

What is the role of the Confirmation Sponsor?

In so far as it is possible, every candidate preparing for Confirmation needs a sponsor (CIC 892). It is desirable, though not required, that the same people who served as godparents for baptism return to fill the role of Confirmation sponsors. 2) If a candidate's baptismal godparents are not available, parish leaders should help the candidate find a suitable sponsor. The sponsor, however, need not be a member of the same parish as the confirmand, but it is highly recommended they are able to maintain close communication with the confirmand so as to perform their responsibilities effectively. 3) It is expected that each confirmand have one sponsor (CIC 892) who fulfills the requirements set out in Canon Law and the diocesan guidelines (CIC 872-874, 892-893). A person may serve as a sponsor for multiple confirmands. 4) Pastors and coordinators will see that sponsors, chosen by the candidates or their families, are spiritually fit to take on this responsibility and have exhibited the following qualities: a) Sufficient maturity to fulfill their function (at least 16 years of age) b) Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church; c) Have received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and attempts to frequent the Sacrament of Penance at least annually in accord with the precepts of the Church. d) Freedom from any impediment of canon law to their fulfilling the office of sponsor; e) May not be the natural or adoptive parent of the confirmand (CIC 893 (874). Other qualifying family members may serve as sponsors.

What is the role of the candidate's parents?

Parents 1) As the primary catechists of their children, it is vital that parents are engaged in the preparation process. As stated in the Catechism, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, and through the grace of the sacrament of marriage [parents] receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children." (2222-2224; CIC 835 s4) 2) In addition, parents also undertake specific commitments at the time of their child's baptism. Parents are to see that, "The divine life which God gives [their children] is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts (Rite of Baptism, no. 120)."

What the Sacrament of Confirmation does for the Candidate:

1. Promotes intimacy with Jesus Christ
2. Increases familiarity with the Holy Spirit
3. Strengthens belonging to the parish community
4. Fosters a life of discipleship

How to choose a Saint name:

We suggest that the candidate consider a Saint who has some meaning to the individual. Possibly a patron Saint of a cause or profession they have interest in. Looking up Saints is an educational experience for the candidate.

***Please note that on the registration form the Saint name must be provided at that time.**

Questions can be referred to Joseph Powers at jpowers@sjcsmo.org.