

Dear Parents,

This is an important year for your teen. Not only are they preparing to move up to high school but they are also preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. While this is not the end of their faith journey it is an important milestone and another step towards making more adult choices for themselves.

One of these adult choices is that of choosing a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We all encourage our teens to prayerfully choose who their sponsor will be, but the Church also has some requirements that I want to share with you. These need to be followed and I ask you to share them with your son or daughter as he/she makes this decision.

A Confirmation sponsor may be a Catholic of either sex who is over 16 years of age and has been confirmed. Your child can choose one of their godparents or someone else who is Catholic but it is important that the person chosen is **active** in their Faith. The diocese defines someone who is active as a person who goes to Mass weekly, volunteers their time and talent and gives financial support to their parish. The Bishop expects the sponsor to be able to demonstrate this.

This is because the sponsor must be someone who can help the confirmed person to “act as a true witness to Christ” (Code of Canon Law 892). This means that a sponsor must be a witness to the Faith themselves if they are to help the candidate in the future. The Church looks to them to act as a good Catholic role model who will help the candidate to grow spiritually.

If the sponsor is part of our own parish family it is easy to confirm that they are active from our records and a letter is not needed. If they are from another parish they will need to provide a letter from their Pastor confirming that they are active in their parish. This is a common practice in the Church so there should be no difficulty obtaining the letter if they are practicing their Faith.

All sponsors for Confirmation who are members of a parish other than St. Brendan will need to provide a letter from their Pastor confirming that they are active in their home parish. We will check our own records to confirm that sponsors who are part of our parish family fulfill the criteria too.

Remember also that a sponsor for confirmation may not be a parent, stepparent or other guardian.

Wishing you God’s blessing and peace



Fr Bob Penhallurick  
Pastor

*Please see reverse side for information on what “active membership” in our parish means.*