

The Role of Confirmation Sponsor

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the Bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and guidance.

The prayers and support of the Sponsor are an important part of preparation for Confirmation, and helps the Confirmation Candidate live his or her baptismal promises both before and after Confirmation.

Qualifications

To serve as a Sponsor for Confirmation within the Catholic Church:

- The individual must be at least 16 years old.
- He or she must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- If he or she is married, the marriage should have taken place in the Catholic Church.
- The person must have the intention, the ability, and adequate time to be a Sponsor.
- The Sponsor should live according to the Catholic Faith: attend Mass every weekend and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (A Catholic is required to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist once a year.)
- A parent may not serve as a Sponsor for their child. It is true that this arrangement was allowed at one time, but it is currently not allowed within the Catholic Church.

One of the Candidate's Godparents is an ideal choice. Choosing the same person as Sponsor for both Baptism and Confirmation helps emphasize the connection between the two sacraments.

Specific Ways to Support a Candidate here at St. Margaret Parish

- Discuss the faith formation material your Candidate is reviewing in her or his session. Attached is the outline for our meetings this year. The Chapters 5-12 are found in Matthew Kelly's Decision Point Series. The videos and workbook are available online at: <http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/view-program/>.
- Every Candidate must select a Christian name for Confirmation. The form with some notes to help is in this packet. Taking time to discuss this once in a life time decision with your Candidate would be very helpful.
- Attend Mass with the Candidate. We invite you to attend the Teaching Mass to be held on November 20 in the Church at 6:00 pm. If this is not possible, please set aside at least one time in this year of preparation to attend Mass together. Discussing the Gospel message helps to define what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
- We invite each Sponsor and Candidate to be part of the Parish's commitment to Cor Unum in Lawrence at least once before Confirmation. (<http://www.corunummealcenter.org/>) Our Parish has made a commitment to serve the evening meal the second Thursday on each month. You would be welcome to join us any time through August. Call the Parish Office at 781-272-3111 to sign up. You may also contact Cor Unum individually to schedule a time convenient for your situation. Please see the attached information from our Parish Bulletin.

- Reconciliation is celebrated with all our High School students on March 26, 2017 to prepare for the Easter season and Confirmation. We ask that Sponsors come that evening to celebrate the sacrament with their Candidates. We will meet at 6:00 pm in the Church. Parents and families are invited.