

## SPONSOR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SELECTION

The sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting the faith and must be able to fulfill several requirements:

- **Requirement Summary:** the sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic; is at least 16 years of age, has already received the sacrament of Confirmation; is not a parent of the candidate, and, if married, is married in the Catholic Church. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have. Candidates are to choose only one sponsor.
- **Relationship.** The sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the candidate, an older friend or relative (not a parent) in whom the candidate can confide. Parents of those to be confirmed are not eligible to serve as sponsors since they are already considered the “first and best teachers of the faith” for their children. Grandparents, baptismal godparents and siblings are eligible.
- **General Characteristics.** The sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his or her life.
- **Knowledge of Readiness.** The sponsor should have good knowledge of the candidate’s readiness for reception of the Sacrament so as to testify on the candidate’s behalf.

A Confirmation sponsor IS like a spiritual coach or mentor. He/She affirms your strengths and point out ways you can grow and become better in your practice of the faith. A Confirmation sponsor participates, together with your parents, in your preparation to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament of Confirmation. That is why you will choose a sponsor at the beginning of your second year of preparation, if not before.

*Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in choosing your sponsor!*

Your sponsor will receive a *Sponsor Certificate* form from you, the Confirmation candidate, and he/she will be required to have the form signed by their parish priest.

If your sponsor is registered here at St Francis Church, then your sponsor must have the form signed by Fr. Young.

**Grade 8 Candidate:** your Sponsor Form must be turned in to the RE Office by :  
**September 30, 2021**

**The Sponsor Form may be found at [www.stfranciswakefield.com](http://www.stfranciswakefield.com) click on the Religious Ed tab and then Confirmation program.**