CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Candidate's Name: _____ Grade:

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

Sponsor's Name: _____ DOB_____

Email: _____ Phone Number:_____

Relationship to Candidate:_____

PLEASE READ THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP BEFORE SIGNING

SPONSORS for Confirmation Candidates must present the following qualifications:

1. Must be a regularly practicing Catholic who is at least sixteen years old.[1]
2. Must have completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).
3. Must be a disciple who leads "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."[2]
4. Must not be a parent of the candidate.

Sponsors should be a fully initiated Catholics, faithful to Christ and His Church. Because of the deep connection between these two Sacraments (Baptism and Confirmation), the Catholic Church highly recommends, if possible, that the candidate's Baptismal godparent/s be their Confirmation Sponsor/s.[3]

Requirements for a **proxy** (one who will stand in for the **Sponsor** if unable to be present) are the same as those listed above for a Sponsor [godparent], with the exception of number 4.

Being a **Sponsor** is not just an honor given to a friend or relative. **Sponsors have three primary roles:** to assist the candidate in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to present the Candidate for Confirmation, and along with the parents, to help the confirmed person to live out his or her Christian life more faithfully. Please understand the great importance of these roles which you are undertaking.

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR:

I declare: I am a registered and faithful parishioner of the parish below, fulfilling the qualifications above.

Sponsor Name: _____ Sponsor Signature: _____

Name of Parish: _____ Parish Phone Number: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARISH PRIEST:

(Return unsigned if sponsor is a parishioner of St Patrick Catholic Church in Oak Grove)

I certify that _____ is a parishioner of this parish, a Catholic in good standing with the Church, and is qualified to be a sponsor for Confirmation.

Date: _____ (Rev.) _____

[1] "…unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor has granted an exception for a just cause" (*Code of Canon Law* 874).

[2] *Code of Canon Law* 874.

[3] *Code of Canon Law* 893.

Please deliver or mail to:
St Patrick Catholic Church
19921 Nightingale St NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Each candidate will have a sponsor to represent the support and faith of the community. The sponsor is a vital part of the preparation process who gives witness to faith that is alive through his/her example of prayer, ministry and honest sharing. You and your sponsor will spend a lot of time together talking, reflecting on scripture and praying. She/he will help you process your thoughts, questions and concerns.

Officially, in their Canonical role, sponsors present candidates to the Bishop and the community at Confirmation. But in addition, your sponsor will be your Confirmation companion. She/he can attend any sessions with you, share his/her faith story with you and invite you to participate in parish life. Your sponsor will pray for you and ask his/her friends to do the same.

As you can see, it is important that you ask someone you can be comfortable with. We will provide him/her with the information, skills, suggestions and support for the sponsor role. Assure them that they don't have to know everything there is to know about the Catholic Faith. The important thing is that they personally value being Catholic- a disciple of Jesus Christ and are an active, practicing member of the Catholic Church.

Is there a Catholic that you especially admire? Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor- please don't think it will be an imposition to ask.

The rules for choosing a sponsor are:

⊗ must be a confirmed (at least 18 years of age or older), practicing Catholic who is ready to lead a young person in their faith. A sponsor under the age of 18 requires approval from the Confirmation Coordinator.

⊗ either male or female. They may be related but **cannot be your parent**. Your parent may be a sponsor for another candidate. Spouse and romantic relationships are also strongly discouraged. Are your baptismal God-parents still and an important part of your life? They would be a natural choice.

Prayerfully consider your choice of a sponsor and ask them as soon as possible and make sure to inform them of important dates. If you can't decide whom to ask, we can help you find a sponsor here in the parish. If you need a sponsor, please contact the Director as soon as possible.

The ministry of the Confirmation sponsor is a very important one- but it is also very rewarding. The feedback we have received from previous sponsors is that the time was one of learning about and deepening their own faith. Many sponsors feel that they didn't really appreciate the sacrament of Confirmation in their own lives until they shared the journey with their candidate. So please don't hesitate to ask the person of your choice. It is a prime opportunity to grow in faith.