

SPONSOR

Accompanying a youth as they journey in faith to the Sacrament of Confirmation is a very important and special role. A sponsor has two main responsibilities: to journey with the candidate as a regular support and guide, and to nurture their own personal Catholic faith as outlined in the *Sponsor Covenant*. With accepting this essential role, these are the expectations and guidelines that should be considered:

- A mature person of faith capable of meeting regularly with the candidate (preferably a godparent)
- At least 16 years of age and not the mother or father of the candidate
- Be a living example of faith for the candidate

Candidates are encouraged to choose a sponsor early so that the sponsor can be a companion, and a guide, along with providing spiritual help in the preparation. This holistic approach gives you the sponsor the opportunity to engage in the candidate's preparation but also be a guide in the candidate's daily life.

The sponsor can support the candidate in some of the following ways by:

Checking on the candidate to see how school, activities and friendships are going

Providing support to the parents

Ensuring the candidate is attending faith formation gatherings, activities and events.

Participating in the faith formation process

by watching and discussing the videos.

Enjoying the time you spend with the candidate

Praying for the candidate

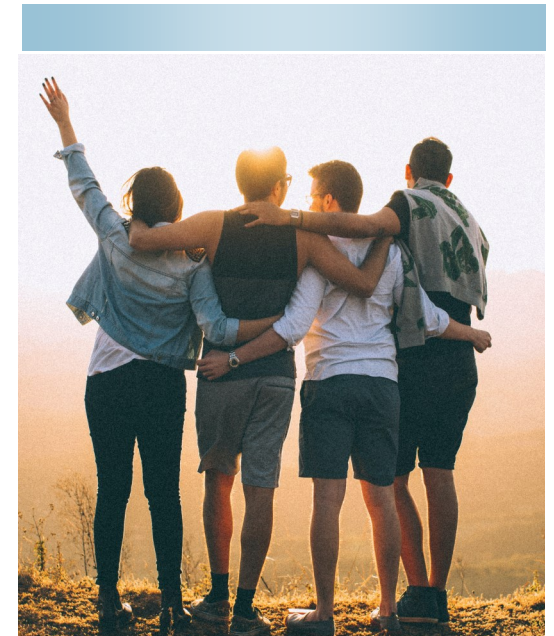
By accompanying the candidate in these ways, you will have fulfilled the main responsibilities of being a sponsor and can proudly present the Candidate to the Bishop, at the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PARISH INFORMATION



PARISH NAME
PARISH ADDRESS
CONTACT INFORMATION

IDEAS FOR THIS AREA
SCHEDULE OF GATHERINGS
Facebook page
Website
Coordinators email & phone number
Parish Priest Name



JOURNEY TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

INFORMATION PAMPHLET

**Outlining the Role
of the**
Confirmation Candidate
Parent
Sponsor



CONFIRMATION

The new two-year Confirmation faith formation process will explore the personal relationship with Jesus. The process begins in year eight with the Alpha Youth Series and continues into year nine with either Decision Point or CHOSEN (parish decision). Throughout the video sessions, there will be reflection and discussion on questions that will help the candidate discover, strengthen or enhance that relationship.

This pamphlet is intended to provide a brief outline of expectations for the candidate, the parents/guardians and the sponsor. Everyone plays a vital role in the process and we look forward to traveling on this journey together as a parish community.

CANDIDATE'S ROLE

Welcome to the Sacrament of Confirmation! Confirmation is not just a “program” but more of a journey where you’ll experience your faith, the signs, symbols, rituals, and sacraments of the Church. You will journey together, not only with your friends, but also with your family, your sponsor and your parish community. We are ALL praying for you!

Below are some brief highlights of what you can expect over the next two years:

Alpha Youth – you’ll start off with an excellent video-based series that talks about some of the big questions about God and faith in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Confirmation Formation – your parish has selected a program that they feel is the BEST for you. Being open to learning about your faith and the Sacrament of Confirmation is your main responsibility, like most things in life, you get out of it what you put into it!

Mass—your regular weekly attendance at Mass is not only part of practicing your Catholic faith but also develops a richer relationship with God and your faith community.

Sponsor—choosing the right sponsor is key. You want to have someone who you can talk to about this journey, help answer some of your questions, and be available to help you find the answers you are looking for.

Retreat—usually a day long encounter with your group including talks, faith sharing, and fun. This is an important part of the confirmation process.

Community Service—over the two-year process you are called to ‘give of yourself’ to your parish and community at large. This might be an individual contribution or something you do collectively as a group.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ROLE CANDIDATE'S ROLE

The faith journey of your child began at their birth and continued with Baptism and now through to the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament will bring them into full initiation of the Catholic church. You have journeyed with them in their faith education as their first educators.

Your continued support is needed for your child in this new faith formation process by understanding the requirements of the Sacrament that include:

- **Attending** Mass and Confirmation sessions;
- **Participating** in activities, projects and events sponsored by your parish
- the early choosing of a sponsor
- **Participating** in faith formation programs (e.g. Alpha, Bible studies, retreats)
- **Offering** talents and gifts by participating in parish ministry
- **Praying** together on a regular basis
- **Helping** your child see God working in his/her life.