



THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

The sponsor presents the candidate to the Bishop at the time of Confirmation and will later help him/her to fulfill his/her baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

A sponsor certificate or letter of recommendation must be obtained from the pastor of the parish in which the sponsor resides. All sponsors, including those from St. Gabriel Parish must obtain this certificate.

The guidelines for selecting a sponsor are as follows:

1. Sponsors must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age.
Your choice of sponsor should:
 - √ *be a registered, participating member of their parish community.*
 - √ *have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist*
 - √ *regularly participate in Sunday Liturgy and give witness to our faith by regularly receiving Eucharist*
 - √ *if married, be in a marriage relationship recognized by the Church as valid according to Church Law*
 - √ *actively strive to live out their commitment to the faith by living the Gospel message*
 - √ *be willing to give support to the person they are sponsoring*
2. It is recommended that the candidate's baptismal sponsor act as sponsor for Confirmation as an expression of the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
3. Parents may not act as a sponsor for their child, but may present their child for Confirmation (proxy).
4. The sponsor needs to be available to participate in the prayer service / practice. It is recommended that the sponsor live close by so that they can participate in the Confirmation process. Should you choose a sponsor that lives far away, it is possible to select two persons – one to participate in the process with you and the other to be present at the ceremony. Both must fulfill all the requirements of the sponsorship. However, only one may be entered in the baptismal record. The candidate / family will need to determine which person will be the sponsor of record.
5. Sponsors should be able to share their experience of living the Christian faith in the community.
6. The role of the sponsor is to guide and encourage the candidate to be faithful to his/her practice of the faith and to the Confirmation process.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE IS DUE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024