

SPONSOR RESEARCH AND DECLARATION FOR

Name of Confirmation Candidate

Stage #1: Sponsor Research

The Gifts of the Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord, and Reverence. (Isaiah 11:1-5) We will learn more about these Gifts and their presence, activity, and power in our lives this year. Do you happen to know of anyone in your life who has a specific gift? Ask yourself if any of these people would qualify as a possible Confirmation Sponsor for you. You may list anyone you have in mind for this position. Most often Godparents, because of the close connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, should be considered as Sponsors. Also for consideration would be other family members (except parents*), close family friends, youth ministers, faculty, coaches, etc. This is the beginning of the process.

Possible Sponsors to select:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Stage #2: Sponsor Qualifications

Now that you have some names of possible Sponsors, it is time look at the following information to determine whether they are appropriate for the Sponsor role.

Sponsor Qualification:

- must be a practicing Confirmed Catholic
- at least sixteen years of age (18 years & older is best)
- responsible and trustworthy
- prayerful, loving, and is comfortable sharing with the young person.
- positive attitude
- will support the parents in spiritually raising the young person in the Catholic Church for the rest of the young person's life.
- is able to attend the three monthly Candidate/Sponsor sessions ** on October 7/January 13/March 3

**Please note that according to Canon Law 874, a Sponsor cannot be the Candidate's mother or father. Also note: Candidates may select only one sponsor, unless the Baptismal Godparents are chosen.*

Fill in the information below as it applies to each possible sponsor:

THIS PERSON IS:	A CONFIRMED & PRACTICING CATHOLIC		ATTENDS MASS REGULARLY		AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD (18 years & older is best)		A GOOD SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE		IS ABLE TO ATTEND all or most of the three SUNDAY EVENING SESSIONS? 6:30-8:00 PM		IS ABLE TO WORK with me on the monthly sessions, either in person or across the miles	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
NAME												

Do the possible Sponsors fulfill most or all of the qualifications so far? Y N (circle one)
If too many qualifications are not fulfilled, consider crossing those names off the list.

If none of your possible sponsors qualifies, try to think of people you know or see in Church at Mass, Youth Ministry or at School; also consider those Catholics you know well in your Fine Arts and Sports programs. Then, start the process over with the new names.

Stage #3: Personal Reflection

This stage is necessary in making your final choice for a sponsor. Take time and answer the following questions as they apply to each of the remaining possibilities. Use a separate sheet of paper for this section.

1. What do you know about this person and their commitment to the Catholic faith?
2. How will this person be a positive influence prayerfully and spiritually during your preparation process?
3. Will this person be able to commit to the Confirmation Sponsor Role?
4. What Gifts of the Spirit do you share with this person?
5. What do you most admire about this person's faith?

Stage #4: Final Decision and Parent acknowledgment. DUE no later than September 1, to Patti Reynolds in the Parish Faith Formation Office. Phone: 459-4662 ext. 1209 or email: pattireynolds@stthomasgr.org with questions/comments. (Please see next page for additional information)

Sponsor Name _____

Why are you choosing this person to ask as your sponsor?

By signing below, I am acknowledging that together with my child, we have completed the necessary research required for selecting an appropriate Confirmation Sponsor. I agree and support my child's decision. I will assist my son/daughter in asking the person documented above to serve as a Confirmation Sponsor. In doing so, I will give the necessary details to help that person make an informed decision.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent email: _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR DECLARATION

Parent/s: Now that you and your child have arrived at a qualified sponsor, please go forward with asking that person. When you do, share the reason why he/she was chosen and give the following details to assist him/her in making an informed decision.

Sponsor Duties:

The following is asked of the Sponsor:

1. Pray for and with the Candidate. Get to know the Candidate and lead them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church. Attend all or most of the three Candidate/Sponsor sessions (October 7/January 13/March 3).
2. Complete the assigned monthly "Decision Point" sessions.
3. Write a Recommendation Letter to the Parish Faith Formation Director stating that the Candidate is prepared for Confirmation; DUE in February. If you feel the Candidate is not ready for Confirmation, please call or email to discuss.
4. Present Candidate during the Confirmation Mass. (late winter or early spring; the date will be announced in October)
5. Continue to be available for the Candidate to lend spiritual support after the Confirmation ceremony is over. This is a lifelong commitment!

Note: If he/she is unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties, return to the research process to discover another choice.

If he/she agrees to the duties, please complete the information requested below and turn this form in to *Patti Reynolds in the Parish Faith Formation Office no later than September 1.*

Student Name _____

Sponsor Name _____

Sponsor Address _____

Sponsor Phone _____

Sponsor Email _____

***If a Sponsor cannot attend the Candidate/Sponsor sessions due to traveling distance, illness, or a calendar conflict, a proxy may be used. A proxy is a person who acts as a substitute in the sponsor's absence. A parent may act as a proxy. The proxy would be responsible to relay the missed information to the sponsor. This is only appropriate when all other options have been exhausted. Please remember that the monthly online Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor sessions from Decision Point are for building relationship and creating a bonding experience, and for giving the Sponsors some of the needed tools for this lifelong journey with their Candidate.*