

Selecting a Confirmation Sponsor

Sponsor Role

Sponsors are there to affirm, teach, advise, console, strengthen and guide the Candidate. The sponsor should be a strong Catholic role model and active in the life of the candidate. You want someone who is an example of commitment. Someone who practices their faith and is willing to share their experience. A sponsor should not just be someone who comes to Confirmation but someone who helps you understand what it means to be a confirmed Catholic Christian in the world today. Your sponsor should be part of the journey from the very beginning. It is not uncommon to have some difficulty securing a sponsor, so we suggest to start your search early. If you have difficulty in finding someone, please let us know as soon as possible and we can help offer some assistance.

Sponsor Qualifications

The required qualifications of the sponsor are:

- Sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic who is living a life in harmony with Church teaching and who is at least 16 years of age
- Sponsors must be Catholics who attend Mass on a regular basis. For this reason, once selected, it should be easy for your sponsor to get forms signed in his/her parish. The sponsor must present themselves in person with the form for the priest will want to see who he is attesting for.

Other guidelines and parameters to be aware of include:

- The ideal sponsor is one of the baptismal godparents. To emphasize the unity of baptism and confirmation it is appropriate, where possible, though not necessary, to choose one of the baptismal godparents to again serve as sponsor.
- Parents may not sponsor their own child. Grandparents, however, **can** be a sponsor.
- The Sponsor's gender does not need to be the same gender of the Candidate
- Second marriages (divorced-and-remarried, not divorced) create some problems. If you think someone will not be eligible because of being married outside the Catholic Church, then please be careful. We have had situations where there was undue embarrassment because no one explained this to the candidate. If someone is divorced but not remarried they **are** eligible to be a sponsor. If they have been married outside of the church whether it is a first or second marriage, then the person is **not** eligible to be a sponsor.

Sponsor Forms

The Sponsor must take the Sponsor Form to his or her Church to present himself with the form, as the priest needs to know for whom his signature is attesting. The Form must be filled out completely, and legibly. It must include the signature of the sponsor's parish priest, and be stamped with the seal of the sponsor's Church.

Sponsor forms and the letter to Fr. John Kelleher must be returned by September 3, 2026. Only candidates whose sponsors have taken care of these commitments above are able to begin Confirmation Classes. Please let the office know if you are having any difficulties finding a sponsor or having the forms signed.