

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

*"God is like a mirror. The mirror never changes, but everybody who looks at it sees something different."
--Rabbi Harold Kushner*

THESE ARE THE ACTUAL RULES.

- ✧ The sponsor must be a confirmed, *practicing* Catholic who attends Mass
- ✧ The sponsor must be older than 16
- ✧ The sponsor can't be your parent (but CAN be a sibling or godparent)

THIS IS MERELY HELPFUL ADVICE.

- ✧ Your sponsor should live in town; the hour requirements aren't enormous, but they're significant enough that it will be tricky to make this work with your favorite aunt who lives in Seattle. I'm not saying *rule out* your favorite aunt in Seattle, I'm saying give it some serious thought before you ask her. If you choose someone who cannot be present at all the mandatory events, you are responsible for finding your own proxy. (Your parents are fine for this.)
- ✧ Your sponsor should be an adult—preferably someone over 21. Part of the selection process is looking for someone who is a good role model for you; someone with a lot of life experience is going to be more helpful in the long run.
- ✧ You should pick someone you find really easy to talk to and someone who you feel knows and understands you pretty well; part of the process is picking someone who can continue to be in a close relationship with you even after Confirmation is over.

HERE'S WHAT THEY DO.

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor is to support you in your journey of faith and to stand up with you to say you are ready to receive the Sacrament. They do this by participating in your Confirmation journey and helping to prepare you. They also do this in a literal way during the Rite of Confirmation by presenting you to the Archbishop and saying, "This person is ready to be confirmed." They should:

- ✧ Attend the Sponsor Information Meeting on *Tuesday, October 27th at 7 p.m.*
- ✧ Attend the following 3 sessions: *Prayer 101 (11/8/09), Angels In America (3/7/10), and This Is the End and The Beginning (4/18/10).*
- ✧ Attend the *Rite of Entrance (11/8/09)* and the *Rite of Covenant (3/7/10)* at the 5:30 Youth Mass. These are part of sessions they're already required to attend.
- ✧ Attend the *Confirmation Rehearsal (April 25th at 4:30 p.m.)*
- ✧ Attend the *Rite of Confirmation (Friday, 4/30/10 - date TBD).*
- ✧ Contact their teen before and after each session to follow up and discuss that session's topic.



ACK! WHO SHOULD I PICK?! I'M TOTALLY STUCK!

Ask any Catholic how they picked their own sponsor: the kids from last year's Confirmation class, friends from school that have been confirmed already, parish staff or volunteers at All Saints, etc. Ask your parents how they picked your godparents. Talk to me or Monica or someone else with experience in running Confirmation classes, who will have seen both great and not-so-great sponsors. When I got confirmed I picked my math teacher that taught me for 3 years at St. Mary's. In addition to being like the world's nicest guy, I always felt like he believed in me a lot; he told me I was smart when I felt stupid and recommended me for Honors Algebra even though I had thought all my life I sucked at math. He was also a really good, devout Catholic in a totally non-dorky and non-judgmental way, which was really helpful to me in figuring out who I was and what I believed. He was totally awesome and a great mentor. We still e-mail all the time and he's one of my favorite people in the world.

Sponsor Information Form

Due 11/8/09

Your Name: _____

Your Sponsor's Name: _____

SPONSOR'S GENERAL INFO

Parish Where Registered: _____

Relation to You (Aunt, Teacher, etc.): _____

SPONSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATE

How does your sponsor live out their Catholic faith?: _____

How is your sponsor a role model for you?: _____

What are some traits your sponsor has that you'd like to learn from him/her?: _____
