

Holy Ghost Catholic Church Hammond, Louisiana

Guidelines for choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

The time has arrived for selecting someone to walk with you in your faith journey towards Confirmation and beyond. The parish is here to assist in this selection process and to ensure that all sponsors are suited to the role as set forth in the guidelines established by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

There are two areas that must be understood regarding the choice of sponsors: *responsibility and qualifications*. The sponsor has the responsibility of **being present during the time of celebration of the sacrament, presents the candidate to the bishop for anointing, and later helps them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received**. The Church desires that, if at all possible, one of the baptismal godparents be the sponsor for Confirmation. This emphasizes the intimate relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.

Choose a Confirmation Sponsor who...

- ✓ is sixteen or older
- ✓ is a confirmed Catholic who receives Eucharist
- ✓ if married, in a valid Catholic Marriage
- ✓ lives as a faithful Catholic
- ✓ is not a parent/guardian of this candidate

What should you look for in a Sponsor? Someone who:

- ✓ is able to share their own faith experiences
- ✓ is a good listener and can be a friend for the faith journey that the candidate will be undertaking in the coming months
- ✓ be available to participate in retreat(s) with the candidate during the preparation process.

As you can see, the sponsor is more than someone you want to honor or flatter. This is a serious decision on your part, and the sponsor plays a very important role in your preparation. Once a sponsor is selected the candidate is asked to give his/her sponsor the "Sponsor Certification Form" (found on the church website) requesting information about their eligibility. Please have your sponsor submit this form to Holy Ghost's Church office. Each sponsor must have their pastor's approval by obtaining his signature and seal of their church parish. Sponsors will be asked to attend retreat(s) with their candidate. Retreat dates are posted on the church website and are listed on the class schedule.

If you have any question regarding sponsor eligibility please contact:

Mrs. Trisha Labbé, Director of Religious Education at tlabbe@hgchurch.org or (985) 345-3360, ext. 28.