

Confirmation 2021- Sponsor Eligibility Letter

Due by April 29, 2021 at the PREP Office

This form is valid only for sponsors that belong to St. Benedict. All other sponsors must have a sealed letter from their parish.

Dear Father Phil, (If the sponsor belongs to St. Benedict)

I have been asked to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church. I realize it is a special honor and understand my responsibility to be a sponsor. I am ready and willing to share my Catholic faith with this child as he/she completes their initiation into our church.

I am aware of the requirements for serving as sponsor and I meet those requirements. In particular,

- I believe and hold true all the teachings of the Catholic Church
- I attend Mass on Sunday and the Holy Days of Obligation
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation
- I receive the Sacrament of Eucharist frequently
- I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- I am over 16 years of age
- I am registered in a Catholic Parish Community
- I am a Catholic in good standing and a practicing member of my parish.

I have attached a letter of eligibility from my pastor (if not from Saint Benedict), attesting to my eligibility to serve as a sponsor.

I accept the responsibility to help this child grow in our Catholic faith through my example and by sharing my own faith experience with this child, especially in the area of prayer, service to others, and knowledge of our faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Signature of Sponsor

First _____ Last _____
Confirmation Candidate

Please Print:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Parish: SAINT BENEDICT, MOHNTON, PA 19540

Sponsor Information

The Role of a Sponsor

The Sponsor's Duty is to see that the person confirmed acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this Sacrament.

{Can. 892}

Requirements for Being a Confirmation Sponsor

A Sponsor must be able to obtain from his/her Church a certificate of eligibility stating that he/she is a good Catholic in good standing.

- Meaning that he/she is-

Registered and a practicing member of the Church

Attends Sunday Mass and the Holy Days of Obligation

Received the sacraments of initiation in the Church- Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation

- A sponsor can not be the child's parent
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age
- It is desirable that the Godparent at Baptism serves as the Sponsor for confirmation but not mandated
- If married, the sponsor must have been married in the Catholic Church or at least with the approval of the Catholic Church

Please note: It is your responsibility that the Sponsor (or you) sends in the Certificate of Eligibility to the Religious Education Office

If the Sponsor is a member of Saint Benedict Parish all you will need to do is make sure your Sponsor completes the Sponsor Eligibility Letter (see enclosed) and returns it to the PREP Office so we can send them all together for Father Phil to validate.

The role of Godparent at Baptism or Sponsor at Confirmation is more than ceremonial. Often in the past, some would say the Church had this or that requirement. The first question is not whether or not the Church will permit me to be a Godparent or Sponsor, but whether or not I can allow **MYSELF** to be one! In other words, each one of us must ask himself or herself if our own integrity allows us to stand at the alter and make a public profession that the faith we will speak in words is also the faith we practice!

The role of Godparent and/or Sponsor does not demand that you be a canonized saint. All of us must place ourselves at the mercy of God. We all have miles to go in Christian progress, yet we also know that members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments, suddenly find themselves asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith. You could choose to make the signing of the enclosed form a real grace of change, a moment of re-commitment. You could resolve to sit down with a Priest, Deacon, member of our Pastoral Staff or a practicing Catholic Family member or friend and chart a new path in your faith.

Perhaps, you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then by all means be honest enough to simply ask the relative or friend who asked you to be a Godparent / Sponsor to hold you excused. This is what is meant by a call to *integrity and honesty*. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God.

If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call. It will be a joy to walk this step with you. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts, and prayers in arriving at a response to this *call to integrity*.

THE SPONSOR'S DUTY IS TO SEE THAT THE PERSON CONFIRMED ACTS AS A TRUE WITNESS TO CHRIST AND FAITHFULLY FULFILLS THE DUTIES INHERENT IN THIS SACRAMENT.

(CAN.892)