

## **GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORS**

The following guidelines are based on the requirements for sponsors as outlined in The Code of Canon Law.

1. A person who is to be confirmed is to have a sponsor.
2. A sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age, unless the pastor or minister of the sacrament grants an exception for a lower age, provided there is a just cause.
3. A Catholic who has not already received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist may not be a sponsor.
4. A priest or deacon may be a sponsor, but is not encouraged to be the sponsor and the minister of the sacrament of Confirmation in the same ceremony. A member of an institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life may be a sponsor.
5. A Catholic who has left the Church by a formal act may not be a sponsor. A non-practicing Catholic may be admitted as a sponsor only if the pastor or minister of the sacrament can determine that the person is in the process of returning to the regular practice of the faith.
6. A sponsor must not be the father or mother of the one to be Confirmed.
7. Sponsors must have a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish priest certifying that the above guidelines have been fulfilled. Sponsors who are members of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish do not need a certificate of eligibility.
8. It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism also be the sponsor for Confirmation.