

Sponsor may keep this sheet

The Role of the Sponsor:

- ... a man or woman who knows the candidate, helps him/her, and witnessed to his/her morals, faith and intention ... "
- "(one) who is close to the candidate because of his /her example, character and friendship."
- It is this person's responsibility to show the candidate the place of the Gospel in his/her life and in society.

A Sponsor Is Called To Be:

- A FRIEND and companion throughout the preparation process and beyond.
- A SOURCE OF INFORMATION about daily Christian living. A fully initiated Catholic (Baptized, Eucharist & Confirmation), who is active in the faith.
- A GUIDE to walk with you in parish life and service ministry.
- A PARTICIPANT in the liturgical ceremony of Confirmation.

Qualifications of a Sponsor for Confirmation

The sponsor must be at least sixteen years old and may not be the natural or adoptive parents of the person to be confirmed. He/she must be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith (have received Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); must be leading a life in harmony with the Faith, (Precepts of the Catholic Church; must be free of any canonical impediment (example: if married, you must be married in the Catholic Church; if single, living chastely, etc.

Precepts of the Catholic Church: Are the absolute minimum actions required of Catholics regarding the Church.

The Church uses these precepts remind us that Christian life requires a commitment to prayer and active participation in the liturgy and sacraments. If we fall below this bare-minimum level, we cannot rightly consider ourselves to be in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Each of these precepts of the Catholic Church is a requirement. Together with the Ten Commandments, they represent the minimum level of moral living. Intentional violation of the precepts or the Commandments is a grave *matter*, meaning a mortal sin.

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor. We must "sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord" (Sunday), as well as the principal feast days, know as Catholic holy days of obligation. This requires attending Mass, "and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days."
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year. We must prepare for the Eucharist by means of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This sacrament "continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness."
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season. This "guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy."
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. "The fourth precept ensures the time of abstinence and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart."

5. "The fifth precept means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability."

These quotations are from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its section about the Precepts of the Catholic Church (#2041-3)

Note that these precepts of the Catholic Church are required, unless you have a legitimate reason for not meeting them. For example: If you are sick, or tending to a sick child, it is not a grave violation to miss Mass that day. Children under 18, elderly over 60 and pregnant or nursing women do not have to fast on normal fast days (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday).

Dress Code for Sponsors

The clothes we wear should reflect the dignity and importance of the sacrament to be received. Please dress appropriately.

Female: Please be modest. No spaghetti straps and no backless. Dress shoes: no tennis shoes.

Male: Shirt with a collar, tie(optional) and dress pants. A coat is preferred, if you own one, but is not required. Dress shoes; no tennis shoes.