

FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Choosing a Sponsor

If you were baptized as an infant, your parents chose your Godparents for you. The role of a Godparent is to assist you in living out the baptismal promises that your parents made for you the day you were baptized and first initiated into the Catholic Church. Now, you are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and asking to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. In addition, you will renew your baptismal promises within the Rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation. As you prepare to be fully initiated, you are also asked to choose a sponsor, someone who will assist you as you continue the journey of living a Catholic Christian life. To keep the union with your Baptism, the Catholic Church recommends that you consider choosing one of your Godparents as your Sponsor. While this is only a recommendation, perhaps even a strong recommendation, it is not a requirement, and you are free to choose another Catholic as your Confirmation sponsor.

With this in mind, it might be helpful for you to have some guidelines as you consider choosing your sponsor:

- This person should be someone you trust, someone whose life you would like to model; certainly someone who values the Catholic Christian faith and strives to live his or her life based on his or her Catholic Christian values.
- This person should be mature in his/her faith and open to sharing his or her faith with you. This person does not need to have all the answers, but he or she does need to be available to assist you when you have questions. Basically, he or she will be a mentor to you as you continue to grow in your own understanding of the Gospel and what it means to be a fully initiated Catholic Christian in the world.
- This person must be at least 16 years old and has been fully initiated into the Church through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- This person must also be a practicing member of the Catholic Church and in good standing with the Church, and one who participates in the life of their parish by attending Mass on Sunday and participating in other ways as they are able.
- It is truly an honor for the person you ask to be your sponsor. Keep that in mind when you approach this person. Let this person know why you have asked him or her to be your sponsor. Doing so will affirm this person in the choices he or she is making to live a Christian life, and it will begin or reinforce a special relationship between the two of you.

Finally, we ask you to invite the Holy Spirit into your decision-making process. Your parents, your teacher, your pastor and all of the staff at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish will also be available to you if you have any other questions. It is our hope that the relationship you enter into now with your sponsor will be a sacred relationship that will continue for years to come.

You are in our prayer.

Sincerely,

Peter Czerwinski Deacon Doug Boyer Karen Seaborn
Pastoral Associate for Youth Parish Administrator Pastoral Associate for Adult