

Guidelines to Becoming a Sponsor for Sacraments

What is a Sponsor?

The Sponsor is the person charged with seeing that the one confirmed lives as a true witness to Christ and fulfills faithfully the obligations connected with the Sacrament (c. 892).

What should we consider in choosing a Sponsor?

Sponsors are to serve a special role in the confirmation candidates' life and must be selected carefully. One should not be selected simply because of the blood relationship or a way to acknowledge a deep friendship. The Sponsor should be living their life in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, and who is willing to share that faith with the Confirmation Candidate. The **Confirmation Candidate** should select a person with the characteristics listed below. These characteristics come from Canon Law of the Catholic Church and the guidelines for the Oakland Diocese.

How many Sponsors are we to select?

Only one.

Are Sponsors the same as Legal Guardians?

No. Sponsors, together with the Parents, help encourage the spiritual life of a candidate. They are not obligated to take custody of the teen in the absence of the parents.

Can a non-Catholic be a Sponsor?

No, a Baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not able to serve as a Sponsor. Non-Baptized persons are not able to serve either as a Sponsor.

Does the Confirmation Sponsor have to be one of the Baptismal Godparents?

While it is desirable that the Sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at Baptism, it is not required.

Are there any requirements for Sponsors?

Yes, as follows:

1. Has the aptitude and intention of fulfilling the role of a Sponsor.
2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Be a fully initiated Catholic and living their life in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching.
 - Has been Baptized in the Catholic Church
 - Has received First Communion.
 - Has been Confirmed (proof will need to be provided)
4. If Married, Married in the Catholic Church. (Proof will need to be provided)
5. Parents may **NOT** be a godparent of the child.

Sponsor Commitment

The Sponsor will be asked to sign your name after the following statements:

- I am a Confirmed, practicing Catholic and in good standing with the Catholic Church.
- I have carefully read the guidelines for Sponsors.
- I practice my faith and the celebration of my life and God's life at Mass on Sundays.
- I realize the importance of my good example in encouraging all whom I meet in their journey towards a closer relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and I accept my responsibilities as a Confirmation Sponsor.

☐ **I have read this agreement and understand everything written above.**

Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____
Name of the Candidate: _____
Relationship to the Candidate: _____ How Long: _____
I am a member of St. Michael Catholic Parish, Livermore ☐ Yes ☐ No
If not at St. Michaels, Where? _____

Qualifications of a Sponsor

Sponsors must meet ALL the following requirements:

- Be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.
Baptized ☐ Yes ☐ No **First Eucharist** ☐ Yes ☐ No **Confirmation** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Be at least 16 years of age ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Not a parent of the teen to be confirmed.
- Be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
 - Attends Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation.
 - Regularly receives the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation
 - If married**, married in the Catholic Church, and living in accordance with the Catholic Church teachings. *Catholics married civilly, or at another Christian church without special permission, or cohabitating **do not** meet the requirements of this role.*

Are you married: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you married civilly only or in the Catholic Church: _____

Date of Catholic Marriage _____ Name of Catholic Church _____
City _____ State _____

Verification Options (please only pick one of the options)

OPTION 1:

Please submit the following documents:

- A copy of the Sponsor Confirmation Certificate

Copy Submitted _____

AND

- If married, a copy of the Sponsor Catholic Marriage Certificate (not the civil certificate).

Copy Submitted _____

OPTION 2:

If, in the event, a Sponsor cannot produce the Confirmation certificate and/or Marriage certificate, a "Letter of Good Standing" can be requested from the Sponsor's home/attending Parish. The letter must include the Pastor's name and signature, contact information and Parish seal. Parishes' administrative offices need time to process requests, so please request the needed documents early.

Letter of Good Standing Submitted:

Copy Submitted _____