

Who Can Be A Sponsor?

One of the tasks of being confirmed is to choose a sponsor. Some people pick their best friend, others a relative and still others want to choose the right person. For the latter, the task of choosing a sponsor may be quite challenging. Who do I choose? How do I ask them? Why do I even need a sponsor?

Thankfully, the church has provided the answers to all of these questions. A list of resources has been provided on the bottom of this page.

Do I really need a sponsor?

Yes. Everyone needs help living the Christian life. Sponsors, along with parents, have the duty of helping you to follow Jesus Christ.

Who can be a sponsor?

The first criterion is that the person who is asked to be a sponsor must be willing and able to help you live your life as a Christian. Do they love Jesus like you want to love Jesus? Do they love others like you want to love others? Ideally, this person would be the same person who acted as your godparent at baptism. If you had two godparents, you can even ask them both.

Specifically, the church requires that sponsors:

- must be sixteen years old
- may not be the natural or adoptive parents of the confirmand
- must be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)
- must be leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith
- must be free of any canonical impediment

From this list, you can see that some times a best friend or favorite relative is not the right choice for being a sponsor. Not everyone can be a sponsor. Be sure to ask your parish priest if the person you choose would be a good sponsor.

How do I ask someone to be my sponsor?

Just ask. Let them know why you are asking them. If they say, yes, then put them in contact with your parish priest, (so he can make sure that everything on the list above is in order).

Once your sponsor has been approved, invite them to be involved with your preparation. Go to Mass together; invite them to class, pray with and for one another, attend the retreat, etc.

For more information:

Rite of Christian Initiation, Introduction, 5-6; *Code of Canon Law*, 872-874, 892-893; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1311; and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Introduction, 10.2.