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## **ROLE OF SPONSOR**

The Code of Canon Law states “the person to be CONFIRMED is to have a sponsor. The sponsor’s function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.” Canon #892 The same conditions are expected for those who make themselves candidates to be godparents/sponsors of BAPTISM.

A sponsor is a role model, a guide and encourager. Therefore, they have to be living their Catholic faith. They have to be fully initiated (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) and if married, must be married in the Catholic Church. They must attend mass each Sunday as both the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church teach. A sponsor must be one who is in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Parents are not allowed to sponsor their own children. At Immaculate Conception church the sponsor must be significantly more mature than the person being confirmed.

For those who are not yet baptized, a two full year program is required, and the candidate must elect just ONE sponsor for his sacraments.

Sponsors are asked to:

- Pray with and for the candidate.
- Share what Confirmation means to them with candidate.
- Be an active member of their local parish.
- Share conversation and encouragement.
- Attend the Rehearsal and Confirmation Liturgy.
- Follow attentively the Sponsor/Godparent Covenant.

## **SPONSOR/GODPARENT COVENANT**

As a sponsor/godparent, your role is to encourage the faith of your candidate and be an “example” to godson and to reflect with him/her on the meaning of a life of Catholic discipleship.

The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as a sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874): You may not be the parent of the person being confirmed; you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage; and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.