

SPONSOR 2019

As a member of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Evergreen Park, I desire to affirm my belief in Jesus and His Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As I enter into this final phase of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, bless me and give me the willingness to do all that is required of me.

I pledge to the best of my ability to take part in the learning sessions and activities that are a part of the program of preparation.

I accept the responsibility to open my mind and heart to the activities of the Holy Spirit during this time of preparation. I ask this in Christ's name.

Amen



Dear Sponsor,

Today the parish community of Most Holy Redeemer is offering your sponsoree an opportunity to renew his/her Baptismal vows and to experience God's love and friendship in their lives.

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common".

Acts 4:32

Four areas will be stressed as they prepare for Confirmation:

- Liturgy: regular attendance at Mass; developing a commitment to living out our faith by going to Mass
- Prayer: developing a routine and understanding the meaning of prayer
- Knowing our faith: knowing our beliefs as stated in the Creed
- Christian service: practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Guidelines For Service

Christian love is manifested in service to other people. Jesus came as one who serves. He declared that, at the end of time, he will judge us on how well we have served him through other people. A vital part of the candidates' preparation for living a full Christian life is developing a habit of service.

Jesus has invited your Confirmation candidate to follow Him, to walk in His footsteps, and to reach out to others as He did, with care, concern, healing, and hope. Confirmation can be a missed opportunity or a highlight, a turning point of their life. It is their choice.

- Their service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- They should reflect on how their service project is helping them take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service is not new to them. They have given of themselves in many ways and should continue after their Confirmation and all through their life.
- Service hours must be journaled. Writing down their thoughts and feelings about each project after its completion.

Service projects will be listed and they will have many interesting avenues to choose from. The performance of service hours and the reflection upon such work are an integral preparation for the life of loving service that adult Christians must embrace. Therefore, the honest completion of these hours is necessary for Confirmation and if this commitment is not done honestly and in a Christian spirit it would mean that they are not ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation and will have to wait another year.

We thank you for your cooperation in this Spirit-filled endeavor. We thank you for your good example and the support you will be giving your Confirmation candidate.

In Christ,
Fr. Hyland and Staff

In the recent past, a sponsor for Confirmation was a friend or relative who showed up at the ceremony...and that was it. In the early days of the Church, a sponsor was often the *person whose actions inspired another to become a Christian, a follower of Jesus*. A person saw in them qualities that enticed them to make positive changes in their own life.

Today, the Church is reclaiming this tradition of sponsoring new members. The sponsor serves as a model of what it means to be a person committed to following Jesus. Young people today look for role models in sports heroes, the music industry, and in the movies. They need—*desperately need*—role models because sports, music, and movies are not ultimate values of faith, hope, charity, truth, justice, to name a few. You are the person chosen at this moment in time because you exemplify one or more of these characteristics.

The Role Of The Sponsor

Sponsors are those who will help the Confirmation candidate live his or her baptismal promises. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to:

- Accompany the candidate to a weekend liturgy and help them reflect on the Liturgy of the Word.
- Encourage confirmandi to attend weekly Mass.
- Help the candidate understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation and have the right intentions for receiving it.
- Help the candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments—especially the Eucharist, and to become actively involved in the life of their parish community.
- Assist in the faith sharing component of Confirmation.
- Present the candidate for Confirmation and continue to assist the confirmed person in living a Christian life.

Qualities of a Sponsor

- GRATEFULNESS OF THE HEART—a disposition of thankfulness for life, which enables one to offer one's life and share one's life as a gift of love, like Jesus himself.
- GENEROSITY—for a follower of Jesus, service to others is not an option, it is part of the deal. This quality of generous service should be evident in the sponsor's life. The sponsor would encourage and show an interest in the candidate's service projects.
- PRAYERFULNESS—a person of prayer who has a sense of deep trust in God. The sponsor would be willing to pray daily for the candidate as he/she prepares for the sacrament, one who attends mass regularly, and is open to the Spirit of God's presence in one's own life.
- FAITHFULNESS—a sponsor should be a practicing member of the Church. This does not mean perfect, but is a person open to growth in themselves and in their relationship to God. The sponsor has a willingness to talk about Faith with the candidate.

Areas Where Sponsor Involvement Is Essential:

- Attend Sunday Mass with your candidate when possible
- Be a mentor and role model to your candidate on his/her spiritual journey
- Volunteer to drive for the special service outings your candidate will be involved in and participate in service hours
- Prays for and with your candidate during the period of preparation
- Complete interview with candidate - see attached

Confirmation Calendar

October-February Service Opportunities *check with your candidate

November 19, 2018 **Sponsor interview due**

February 24, 2019 Sunday, 1pm Confirmation Mass
Bishop Rojas
Reception following in Briody Hall

Sponsor Interview

(SAMPLE COPY ~ INTERVIEW TO BE COMPLETED BY CONFIRMANDI)

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Full Name and Relationship _____

Please return this form by Monday, November 20, 2017.

Discuss the following questions with your sponsor and write down your answers. Answers should be written from your **sponsor's** perspective.

How has the Catholic faith strengthened and nourished you?

Do you have a favorite place and time to pray? Describe a time when it was challenging to pray and a time when you really felt God's presence.

What is the greatest challenge of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Who has been a good role model for you? How has this person taught you or shown you what it means to be Catholic? How has this person deepened your faith?

What advice would you give to me in becoming an adult in the Catholic faith?
