

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor

You do not have to make this journey alone. Along the way, you will make connections with certain people who demonstrate in their lives what it means to be a Catholic. A sponsor at confirmation is someone who will stand up for you before the community, present you to the bishop, and witness the anointing with the chrism oil. The sponsor's influence in your life continues after the celebration. The sponsor should serve as someone you can turn to for help and guidance as you continue the journey of faith in the years ahead. *Take care in your selection, for you really want to make sure you pick someone who is able and willing to fulfill the task.*

Your sponsor will be your partner and guide through the personal formation part of your preparation for the Sacrament. You will meet with them at least 3 times this year to discuss various topics related to your faith and participate in activities that help guide you through the Catholic faith. Sponsors will not only stand with the candidate at the time of Confirmation, but should be an example and role model, personally bearing witness to what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

In making the selection for a sponsor, keep the following in mind:

- ♫ Sponsors **must** be a practicing Catholic, who practices the faith and attends Mass regularly
- ♫ Sponsor's **must** be at least 16 years of age
- ♫ Sponsor's **must** have been baptized and received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- ♫ Sponsor may **not** be parent or legal guardian of the candidate but they may be a relative
- ♫ It is desirable that the sponsor for Confirmation be the baptismal sponsor, but not necessary
- ♫ Sponsors do not need to be the same gender as the candidate

When choosing your sponsor consider this:

- ✓ Who in your family or circle of family friends inspires your faith? How do they inspire you?
- ✓ Do they model the Catholic faith?
- ✓ Are they a committed follower of Christ?
- ✓ Do they regularly receive the sacraments– reconciliation/penance, eucharist
- ✓ Do they strive to grow in knowledge of Christ and the Church?
- ✓ Are they actively involved in the parish to which they belong?

Also consider the following:

- o Who can you comfortably speak with concerning faith and questions that may arise on your journey?
- o Who is able to give of their time to be your sponsor?
- o Who will make it a priority to be present with me; physically and/or "in spirit" on Confirmation day?
- o Who would be willing to keep you on track and prepared to receive the sacrament?
- o Who can you trust to support you in your daily endeavors and help make critical life decisions?

Some final thoughts...Who would be willing and eager to guide you along your journey as you continue to learn:

- ✓ How to pray in new ways?
- ✓ To witness?
- ✓ To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ More about your parish and how to better participate in parish life?
- ✓ How to overcome doubts, fear, and temptation through their relationship with God?

After carefully choosing a sponsor, give your sponsor the Sworn Statement for Confirmation Sponsors packet. They will bring the form to their church to get it validated, and then must turn it in to St. Isidore at 427 W Army Trail Rd. Bloomingdale, IL 60108 by September 28th.