

Confirmation Sponsors



Dear Candidate: Confirmation can be a great experience and hopefully you will begin to think a lot about what this sacrament means and how the Holy Spirit will affect your life. The *Catechism* (#1311) and canon law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor for Confirmation. A good sponsor is someone who will guide you and share the story of faith with you. A good sponsor can also make this process a little easier and even fun.

If all has gone as planned, the best person to act as your sponsor will be one of your baptismal godparents. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. However sometimes this is not possible and you will need to choose a new sponsor.

In choosing a sponsor you are looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. But you also need to select a person who fulfills the following qualifications:

Qualifications of a Sponsor as determined by Canon Law

He or she:

- 1- must be at least 16 years old;
- 2- must be a Catholic who has received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation;
- 3- must be living a life of faith;
- (*Sponsors are required to submit a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish)
- 4- cannot be the parent of the Confirmation candidate.**

Responsibilities of St. Anthony Confirmation Sponsors

- 1- Attend Candidate/Sponsor Spirit Camp, Candidate Interview, Rehearsal and Confirmation Liturgy;
- 2- Supervise the candidate's preparation, seeing to it that he/she attends classes and fulfills religious education program requirements;
- 3- Sign a Recommendation Statement to testify to the sincerity and efforts of the candidate in preparing for Confirmation;
- 4- Provide a good Catholic example while praying for the candidate;
- 5- Continue to encourage the candidate to become actively involved in St. Anthony's parish life and worship as a newly confirmed member.

If the sponsor of record is out of town or for some other reason is unable to take an active part in the preparation of the candidate as outlined above, a parent must commit to fulfilling the sponsor's responsibilities. However should the sponsor not be able to attend the Confirmation Liturgy, a proxy (not a parent) can stand in for the sponsor.

Finally, **all Sponsors** are required to secure a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish (including those who belong to St. Anthony) certifying that they meet all canon law requirements to be a Confirmation Sponsor. This important paperwork may be mailed directly to: St. Anthony CFF Office, 260 Forest Ave., Ambler PA, 19002 or the Sponsor's parish office may email a copy directly to me rortwein@saintanthonyparish.org .



For Sponsors...

Congratulations on being chosen to be a Sponsor for one of our Confirmation Candidates at St. Anthony of Padua Parish! You have been chosen because this young person sees in you a profound faith commitment and knows you are someone who cares about them and their faith.

Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate...

- ❖ **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be this might be a call from God to become all that you can be. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- ❖ **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- ❖ **Give of your time and share your gifts.** You'll be asked to share your time and to encourage your candidate to make the most of his or her Confirmation preparation activities.

At St. Anthony of Padua Parish we invite all our sponsors to participate in...

Spirit Camp (September 23)

Confirmation Retreat (Nov. 17-only if you'd like to accompany your candidate)

Candidate Interview (where you sign a Recommendation Statement to testify to the sincerity and efforts of the candidate in preparing for Confirmation-Nov. 20)

Rehearsal (Dec. 2 7 PM) and Confirmation Liturgy (Dec. 6 at 4 PM)

You might also want to offer a gift of spiritual significance-a new rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name.

- ❖ **Don't miss the ceremony.** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder and to tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation Day is only the beginning.
- ❖ **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

Thank you and may God bless you and your candidate!