



Saint Bernard's Parish
Religious Education Confirmation Program
415 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852
(401) 295-0387 Fax (401) 295-1713

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

The best person will be one of your baptismal godparents. The *Catechism* (#1311) and canon law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. You can choose a relative, friend or someone from your parish as your sponsor.

The sponsor is a person who helps you, the candidate, learn the meaning of a life of faith in Jesus Christ and how integrate this on a personal level. The sponsor is never to be seen simply as a title. The sponsor's role is a serious one, which serves to personalize faith and lead into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The sponsor must be:

- A fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (i.e., Baptized, 1st Eucharist, Confirmed)
- A registered member of a parish
- 18 years of age or older
- Willing to be involved and present at liturgical rites involved in the program

A sponsor must NOT be:

- A parent of the candidate

Please consider all of the above when deciding on a sponsor.

After you have chosen your sponsor please give them the "For the Sponsor" sheet on the reverse side of this paper and the confirmation sponsor form. Please fill out the Confirmation candidate information on the top of the form and send to the sponsor. The Sponsor will fill out the "Sponsor's Statement of Faith" section and then send it to his or her parish to fill out the "Sponsor's Parish Certificate" section, complete with parish seal. The completed form then needs to be sent back to Saint Bernard's.

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For the Sponsor

Be at your best

If you have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor, congratulations! This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be, "get it together," so to speak! If you honestly can't, this is understandable, but maybe you should decline the invitation to be a sponsor. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- **Give of your time and share your gifts.** You'll be asked to spend time together on various activities. This may mean preparing lessons or even working on a Christian service project. You could also share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God-given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name—but *be creative and relevant!*
- **Don't miss the ceremony.** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only beginning.
- **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service together. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.
- **Confirmation Sponsor's form.** Please fill out the "Sponsor's Statement of Faith" section and then send it to your parish to fill out the "Sponsor's Parish Certificate" section, complete with parish seal. The completed form then needs to be sent back to Saint Bernard's parish.



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Confirmation Sponsor Form

Confirmation

Candidates Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Sponsor's Statement of Faith

I, _____, hereby state that I am:

- A baptized and confirmed Catholic
- A Registered member of _____ Parish
- A believer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, trying to live as I believe

I testify that the above statements are true.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Sponsor's Parish Certificate

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge, _____
(Sponsor's name)

- Is a registered member of this parish
- Is an active member of this parish
- Is a regular participant in Sunday worship
- Is a Catholic canonically in good standing

Priest Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Church of: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

