



## **Saint Mary Catholic Church** *Confirmation Program*

### **Confirmation Sponsor Requirements**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1311) and *Canon Law* (#892-893) both tell us that you need a Confirmation sponsor.

“The sponsor’s function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament”

The Confirmation sponsor is a person who helps you to learn the meaning of a life of faith in Jesus Christ and how to integrate it on a personal level. Being a sponsor is not just some honor, but a serious role. It is serious because they are to help you become a good adult Catholic and help get you to Heaven.

The best person to be the confirmation sponsor is one of your baptismal godparents. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are intimately connected. If it is not possible for a godparent to be your Confirmation sponsor, choose someone who you trust, whose faith you admire, and who will be there for you. You can choose a relative, friend, or someone from the parish as your sponsor.

The sponsor must be:

- a person who is a practicing faith-filled Roman Catholic
- a fully initiated Catholic, that is, they must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist
- a regular participant in weekend Eucharist
- an active member of their parish
- at least 18 years of age or older
- able to attend the Mass with their candidate during the preparation period
- a sponsor **cannot** be the parent of the candidate

**Complete the Confirmation Sponsor Form and hand it into Andy no later than  
October 14**

**Share these two sponsor pages with your sponsor.  
This will help them to understand their role as  
your sponsor a bit better.**

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**Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet**

***Be at your best***

You have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor, congratulations! This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart, and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. 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 Catholic faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be, "get it together," so to speak! 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 if you can.

**Give of your time and share your gifts.** Share your own experiences of Christian service with you candidate. Write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary, or book about the faith—but *be creative and relevant!*

**Don't miss the ceremony!** The Confirmation ceremony is likely going to land during October and will take place at Saint Mary Church in Winneconne, Wisconsin. 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 tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only 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 together. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

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**Confirmation Sponsor Form**

*Must be returned by October 14*

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

Why have you chosen this person as your sponsor?

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How can your sponsor best help you continue on your faith journey during this Confirmation preparation and beyond? *(If you have a hard time answering this question, talk with your sponsor!)*

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