

Saint John Bosco Parish

Brockville, Ontario

Meaning of Sponsor

Being chosen as a sponsor is an honour; you are someone who will serve as a **companion, guide, model** and **witness** for the candidate. It is required that a sponsor be a practicing member of the Catholic Church, be fully initiated in the Catholic faith (i.e. have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), is not the mother or father of the candidate, and must be mature enough to assume the responsibilities involved (normally 16 years and older). The sponsor will accompany the candidate on the day of Confirmation and participate in the rite.

As a **companion**, you will walk with the candidate through his/her full initiation process. You are thought to be a friendly and available person whom the candidate can trust and turn to for discussion, support, comfort and understanding in times of challenge, doubt and need.

As a **guide**, you will show the candidate the road to full initiation into Christ and the Church. You must have a clear understanding of the sacrament of initiation and be able to explain various facets of the Catholic faith.

As a **model**, you are chosen because of the way you live your faith.

As a **witness**, you represent the community in being willing to testify to the spiritual progress of the candidate, in being able to relate to candidates' problems or confusions, and in not pushing the candidate to receive the sacrament of Confirmation before he/she is ready.