

St. Victoria Confirmation Program, 2017-18

Choosing Your Sponsor



What does the word "sponsor" mean?

The word "sponsor" comes from the Latin word *spondere*, which means to "give assurance, promise solemnly". By definition "sponsor" means:

- 1: One who presents a candidate for baptism or confirmation and undertakes responsibility for the person's religious education or spiritual welfare;
- 2: One who assumes responsibility for some other person or thing.

Basic Church requirements to be considered as a sponsor:

To be qualified to be chosen as a Confirmation sponsor an individual must:

- 1) Be at least sixteen years old.
- 2) Have been initiated in the Catholic Church through the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist and be in good standing with the Church
- 3) Display a visible commitment to living out the Catholic faith and have the ability and intention to carry out his/her responsibility as a spiritual guide in your life
- 4) A sponsor CANNOT be a parent of the one to be confirmed.
- 5) Because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, it is "desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation", however another selection is fine.

Things to think about before you ask someone to be your sponsor

Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation. The person you choose as your sponsor should be someone that you admire and respect, AND someone who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith. Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life. Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic and who will take an active role in your preparation for Confirmation. Additionally, your sponsor should be someone who is willing to openly share their faith journey, pivotal moments, favorite saints and Bible verses, prayer life. After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service. Make sure you pick a confirmation sponsor you will be comfortable praying with! The choice of who should be your sponsor is YOUR decision. Spend some time asking God for guidance on who to choose as your sponsor.

What will I do with my sponsor?

IDEALLY --- Your sponsor should be someone you communicate with at least monthly as you proceed through the Confirmation journey. Confirmation teens have doubts, questions, and need someone to pray with and for them. Whether you get together for Mass, coffee, phone calls, or even video chats, frequent connection is necessary and beneficial. Additionally, it would be awesome to do a service activity with your sponsor, or have your sponsor attend a Face and Hands Event with you. (Oct 15, Dec 10, Feb 25, and April 15).

During your 9th grade year, we have provided a series of questions for you to discuss with your confirmation sponsor. You might consider providing these to your sponsor ahead of time. We'd encourage you to discuss a few of these questions each time you meet, but they can also be discussed all at once. You will also complete a reflection on your time with your sponsor.

In your 10th grade year, in addition to regular interactions and a reflection, your sponsor should attend the end of year 10th Grade Student/Parent/Sponsor retreat, the Confirmation Sending Mass, and the actual Confirmation Mass at the Basilica or Cathedral.

*Note: If your sponsor is unable to attend the actual Sacrament of Confirmation, another adult (including a parent), may stand in his/her place as a proxy. The name of your sponsor will still be noted in the official Church record of your Confirmation