

Sponsors

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unit of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. (CCC#1311)

The following canonical directives apply:

- a. Canon 892: As far as possible a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.
- b. Canon 893 #1: To perform the role of sponsor, it is necessary that a person fulfill the conditions mentioned in Canon 874.
- c. Canon 893 #2: It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation.
- d. Canon 874 #1: To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:
 - i. Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;
 - ii. Have completed the sixteenth year,* unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
 - iii. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;
 - iv. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared, (i.e. in a non-sacramental marriage);
 - v. Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized or confirmed.
- e. Canon 874 #2: A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism or confirmation and together with a Catholic sponsor.

*St. Mary on the Hill uses the age of 18. Pastor approval is required for someone under the age of 18.