

SELECTING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

As part of the preparation to receive the sacrament of confirmation every candidate must select one Catholic sponsor. This sponsor must be a Catholic who has already received all three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. They must also meet all the following diocesan requirements for confirmation sponsors:

- Be designated by the candidate, by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the pastor.
- Have the qualifications and intention of performing the role of sponsor.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Be a fully initiated Catholic (received baptism, confirmation and Eucharist).
- Lead a life in harmony with the faith and role of a sponsor (i.e., be a member of a parish, attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, not be in an irregular marriage, etc.).
- Not be bound by a canonical penalty.
- Not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

Sponsors for the sacrament of confirmation must abide by the same qualifications as sponsors for the sacrament of baptism. In addition, the following guidelines and/or recommendations apply:

- There is normally one sponsor for the sacrament of confirmation.
- A non-Catholic may not serve as a sponsor for the sacrament of confirmation.

Our diocese continues the practice of requiring proof of eligibility for sponsorship (in accord with the qualifications above) from the parish in which the sponsor is registered.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

- A Sponsor Certificate is a letter or a form of eligibility issued by the pastor that certifies that the person requesting a sponsor certificate is a registered member of the parish and is qualified to serve as a Sponsor according to sponsor eligibility guidelines.
- All sponsors must verify their eligibility to serve as a Sponsor.

If intended Sponsor is registered at St. Theresa or St. Christopher Church

He or she must meet with Fr. Shemek. to discuss your participation in church and eligibility to be a sponsor. Only Father Shemek may issue a sponsor form for registered parishioners of our parishes.

If intended Sponsor lives outside of our parish boundaries.

He or she must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from the parish in which he or she is registered and participates. To obtain the form, one must contact their parish office and request the Sponsor Certificate for baptism. Please advise Sponsors to make this request as soon as possible, at least 1 month in advance of the baptism, to allow a sufficient time to process the request.

- After you receive approval and a signed form from Fr. Shemek you must have the form stamped with the parish seal at the Parish Office for it to be validated. A sponsor form sent to the parish office without a signature from Father Shemek will be returned without validation.