

Common Questions about Sponsors

1- Does the church decide the guidelines for who can be a sponsor?

The guidelines on who can become a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation are regulated by Canon 874 on the Code of Canon Law.

2- Can a parent be a sponsor?

No, it cannot be the father or mother of the person being Confirmed.

3- What happens if the person that I want to select as a sponsor is a good Christian but not Catholic? Or was Catholic and now attends services at another Christian denomination?

As criteria to serve as a Sponsor, the person must be a Catholic in good standing (see question 4). If he/she is a member of a non-Catholic ecclesial community, or regularly fulfills his/her Sunday obligation by attending non-Catholic religious services, even if they have received all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), they cannot serve as sponsors.

4- What does it mean to be a Catholic in good standing?

A Catholic in good standing means the person being considered to be a sponsor lives his/her faith in continuity with their particular state in life. He/she must attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of obligation. If the person is not married, he/she must live according to what the Church teaches for Catholics that are single. If he/she is living together or cohabitating with another person without having received the **Sacrament of Marriage**, no matter the reason, they cannot serve as sponsors. Since a sponsor serves as a role model to the Confirmand, it is recommended he/she receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently and, ideally, has a good prayer life. According to Canon 892, the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent to this sacrament.

5- Can a person who is divorced and remarried serve as a sponsor?

Only if the current marriage is a sacramental one and recognized by the Catholic Church as such.

6- Can one of my Baptismal Godparents serve as my sponsor?

To emphasize the relationship between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Church says it is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism. Generally, many years have passed since Baptism. We understand that life changes and many times we lose touch with our Baptismal Godparents or they might not currently be practicing their faith. If you have been blessed with Godparents that have been a part of helping you grow in your faith and, serve as strong role models on how to live your life as a Catholic, you are allowed to choose them as your Confirmation sponsor.

7- What if my sponsor cannot attend Confirmation?

It is preferable that your sponsor be in attendance when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, if this is not possible, please contact the pastor to speak about the possibility of utilizing a proxy.