

Most Precious Blood Parish Confirmation Sponsorship Guidelines

Parents, please read this carefully before helping your child choose someone to accept this vital role in his/her Christian formation!!!

A sponsor takes on a lifelong commitment to help his/her candidate fulfill the obligations and responsibilities that accompany the gift of the sacrament received. During the time of preparation, the sponsor will be expected to take an active role in the confirmation preparation program and to meet or talk with his/her candidate on a regular basis. Sponsors are encouraged to attend sacrament preparation events if possible. Events where sponsors are required to attend but are unavailable, parents may serve as proxies.

The immediate role of a sponsor demands a love of the gift of faith God has given us, along with time, commitment, and a willingness to engage in faith-sharing activities with the candidate. A person who is too young, who lives too far away, who is too busy to devote the necessary time and care to the candidate, or who doesn't practice the faith regularly would not be a good sponsor choice.

To be chosen as a sponsor is a special honor, and it carries with it an awesome responsibility to participate in the formation of the candidate in an authentic Christian life. There are specific, fundamental guidelines in keeping with this role.

Sponsor Requirements

The Code of Canon Law requires that the Sponsor:

- Must be at least 16 years old and fully initiated into the Catholic Faith, i.e., one who has validly received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist as recognized by the Catholic Church.
- Must be a practicing Catholic: Attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, regularly receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation, follow the Ten Commandments. (This is best verified by asking if the pastor knows the sponsor at least by face.)
- Must be in good standing with the Catholic Church, e.g., if married, must be married in the Catholic Church and living in accord with Church teaching; if single, must be living according to Church teaching; if remarried, received an annulment and married in the Catholic Church. Catholics who were married by a Justice of the Peace, or at another Christian Church, or are cohabitating are not in good standing.
- Must be willing to fulfill the role of a sponsor and play an active role in the preparation of the candidate, specifically:
 - a) **Take the candidate to confession before Good Friday.**
 - b) **Listen to a Confirmation talk together.**
 - c) **Interview and be interviewed by candidate.**
- May not be a parent of the candidate.

