

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

All Confirmation candidates must be presented to the Bishop by a qualified sponsor. This sponsor, while chosen by the candidate, must have certain qualities that are spelled out fully in church law.

A sponsor:

- Must be a Catholic who actively practices the faith and attends Mass weekly.
- Must be at least 16 years old and already confirmed.
- May not be a parent of the candidate.
- If married, the marriage was in a Catholic church or validated by the Catholic Church.
- Need not be the same gender as the candidate.

While not part of the church law, it is strongly encouraged that a candidate selects one of his/her godparents for his/her Confirmation Sponsor. This expresses more clearly, the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation as Sacraments of Initiation and makes the function and responsibility of the Sponsor more effective. However, candidates may choose a different Sponsor for Confirmation.

In addition to the requirements stated above, a sponsor should exemplify these qualities:

- Is the life of this person a testimony of his/her commitment to the Lord and to the Church?
- Is this person physically nearby to be part of the life of the candidate during the preparation process?
- Will this person be willing and eager to guide the candidate as they continue to learn:
 - To pray in new ways?
 - To witness?
 - To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit?
 - More about the Catholic faith?
 - More about their parish and how to participate in parish life?
 - How to overcome doubts, fear, and temptation through their relationship with God?
- Will this person pray for the candidate regularly?
- Is the candidate able to approach this person with questions they have about their faith and spirituality?

After the candidate has prayerfully chosen a Sponsor, have him/her **complete the information sheet on the other side of this page. This form must be turned in to Kaitlin Berger by November 1**. This deadline provides the sponsor time to assist the candidate during the course of their preparation for the sacrament.