

## Choosing Your Sponsor

Confirmation is an empowering of the Holy Spirit that is meant to transform and strengthen us into disciples that are willing to spread and defend the faith. For this journey you'll be required to have a sponsor—someone who will guide you and share their story of faith with you. A good sponsor will make this process a little easier and even more meaningful.

If all has gone as planned, the best person will be one of your baptismal godparents. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. It may be the case that your baptismal godparents might not have a close relationship with you or they are no longer good role models in the faith. Or maybe they just live too far away. If this is the case, then you have the opportunity to choose a new sponsor.

Some advice to the candidates: You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. The requirements for sponsors are: that they be confirmed Catholics and practicing members of the Church, while not being your parents. This means you can choose a relative, friend or someone from your parish as your sponsor. Although it is not a requirement, it is suggested that the sponsor be at least 25 years old for maturity and to have life experiences to share.

Begin the selection process by reviewing your baptismal godparents.

- ✓ Do they meet the requirement listed above?
- ✓ Do you feel comfortable having one-on-one conversations with them about your faith?
- ✓ Will they be able to meet with you 4 times (at your own convenience) during your confirmation preparation?
- ✓ Are they available September 18<sup>th</sup> for the sponsor meeting and March 19<sup>th</sup> for the Confirmation Mass?

If one of your baptismal godparents does not work for a confirmation sponsor begin to look at other family members. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc... Also look at adults in the community that you have made a connection with and are good role models for your Catholic faith.

The journey with your sponsor begins with the Candidate/Sponsor Meeting and Mass on September 18<sup>th</sup>. It is very important to have your sponsor chosen early to begin the journey together. If your sponsor is unable to attend this meeting, you may bring a community mentor with you to the meeting. Parents are the primary role models for living out the Catholic faith. For that reason, during the preparation for confirmation it is important to also have secondary role models. Therefore it is requested that if your sponsor is unable to attend that a secondary role model attends with the candidate instead of a parent.

If you have any questions or need help deciding on your sponsor, please contact Heather or any of your other core members.