



Dear Parents,

Thanks so much for coming to Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish to ask for the sacrament of Confirmation for your son/daughter! We are pilgrims on a journey towards heaven and walking alongside you in your role as the domestic church and first formators in the faith of your children is very important to us.

Part of the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is to choose a sponsor for your son/daughter. The sponsor's purpose is to assist you in helping your child attain heaven. Pursuant to the law of the Church, a sponsor must, **"be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on"** (Can. 874 §1.3).

With that teaching in mind, the role or "function" of sponsors cannot be reduced to some social award or a family tradition. Many times, the family member or friend you choose to be a sponsor doesn't have all the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation, Confirmation, Holy Communion), is not married in the Catholic Church, doesn't even go to Mass on Sundays, approach the sacrament of Confession, or adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Often, parents tell us that the person they have chosen is a good person with a great heart. You do not need the approval of the Church to assign your child a sponsor who is a good person and has a good heart. Those friends or family members may be sponsors ex-facto, to teach your child sports, share outdoor activities, take them to do charitable work, even teach them good morals, or any other activity or quality those sponsors may be good at. The love, life teachings, and time a family member or friend may give your son/daughter is priceless and the Church encourages parents to have good role models for their children.

That said, when it comes to the sacraments and the Christian faith, we are not asking you to choose just a good person with a great heart, but a faithful Catholic person. The duties and responsibilities of a sponsor are simple: firstly, "be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on". Secondly, exhibit the Christian virtues necessary to help your sons or daughters live a Catholic life in humble obedience to the Church. The sponsor is a Catholic spiritual mentor and should be a witness of Christian virtue in both word and deed. As the child matures, it will be important for him/her to see someone, other than his/her parents, who treats Catholic spiritual goods as the highest goods in this life.



Parents should not feel obligated to select a favorite family member or friend; rather, they ought to seek partners who will join with them in this earthly pilgrimage to help their child attain heaven. The sponsors will publicly affirm their commitment to help the parents in their Christian duty to raise the child in accordance with true Catholic religion.

These are some questions you may ask yourselves as parents:

- Is the person I am choosing to be a sponsor living out a Catholic life by going to Mass every Sunday and approaching the sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Is he/she married in the Catholic Church (if married)? Or, willing to get married in the Catholic Church if the person is single?
- Does the person accept with humility the teachings of the Catholic faith and carry them out?
- Is this person a good spiritual mentor and an exemplar of Catholic virtue in both word and deed?
- If you cannot answer with a resounding 'yes' to these questions, you may want to think of another person who can take on this responsibility.

The epistle of St. James says, ***"My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone bring him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins*** (Jas 5:19–20).

As Catholics we are called to journey together towards heaven and help each other on the way. You never know how God will act in a person's life if you tell them, "I'd like you to be my son/daughter's sponsor, but the Church asks to have all the sacraments and practice the Catholic faith. Would you be willing to prepare for the sacraments you are missing and/or participate actively in the life of the Church?" Know that you will surely be helping that person attain heaven.

I pray you will find the right person to be the sponsor of your son/daughter.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact us with enough time, so we can work together to have a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

You are in my prayers.

Father Matías Hualpa.