

CHOOSING A SPONSOR AND GETTING THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

DUE: **April 28, 2024**

DIRECT QUESTIONS & GIVE ALL INFORMATION TO: Mrs. Acevedo, Director of Religious Education

Did you know that picking a sponsor is defined in Canon 874? (scroll down to find Chapter IV: https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4-cann834-878_en.html)

The Catholic Church prefers that you choose one of your baptismal godparents to serve also as your Confirmation sponsor. Why? Because there's a connection and relationship between the two sacraments, and asking your godparent to continue in this role and responsibility allows him or her to be more effective as your partner.

But the choice is yours: your sponsor is chosen by you. Your parents, catechist, pastor, or anyone else may provide suggestions and/or opinions, but the choice should be made by you.

Make sure the person you want to ask meets these qualifications:

- a. Someone who is sixteen years old or older.
- b. Someone who is baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and has also received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation.
- c. Someone who practices his or her faith – someone who regularly goes to Sunday Mass and confession, and who prays.
- d. Someone who leads a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith—someone who has not excommunicated themselves from the Church, and someone who is not bound by canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.

This means that:

-If the person is single, he or she is living a chaste life.

-If the person is married or divorced, he or she must be living according to the regulations of the Catholic faith.

- e. Someone who is willing to be actively and regularly involved in your life—someone you are willing to be honest and open with and to receive advice and guidance from.
- A sponsor *cannot* be your parent, step-parent, foster parent, or legal guardian.
 - But a sponsor *can* be another family member (sibling, grandparents, etc.) or a non-family member (close family friend, your personal friend, neighbor, etc.).
 - Everyone *can* choose either a male or female.
 - Remember: the Catholic Church prefers you ask one of your godparents!

Once you've chosen your sponsor, you need to ask him or her. Keep in mind that he or she may say no.

After you have found a sponsor, thank him or her for supporting you, and then share that information with Mrs. Acevedo:

YOU

1. You will give Mrs. Acevedo your sponsor's name, mobile phone number, and **Gmail** address no later than the due date (**April 28, 2024**).
2. Tell your Sponsor that he or she is required to take an online Google Class with the Program starting in late summer (which is why we need a **Gmail** address and no other email address). S/he will receive an invitation link in Gmail.
3. Tell your Sponsor that he or she will be invited to attend several events with you next year, and that you'll provide the dates when the program starts next year in September. In the meantime, anyone can go to <http://www.holyfamilyccpsl.com/religious-education.html> , scroll down to find the calendar, and click on any of the events to get the details.
4. Give our address, phone number, email address, and webpage address to your Sponsor and let him or her know that they can contact us any time with any questions:

Mrs. Mary Acevedo, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Kelly Walcheski, Program Assistant
Father Tri Pham, Pastor of Holy Family

Holy Family Catholic Church 772-337-4313
2330 SE Mariposa Avenue
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 <http://www.holyfamilyccpsl.com/cy2.html>

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach

YOUR SPONSOR

1. You will ask your sponsor to call her/his Parish Office and tell the Parish Secretary that s/he will be a Confirmation Sponsor. S/he needs to ask for a "Letter of Eligibility" that will be signed by the parish pastor and pressed with the parish seal. Some churches call the document "Letter of Good Standing" or something else. Your sponsor must send the original letter with the seal via snail-mail to Mrs. Acevedo at the address above no later than **September 8, 2024**. Your sponsor may use our form letter, found here: [holyfamilyccpsl.com/cy1.html](http://www.holyfamilyccpsl.com/cy1.html)
2. Add our event dates to his or her calendar and support you in them.
3. Look for the online class invitation in Gmail and participate in the class.