

Baptism and Confirmation Sponsors

“To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized (confirmed), by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
2. have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; and
5. not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.” (*CIC* 874.1)

“Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.” (*CIC* 892)

“It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.” (*CIC* 893.2)

1. Sponsors must have celebrated their 16th birthday.
2. Sponsors should be encouraged (not required) to be actively involved in the Confirmation formation process.
3. Sponsors must be present at the Confirmation liturgy or designate a proxy.
4. Potential sponsors from a parish different from the candidate must provide a certificate of verification from their current parish or pastor. This certificate verifies that the sponsor is a fully initiated Catholic and in good standing with the Church.
5. Appropriate catechesis for sponsors should be provided before or during the candidate’s catechetical formation for the sacrament of Confirmation. The content of this catechesis should include:
 - a. the theology of the Sacraments of Initiation;
 - b. the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian disciple; and
 - c. the significant role of the sponsor in the life of the candidate.