

# Choosing a Sponsor

## St. Mark Catholic Church

### What Is a Confirmation Sponsor?

The Confirmation sponsor represents the Church! The whole People of God is responsible for supporting the candidate in, but the sponsor represents the prayers and support of the whole Church. The sponsor assists in preparing the candidate to celebrate Confirmation, presents the candidate to the bishop on the day of Confirmation, and continues to support the confirmand afterwards. The sponsor serves as an example for the candidate of actively and joyfully living Catholic faith in daily life.

### What are the Sponsor's responsibilities?

1. Be a living model of faith! The sponsor should be a good example of living their faith (weekly Mass, taking time for prayer, etc.).
2. Pray for the candidate. The sponsor should pray for the candidate as he or she prepares to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
3. Share time with the candidate. The sponsor should build a relationship with the candidate that fosters communication and sharing about the faith. Going out to eat, skyping to converse about the preparation sessions, and asking questions are all ideas to help build this relationship.
4. Come to the ceremony! The sponsor presents the candidate to the bishop at Confirmation.
5. Support the newly confirmed Catholic after Confirmation. After the Confirmation ceremony, the sponsor's duties have just begun! The sponsor continues to be a role model and support for the young Catholic, maintaining their relationship of trust and helping the newly confirmed grow in the faith.

### Who can be a Sponsor?

- A sponsor must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic, who is at least 16 years of age.
- The sponsor should be a registered, active member of their parish.
- He or she may not be the Candidate's mother or father, since the parent has already accepted a specific role at the time of their child's baptism.
- The candidate is encouraged to choose someone close by, and the sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, and comfortable sharing his/her faith with young people.
- "Sponsors should not be selected simply on the basis of being blood relations or social friends. Sponsors should be practical Catholics for whom pastors can attest participation in the life of the church." [Canon 874]

# Confirmation Sponsor

St. Mark Catholic Church

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

A confirmation sponsor must be at least 16 years of age & be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. This means that the person follows the commandments of God by participating each week in Sunday Mass, frequents the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and their marriage has been blessed by the Catholic Church. The sponsor must have received all sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and may not be a parent of the Confirmation Candidate.

**Duties for the Sponsor:** (please inform your sponsor of this when you ask them)

- To attend the Rite of Confirmation Mass and present the candidate to the bishop.
- To meet with the Candidate regularly throughout this time of preparation and to discuss the topics addressed in the preparation sessions.
- To share his or her faith story with the candidate.
- To spend time getting to know the Candidate, possibly taking him or her out to lunch or dinner, or having him or her over to your home.
- To pray for and with the Candidate.
- To continue to be there for the Candidate and lend spiritual support after the Confirmation ceremony is over. (Suggestion: Send a card or note every year on the anniversary of his or her Confirmation.)

**Sponsor's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Candidate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Current Parish** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year & Place of Sponsor's Confirmation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter from Sponsor's Parish**

Member of St. Mark (if so, letter is not needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Letter from Sponsor's Parish Attached \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_