

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

1 Passaic St.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450.

GUIDELINES FOR PICKING A CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR

Below, are the guidelines set by the Archdiocese and the parish for choosing a Confirmation name and Sponsor. Please note that in many cases certain practices are highly recommended, but the candidate may decide not to follow these recommendations. This is perfectly acceptable as long as the alternative guidelines are followed.

THE CONFIRMATION NAME

The Church is basically silent on the issue of name choice at this time. Either a special Confirmation name or the use of one's baptismal name is appropriate.

However, the Church does highly recommend that the baptismal name be taken, showing the unity between Baptism and Confirmation.

In the case of a confirmation name, a Christian name is to be selected. This means the name of a Saint or the name of someone the candidate holds in high esteem due to their faith. This person should be of great importance and example to the candidate (in other words - a "living Saint" in the eyes of the candidate).

Names of celebrities or choosing a name simply because one likes it, will NOT be permitted.

When choosing a name, only one name is to be chosen. Example: Choosing "Mary" is appropriate, choosing "Mary Elizabeth" is not.

All candidates will be expected to hand in a one page typed paper explaining the reasons for choosing the name (whether baptismal or Confirmation name) giving examples of Saints or other important Christian role models who have that name. This paper should also explain the reason for the Candidate's choice of Sponsor.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Each candidate should have their own individual sponsor.

The candidate may choose one of their godparents. This again shows the ties between Baptism and Confirmation. The choice of a godparent is highly recommended.

The candidate may also pick a special sponsor who is not one of the godparents. This special sponsor should be someone the candidate sees as a positive **Catholic** role model in their life.

The parent of the candidate is NOT permitted to be the sponsor.

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PICKING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SPONSOR

1. Must be sufficiently mature in his/her faith commitment.
2. Not prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.
3. Must be a minimum age of 21 years. (Exceptions to this rule need approval from the Director of Youth Ministry.)
4. A sponsor can be of either gender.
5. The person chosen must have the intention of performing their role; assume an ongoing spiritual relationship with the candidate and not merely a function as a passive witness to the Sacrament.
6. Sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
7. Sponsors are to be active members of a Catholic Church.

A SPONSOR IS...

A Representative of the Catholic Community: The sponsor is the personal representative of the entire Church Community to the individual candidate.

A Companion: A sponsor should serve as a companion or a guide for the candidate along the journey. The sponsor should be someone who can give you the support when there is hesitation, understanding in times of doubt and comfort when there is inner conflict. This person should also challenge you when your enthusiasm or interest is at a low point. This companion should be someone you can trust, turn to and talk things over with.

A Mentor: A sponsor should be someone who is open to growth in one's faith and putting into practice what that faith requires. This person should be a faith example who you look up to and would like to emulate.

THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

THE FUNCTION OF THE SPONSOR IS TO:

1. Assist in the preparation for the Sacrament.
2. Accompany the candidate and present him/her to the bishop.
3. Help the candidate fulfill his/her baptismal promises faithfully by growing in a faith relationship with the candidate.

(OVER)

SPONSORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE CANDIDATE BY:

1. Attending the Sponsor/Candidate Enrichment Days.
2. Offering their services in the planning and development of the parish Confirmation program.
3. Deepening their faith relationship with the candidate during the time of preparation for Confirmation.
4. Attending Mass as often as possible with the candidate.
5. Participating in a service project with the candidate if possible.
6. Continuing to be a source of encouragement and guidance for the candidate after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

TRAITS OF A SPONSOR

- A sponsor prays.
- A sponsor participates in the Liturgy.
- A sponsor listens.
- A sponsor is respectful.
- A sponsor serves as a bridge, helping the candidate understand and become familiar with the people, places and traditions of the Catholic faith the candidate is unfamiliar with.
- A sponsor respects the candidate's freedom, allowing the candidate to decide whether this is the right time to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A sponsor lives in a world of hope, feeling confident in being able to live their faith in the modern world.

IMPORTANT NOTE

SINCE THE SPONSOR WILL NEED TO ATTEND A FEW MANDATORY MEETINGS WITH THE CANDIDATE, ONE SHOULD CONSIDER TRAVEL DISTANCE FOR THE SPONSOR WHEN SELECTING HIM/HER.

IF THE PERSON CHOSEN IS NOT A MEMBER OF O.L.M.C. PARISH, A LETTER FROM THE PARISH THIS PERSON BELONGS TO STATING THIS PERSON IS A PRACTICING CATHOLIC MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE ATTACHED SPONSOR REQUEST FORM.