

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is someone who will be a companion along the Confirmation journey – someone who will accompany and guide you through preparation into participation beyond Confirmation. This person, if chosen well, will make the process of getting ready for Confirmation a little easier and even more fun, as together you grow in sharing your faith stories. You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you as a good role model. The person who serves as your sponsor for Confirmation has an important role to play. Your sponsor is not a passive partner in this formation process but is expected to take an active role. With that in mind the following requirements for choosing a sponsor have been implemented at St. Bernard's:

1. Each Candidate is allowed **one** sponsor who must be a confirmed Roman Catholic.
2. The sponsor must practice their faith, following the precepts of the Church, attending Mass each Sunday, and participates in the life of the parish community and is living the Christian way of life.
3. The sponsor is expected to meet with, or be in contact with their candidate so as to help them in the formation process. We realize that sponsors may live a distance away from the candidate, but with today's technology you can keep in touch with them via phone, email etc.
4. Parents can be used only as a proxy in the case of an emergency; they **cannot** be the chosen sponsor. This means that you can choose a relative (other than a parent), friend, or someone from your parish as your sponsor.
5. The Sponsor must be confirmed for at least five years: any exceptions must be approved by the Pastor.

The Catechism (#1311) and Canon Law (#892-893) both state:

A Sponsor must be...

- Sufficiently mature to fulfill their function, and have completed their sixteenth year.
- A member of the Catholic Church and have received the Sacraments of initiation; Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- A practicing Catholic freed from any impediment of law to their fulfilling the office of sponsor (ie: if married, married in the Catholic Church; if single, not cohabitating with anyone).
- Not the parent of the Confirmation Candidate.

A Sponsor Should Be...

- Someone who is a role model of how a person lives their faith in everyday life.
- A friend or relative who knows you and can witness to your maturing faith.
- A guide, confidant, and a listener.
- Someone interested in learning with you on your faith journey.
- Someone who will continue to support and encourage you after Confirmation to become more fully involved in your faith life.

Pray about it, discuss this important decision with your parents, and when you think you have the right person, ask him or her to help you grow in faith by serving as your sponsor!

Sponsor registration is due into the parish office by December 1. Sponsors will need to have a "Letter of Eligibility" signed and returned. Please make sure their address and phone #'s are correct and legible on registration form.