

**St. Philip Church & St. Clare Mission**

**127 Burke St., PO Box 59**

**Richmond, Ontario KOA 2Z0**

**613-838-2314**

## **CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

The sponsor for your child is to assist your child to live an active Catholic life before and after the celebration of Confirmation. The sponsor also presents the candidate to the bishop at the celebration of Confirmation. It should be someone that your child trusts and respects and is a good role model of a committed practicing Catholic.

The recommended sponsor for your child at Confirmation is one of your child's godparents. A godparent best supports the link of Confirmation to Baptism but as well this person most likely already has a special relationship with your child. However, it is not always possible or desirable to select a godparent so another person may be chosen as your child's sponsor for Confirmation.

A sponsor must have completed full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and should be regularly participating in Sunday Eucharist. Sponsors should be at least sixteen years of age and cannot be the parent of the candidate. The sponsor may be male or female and need not be the same sex as the candidate.

Sponsors fulfill their roles by supporting the parents and the candidates as they prepare for full initiation into the Church. Participation in the Confirmation celebration is only a small part of the duty of a sponsor. The relationship of the sponsor and candidate should continue long after the day of Confirmation.

You and your child should discuss together about who should take on the role of sponsor. It is best if the sponsor is able to be at the Confirmation celebration but someone else (even the parent) may stand in for the sponsor if they are unable to attend.

The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:

- may be either a man or a woman. (Sponsors do not have to be the same sex as the candidate.)
- must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and has made First Communion.)
- is a person who regularly comes to Sunday Mass and celebrates the sacraments.
- must be at least 16 years old.
- may not be the parent of the candidate.