

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

SPONSOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION

The choice of sponsor for confirmation is a very important one. It is an honor to be chosen but there is much more to the role than being honorary.

THE SPONSOR

1. Witnesses, prays and is active in the liturgical life of the church, participating in Sunday Mass and receives the sacraments regularly.
2. Is a real friend, someone whom you can trust and confide in, someone who is "there" when needed, the kind of person you would like to be.
3. Is a guide, a good "listener" who is ready to give advice when asked, one whose experience as a practicing Catholic is an invaluable source for helping you to make decisions about your own life as a Catholic.
4. Takes an interest in the program you are following and will be ready to accept the invitations you send to take part in the special Masses celebrated during the preparation program.
5. Knows you well enough to say before the parish when the time comes that you are someone who is choosing freely to celebrate confirmation.

Sponsors are expected to be models, that is, persons to whom young people can look up to, and observe how a mature, committed member of the faith community lives. The idea of being a model, of course, is both embarrassing and threatening to most of us. We don't normally go around considering ourselves models of many things, especially of virtue, faith and the like. It should be stressed, then, that model as used here doesn't mean one who has achieved the ideal of Christian perfection. Rather the sponsors are being asked to model the behavior of a person striving to follow Jesus and His teachings. In that sense, they can be authentic models with whom you can identify. Just as a young person experiences weakness, you can look to your sponsors to see how the more mature Christian deals with his or her personal weakness in the light of faith.

Another image of the role of sponsor is that of mentor. A mentor is a fancy name for a coach – a person who has learned by the experience of playing the game. The mentor or coach gives advice, challenges the person to try harder, to develop their hidden talents and to overcome bad habits. The coach praises and the coach scolds and knows when one is more necessary than the other.

It is necessary to get a Certificate of Eligibility from the sponsor's parish. Once you have asked the person of your choice and he/she agrees to serve as your sponsor, please ask them to return to you their Certificate of Eligibility and the attached Sponsor Form. The certificate and forms are due **Monday October 19th**

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPONSOR

1. A sponsor must be sufficiently mature for the role. They must be at least 16 years of age.
2. A sponsor must belong to the Catholic Church and must have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic and registered in a Church.
4. A sponsor, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church.
5. A sponsor may be the same sponsor the individual had at Baptism.
6. A sponsor may be a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation.
7. A sponsor may be either male or female for any candidate.
8. A sponsor may not be a parent of the child to be confirmed.

Mrs. Barbara Hardiman
Coordinator of Religious Education
141 Navesink Avenue
Highlands, New Jersey 07732

*CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM*

I have agreed to become a Confirmation Sponsor for **(Please Print)**

(Candidate's Name)

I will make every effort to attend the Adult Education Session for Confirmation this coming year.

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Registered Parish: _____

Please have Confirmation Student return this form and your **CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY** by **Monday, October 18th**

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