

# CHOOSING A SPONSOR

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

All Confirmation candidates must be presented to the Bishop by a qualified sponsor. This sponsor, while chosen by the candidate, must have certain qualities that are spelled out fully in church law.

### A sponsor:

- Must be a Catholic who actively practices the faith and attends Mass weekly.
- Must be at least 16 years old and already confirmed.
- May not be a parent of the candidate.
- If married, the marriage was in a Catholic church or validated by the Catholic Church.
- Need not be the same gender as the candidate.

In addition to the requirements stated above, a sponsor should exemplify these qualities:

- Is the life of this person a testimony of his/her commitment to the Lord and to the Church?
- Is this person physically nearby to be part of the life of the candidate during the preparation process?
- Will this person be willing and eager to guide the candidate as they continue to learn:
  - To pray in new ways?
  - To witness?
  - To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit?
  - More about the Catholic faith?
  - More about their parish and how to participate in parish life?
  - How to overcome doubts, fear, and temptation through their relationship with God?
- Will this person pray for the candidate regularly?
- Is the candidate able to approach this person with questions they have about their faith and spirituality?

After the candidate has prayerfully chosen a Sponsor, have him/her **complete the information sheet on the other side of this page. This form must be turned in to the Youth Ministry Office by *October 24*.** This deadline provides the sponsor time to assist the candidate during the course of their preparation for the sacrament.

# CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

## ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1376 Snell Isle Blvd. NE

St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Michael Specht, Director of Youth Ministry

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

**(If not registered at St. Raphael, sponsor certificate at bottom must be completed.)**

I declare that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic. I believe all that the Catholic Church believes and proclaims to be revealed by God, and I make a serious effort to live a good, moral life worthy of imitation. As a practicing Catholic, I participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and I receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly. If married, my marriage is blessed by a Catholic priest or Catholic deacon. I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor.

I have read and understand the requirements to be a sponsor and I testify that I fulfill the qualifications. I understand that my primary role as a sponsor is to be a good model of Catholic, Christian living for the candidate I am sponsoring.

Signature of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

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### SPONSOR CERTIFICATE (To be completed by Sponsor's home parish)

This certifies that the above named person is known to me as a parishioner in good standing. I testify that he/she is qualified to serve as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

[Parish Seal]

Name of Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parish \_\_\_\_\_