

How to choose a Sponsor

- I. Don't pick a sponsor just to honor a family friend, pick a sponsor that will be the best teacher and mentor of the faith that you can find.
- II. If the person you are considering to be the sponsor for any reason cannot receive communion or does not attend Mass weekly, keep looking. Don't pick a sponsor because they can give a good gift – the best gift is sharing their faith with you.

The Role of a Confirmation Sponsor

Your Teen's sponsor must:

- ▶ be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If married – marriage recognized in the Catholic Church.
- ▶ obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish.
- ▶ they should **live locally** so attendance to the various sponsor and candidate activities is possible.
- ▶ be **at least** 16 years of age.
- ▶ be a registered member of a Catholic parish.

Your Teen's sponsor can NOT be:

- ▶ the parent of the candidate.
- ▶ a person who is of another faith tradition.

Your Teen's Sponsor is also expected to:

- ▶ support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to living a Christian life.
- ▶ serve during the two year process as a strong Catholic-Christian influence on the candidate.
- ▶ be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment.
- ▶ be reasonably informed on current Church teachings.
- ▶ accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs as listed in our Confirmation Preparation Process calendar.
- ▶ encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship.
- ▶ welcome the candidate at the Confirmation celebration to the faith community.
- ▶ assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the Sacrament.

Additional Information:

- ▶ Sponsors may be either male or female.
- ▶ There may be only **ONE** sponsor.
- ▶ If possible, choosing **one** of the baptismal Godparents would be an excellent choice, because it would help emphasize more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
- ▶ The Confirmation and Sponsor events will take place on Sunday afternoons (3:00 to 6:00 pm) and include attendance at the 5:00 pm Mass. Sponsors and Confirmation Candidates are expected to attend the Mass and sit together in the reserved section in the reserved pews.

Suggested activities to get to know your sponsor:

▶ **Attend new mass experience:** Gospel, Pentecostal, Latin, Eastern Rite Catholic, multi-lingual

▶ **Attend Catholic speaker event**

▶ **Do one of the corporal works of mercy together** (act of service)

▶ **Watch a Catholic/Christian/Spiritual movie together:** Passion of the Christ, The Way, The Shack, Romero, Little Boy, The Mission, Call Me Francis, etc.

▶ **Meet with your sponsor (for coffee, lunch, etc) to hear their faith story:** how they came to be Catholic, why they chose to be Catholic, how do they practice their faith now, impactful moments in their life related to their faith

▶ **Visit a landmark church site and attend mass:** Christ Cathedral Campus (Diocese of Orange), Our Lady Queen of Angels Cathedral (Archdiocese of Los Angeles), a historic mission site

▶ **Participate in a Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together:** St. Michael's Abbey, St. Kilian's, any church that offers it

▶ **Visit St. Michael's Abbey for one of their liturgies**

▶ **Read and discuss a spiritual book** (ask Nathan if you need recommendations)

▶ **Go to a church together and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

▶ **Attend a feast day or Liturgical Season event:** Mañanitas on Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Advent Reflection, Las Posadas, Lenten Mission, Lenten Stations of the Cross, etc.

▶ **Volunteer for a St. Kilian's community event together:** Oktoberfest, Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, After Mass Hospitality, Food Pantry, etc.