



What is a Confirmation Sponsor? Who should you choose to be your Sponsor?

Every candidate for the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation must have a sponsor, or godparent. The Sponsors hands down the faith that was given to them, by sharing their faith with the candidate and assisting in the candidate's preparation for the Sacrament.

A Sponsor is a mature Catholic who prays for and with the Candidate, models the Faith in his/her daily life, and is a spiritual mentor, accompanying the Candidate on their faith journey.

For Baptism, the parents of the infant choose the Sponsor/Godparent(s). For Confirmation, the Candidate should choose a Sponsor, possibly with the help of his/her family.

It is preferred (but not required) that the Confirmation Sponsor is the same person as the Candidate's Baptismal Godparent.

The qualifications to be a Sponsor or Godparent are:

- A Sponsor must be a fully-initiated Catholic; Baptized, Confirmed, and with no impediment to receiving the Eucharist
- If married, a Sponsor must be married in the Catholic Church
- The Sponsor must be at least 16 years old
- The Sponsor may be a family member, however the Sponsor may *not* be the Candidate's parent
- It is preferred (but not required) to choose a Sponsor of the same sex as the Candidate
- At Baptism, two godparents are permitted, but only one is necessary--if two are chosen, one must be male and the other female. Only one Sponsor is allowed for Confirmation.
- It is a custom in some countries to also choose godparents for First Communion. If you are receiving your First Communion on the same day as your Confirmation, only one Sponsor accompanies you for the ceremony. Godparents for First Communion are not required.

What if the Sponsor I choose cannot attend the ceremony? Can I still be Confirmed?

Yes. Every year there are always some Sponsors who cannot attend due to health, schedule or travel restrictions.

Especially this year with the Covid-19 pandemic, we know that many sponsors will not be able to or should not travel, especially if coming from other states or countries. In this case, your parent or other qualified adult may stand in your sponsor's place. The real sponsor's name will be recorded in the Register and on your Confirmation certificate.

- ❖ Make sure to have your sponsor fill out the Sponsor information form and return it to the Holy Cross parish office by **October 20**. They can do that by email, by snail mail, by Fax or in person.
- ❖ Questions? Contact LeeAnn at 360-691-2636