

# Our Lady of Consolation Confirmation

## Sponsor Requirements

A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, 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. It is desirable that one of the godparents at baptism, if available, also be the sponsor at confirmation. (If both godparents are still living, both may serve as sponsors. In all other cases, only one sponsor is to be chosen for Confirmation). The sponsor may not be the father or mother of the candidate.

The sponsor is asked to attend two “Youth/Sponsor Sessions” and one “Youth/Sponsor Day of Reflection” with the candidate and to meet with the candidate between these sessions. If a sponsor cannot attend the briefing sessions due to distance, a proxy can be sent in his or her place. The sponsor will still be required to discuss provided session materials with teen after each session takes place, preferably via phone, since being a companion during preparation is an essential part of the sponsor’s role. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, loving, and is comfortable sharing their faith with the young person.

It is the role of the sponsor to help the candidate prepare for confirmation, to present the candidate to the bishop for the anointing, and to later see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament. Picking a good sponsor is one of the keys to having a meaningful experience of the sacrament.

Throughout the preparation process, the sponsor is asked to:

1. Pray for and with the candidate.
2. Get to know the candidate better to lead them closer to Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.
3. Attend 2 “Youth/Sponsor Sessions” and one “Youth/Sponsor Day of Reflection” at Our Lady of Consolation.
4. Meet with the candidate in between each session to complete the information handed out at each session, especially during the summer break.
5. Complete some type of common prayer experience outside of Mass, such as pray a rosary, attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a penance service, Stations of the Cross, etc.
6. Complete with the candidate some act of service to the poor that shows “faith in action.” Julie Buehler, the parish Christian Service Coordinator, offers multiple opportunities each month for serving others. Check the parish bulletin or parish website for upcoming projects. Also, the Middle School Faith Formation program offers a monthly service opportunity, which you can pre-register for.
7. Write a brief “Sponsor Letter” to the coordinator highlighting your experience working with the candidate in preparation and the candidate’s readiness for the sacrament. The “Sponsor Letter” will be due by Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.
8. Present the candidate to the bishop during the Rite of Confirmation.
9. Serve as a point of contact and on-going spiritual support for the newly confirmed.