

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor:

Prayerfully consider who you would like to ask to be your Confirmation Sponsor. A sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the Candidate (Catechism 1311). It should be someone whose faith life inspires you, someone you admire. The Canonical requirements for Sponsors are listed below; please take time to review them. Talk it over with your parents and when you've made your decision, write a letter, email or phone call your intended Sponsor asking them for their support as your Sponsor for your Confirmation. Be sure to tell them why you would like their support as your Sponsor. What brought them to mind when considering who you would like to have as your Confirmation Sponsor?

The Role of the Sponsor

“The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this Sacrament.” (Canon 892)

1. The sponsor represents the Church to the candidate and is responsible for inviting him or her into a closer relationship with Christ and His Church.
2. The Sponsor shares his/her faith story with the candidate.
3. The Sponsor prays for and prays with the candidate.
4. The Sponsor attends the Confirmation rehearsal and the Liturgy of Confirmation.
5. At the time of Confirmation, the sponsor will present the candidate to the Bishop and say that he or she is ready to receive the Sacrament.
6. The Sponsor will continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support after the Confirmation ceremony is over.

Canonical Requirements for Sponsors (Canon 874)

The Catholic Church specifies that a sponsor must:

1. Have completed the 16th year of age.
2. Be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
3. Lead an active life of faith (weekly attendance at Sunday Mass, regular reception of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, etc.)
4. Follow all precepts and teachings of the Catholic Church.
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be Confirmed. (Parents can stand as proxy for a sponsor of record if unable to attend – please let us know if this is necessary as there is additional paperwork required)
6. Godparents are the desired choice for a sponsor.

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead “a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.” Therefore, the following persons are not eligible to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who habitually miss Sunday Mass
- Divorced persons who have remarried outside the Catholic Church
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their own children
- High school students who do not attend their parish's RE classes or Youth Group (not striving to grow in their faith)
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their “Easter Duty” that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

Parish Requirements for Sponsors

1. Sponsor must provide a “Sponsor’s Statement of Faith,” stating that he or she is a practicing Catholic in good standing. The form should be submitted to the child’s Religious Education teacher in class or mailed to the parish office. We do need the original copy of the form. We can make a copy for you to keep.
2. Candidate must choose only ONE sponsor.
3. Sponsor may only sponsor ONE candidate at a time. The relationship demands such a significant time commitment and personal attention from the sponsor that it would be difficult, if not impossible; to meaningfully develop the relationship envisioned by the Church if a sponsor had more than one candidate during the same year.
4. Complete the Sponsor Interview questions with the Confirmation candidate

Please contact Shareen Klos (sklos@saint-stephen.org) with any questions or concerns.