

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Role of a Confirmation Sponsor and Sponsor Guidelines

Being chosen as a confirmation sponsor is a tremendous honor. This means that you have been a witness of the Catholic faith to this person in a special way, and that this person desires to emulate your faith. The role of a sponsor is a truly beautiful, deep, and meaningful role. Like most things in life, however, you are only going to get out of it what you put into it.

Here are the basic guidelines for being a Confirmation sponsor:

- Must be at least 16 years of age
- Must not be the candidate's parent, stepparent, or significant other
- Must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion)
- If married, the sponsor must have been married in the Church, or had the marriage validated by the Church.
- Must be living the best possible Catholic life—attending Sunday Mass, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year (more often and when needed is preferable), living in accord with the moral teachings of the Church, accepts all doctrinal teachings of the Church.

Some other important considerations:

- Ideally, one of the Godparents at Baptism should serve as sponsor, to emphasize the connection between baptism and confirmation.
- Catholics married outside the Church, or who cohabit outside of the Sacrament of Marriage, are ineligible to be sponsors.
- Non-Catholics and former Catholics are also ineligible.

So, you meet all the above requirements. Congratulations, you can be a Confirmation sponsor! Before you agree, here are some questions you should take to prayer.

- Am I ready to be a *spiritual mentor* to the person I am sponsoring? Am I ready to guide this person in his or her faith?
- Am I prepared to pray regularly for my candidate?
- Am I ready to form a meaningful relationship with my Confirmation candidate? Will I check in with them on a regular basis? Am I willing to get to know them and their life?
- Is my life such that this person could imitate it and not be led astray?
- Am I willing to commit to extra requests my Confirmation candidate may need as part of their Confirmation preparation?

Being a confirmation sponsor is truly an honor and is something to be taken seriously. If you have any concerns about being a sponsor or want to discuss the requirements or learn more, please contact us at ym@saintcolumbanyelm.org.



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CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

(The completed form should be returned to the Confirmation Coordinator no later than MARCH 2, 2025)

By signing below you affirm that you

- Are a practicing Roman Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist;
- Are a person who participates in the spiritual life of the Catholic Church by weekly attendance at Sunday Mass and regular reception of the sacraments;
- Are a person who will share, support and help deepen a Christian relationship with the child or adult being baptized or confirmed;
- If married, have a marriage that is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church;
- Are a person at least 16 years of age;
- Are not the candidate's parent, step-parent or significant other

Please Note:

One of the two sponsors (godparents) must be Catholic; the other may be a baptized non-Catholic. The non-Catholic party is called a Christian witness and not a sponsor (godparent). Non-baptized persons cannot be godparents or sponsors since they cannot profess faith in Christ nor can they renew the vows of their own baptism.

Sponsor's Agreement

Date: _____

Having read and considered the above statements, I believe that they reflect my present situation.

Therefore, I, _____, a parishioner of _____
name of sponsor (First/Last) name of parish of the sponsor and its location

accept the privilege and responsibility of being a baptismal godparent/confirmation sponsor for

name of person to be confirmed (First / Last)

Signature of Godparent/Sponsor _____

Signature of Priest _____



*****Return this form with godparent's signature and their parish priest's signature, with an imprint of parish seal of the godparent's home parish.*****