

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Canon 892 - As far as possible a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.

Canon 893 - §1 To perform the role of sponsor, it is necessary that a person fulfill the conditions mentioned in Canon 874.

Canon 874 - To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

874-1° be designated. . . ., by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role

874-3° be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;

874-4° not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

874-5° not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

Canon 893 - §2 - It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation.

1. Confirmation sponsors have three main tasks. The first is to answer the candidate's questions about the church. The four sessions with the candidate will aid this discussion, but sponsors should be available to answer questions throughout the process. Second, sponsors are to help the candidate know the community better and the community the candidate. At the **Rite of Confirmation**, sponsors are asked by the bishop to state the readiness of the candidate to participate in Christian discipleship and the mission of the Church. Thirdly, Confirmation sponsors are expected to model faith by a faith-filled life. As Christian role models sponsors should be available and support candidates on their journey of faith. Sponsors also support parents in the faith formation promised at Baptism.

2. It is desirable that the baptismal sponsor be the sponsor for Confirmation. The completion of Baptism is more clearly evident.

3. The Confirmation sponsors have the following duties:

- Pray for the candidate.
- Participate in service with the youth, when possible.
- During the 11th grade meet two to four times with the candidate, encourage the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, attend the meeting to review the **Rite of Confirmation**, and attend the prayer service/rehearsal.
- Attend the **Rite of Blessing** of the Candidates and the **Rite of Commitment**, when possible.
- Bring the candidate to receive the sacrament and present them to the bishop for anointing.
- Continue support and role modeling after Confirmation to help the youth fulfill their baptismal promises.

4. Requirements for Sponsors:

1. Be an adult 18 years of age or older.
2. Be a fully initiated Catholic who lives and practices the Catholic faith.
3. Be free of any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
4. Be other than the father or the mother of the Confirmation candidate.
5. Have a letter of eligibility from one's own pastor.