or her faith with the candidate, who can “walk and talk” with the candidate on the faith journey.
- ❖ The sponsor is an assistant to the parents, the prime transmitters of the faith, and may not be the father or mother of the candidate (Code of Canon Law 874,1).
- ❖ The sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his or her understanding to the faith as the candidate comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his or her life.
- ❖ Sponsors must obtain from his or her own home parish a Sponsor Certificate signifying he or she is a Catholic in good standing, to be stapled to the Application upon submission.