

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor is a very important part of preparing for the sacrament, and one we get many questions and concerns about. Read over the following guidelines, and then take some time in prayer and dialogue with your parents to discern who may be the best sponsor for you.

First the basics: Sponsors must meet the following criteria: 1) at least 16 years of age, 2) a confirmed Catholic who has received First Eucharist and is leading a life in harmony with the faith, and 3) not be one of the candidate's parents, 4) they are not prohibited by Canon Law from exercising the role of sponsor; if your sponsored is married they must have been married in the Catholic Church, the same applies to those who have remarried.

Further considerations: Sponsors should be someone whom you admire for the way they live their faith daily. They should be someone whom you consider to be a good role model, and someone you would feel comfortable meeting with and asking questions regarding your faith. Preferably choose someone who lives locally since you will be meeting with them and they will be involved in the process with you. Choosing a godparent is ideal but not always an option.

A few suggestions: If you are struggling with whom to ask, you are not alone. Here are some suggestions candidates have found helpful in the past. Consider asking: older confirmed siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles (you get the idea), a friend's parent, a past or current Religious Ed teacher or youth ministry volunteer. Keep your eyes open at Mass and other parish gatherings and consider who fits the above qualities. Call Lailani. She knows many wonderful adults in our parish who would be honored to serve as your sponsor. If you do decide to choose someone who does not live locally, you will still have to choose another adult (preferably not a parent) who can meet with you regularly.

Sponsor requirements: What does a sponsor do? When asking them you will need to let them know specifically what will be required of them. Be sure to give them the following events and dates:

Sponsors are required to attend the following with their candidates (a parent my proxy in sponsors absence:

1st Year Candidates:

- Entrance Ritual at the 12PM mass on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**
- Covenant Ritual at the 12PM youth mass on **Sunday, September 27, 2020**
***1-hour class with sponsor will take place immediately after the ritual masses*

2nd Year Candidates:

- Covenant Ritual at the 12PM youth mass on **Sunday, September 22, 2019**
***1-hour class with sponsor will take place immediately after the ritual mass*
- Confirmation Rehearsal: **Sunday, April 5, 2020 @6pm in Church**
- Confirmation Mass: possible dates are Friday April 17, 24, or May 1 – *you will be notified immediately once we hear from the Bishop's office which date we get.*

Sponsor timeline: When you choose your sponsor have them complete the sponsor information sheet (attached), and return it to the youth ministry office. We need to have all sponsor sheets turned in **no later than December 8, 2019**. If you need help finding a sponsor, please let Lailani know right away so we can begin looking. Office: (858) 674-114.

SPONSOR INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and return this form to the San Rafael Youth Ministry Office no later than **December 8, 2019.**

Mail or Fax to: San Rafael Catholic Church
Attn: Lailani Gachalian
17252 Bernardo Center Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
Fax #: 858-487-1498

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Church currently active in: _____

Name of church sponsor Baptized in: _____

City/State: _____

Name of church sponsor Confirmed in: _____

City/State: _____

Date of sponsor's Confirmation: _____

Any questions or concerns you have about being a sponsor: _____

***Required for sponsors who are not parishioners of San Rafael. Please have your pastor send a letter verifying that you meet the requirements to serve as a Confirmation sponsor:** 1. you are at least 16 years of age; 2. you are a current/active member in your parish; 3. you are a Confirmed Catholic who has received First Eucharist and are leading a life in harmony with our faith; 4. you are not a parent of the candidate; 5. you are not prohibited by Canon Law from exercising the role of sponsor.