

Ss. Peter & Paul R. C. Church
360 US Hwy 46
Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Rev. Grzegorz Podsiadlo, Administrator
Phone: 908-637-4269 Fax: 908- 637-6896
Email: stpeterandpaul@comcast.net

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March 2019

Dear Parents of our Confirmation Candidates:

Attached you will find a:

- *Confirmation 2019* form
- *Certificate of Eligibility to be a Confirmation Sponsor* form and a
- *Confirmation Sponsor Rules* sheet.

It is important to read the *Confirmation Sponsor Rules* sheet before selecting a sponsor. Have your child's sponsor fill out the *Certificate of Eligibility to be a Confirmation Sponsor* form and have it signed and sealed by the church they are currently attending. If your sponsor is a member of our parish and if our pastor does not recognize them nor does our Religious Ed Director, Diane Francis, see them at Mass regularly, they will **NOT** be able to be your sponsor-see *Confirmation Sponsor Rules* sheet.

All paperwork can be mailed to the above address ATTN: Eileen or dropped off in my mailbox in church ("Secretary"), by April 7, 2019. PLEASE **do not** give any paperwork to your child's teacher. OR, you can download the forms and fill them out on your computer and email them back to me at: stpeterandpaul@comcast.net. Please note that the Confirmation Sponsor form must have a priest signature as well as the parish seal.

If your child's Baptismal Certificate is not on file here we will need a copy.

All of the above is necessary in order to properly record this sacrament in our church register that the Diocese reviews and signs.

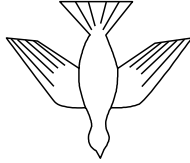
If you have any questions please call me Monday through Friday from 9:30am-3:00pm at 908-637-4269.

Sincerely,

Eileen Wyss

Eileen Wyss, Parish Secretary

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Certificate of
Eligibility to be a
Confirmation Sponsor

360 US Hwy 46
Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Phone: 908-637-4269

Dear Father,

I, _____, have been asked to be a Confirmation
(Print Confirmation Sponsors Name)

Sponsor for _____ and I attest to the following:
(Confirmation Candidate's Name)

- 1) That I am a Catholic fourteen (14) years of age or older, that I have received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, and that I am a registered member of _____
(Church Name)

(Church City, State)
- 2) That I attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- 3) That I receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
- 4) That I accept the responsibility to assist the parents in their Christian duty to help this person attain a mature adult faith by my support, example, encouragement, and prayer.

Signed _____

Date _____

Verification to the best of my knowledge is hereby given to the necessary qualifications listed above.

Parish
Seal

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. _____

Please Note: return this, in paper form, with the parish raised seal, to my mailbox in church labeled "Secretary" by April 7, 2019. Please do not give it to your child to give to their teacher nor hand it to your child's teacher. Thank You.

CANON LAW REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS (SPONSORS) FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION.

There seems to be some confusion when Godparents/sponsors are being considered between wanting to have one's best friend or another relative or acquaintance to be the God parent/sponsor.

Catholics must be fully initiated into the Catholic faith to be eligible to be Godparents/sponsors; that is, Godparents/sponsors in a Catholic baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation need to be practicing Catholics and also need to have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. A Godparent/sponsor cannot be expected to mentor a Godchild/Confirmed Catholic if the Godparent/sponsor himself/herself hasn't received all of the Sacraments of Initiation.

In the case of a Baptism, a person who is not a Catholic but is a member of a Christian Church with a valid baptism and who has received that valid Baptism in their own church can act as a Christian Witness for a child. In that case, the other sponsor needs to be a fully initiated practicing Catholic.

All Godparents (or the single Christian Witness) also have to have attained the age of 16. When there are two Godparents, one has to be male and the other female.

Also, a Godparent/sponsor is a permanent choice. In other words, if you have a falling out with the person or persons you select to be a Godparent/sponsor, their name cannot be removed from the official record of the child's Baptism/Confirmation; another consideration when making a choice of Godparent/sponsor.

Canon Law Citation:

SPONSORS

Can. 872: Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation, or together with the parents, presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873: There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each (for a Baptism).

Can. 874 §1: To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- 1) be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents, or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- 2) have attained the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- 3) 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.

The biggest problem arrives with the second half of point # 3. What does this mean? You need to live according to the faith and follow up under responsibilities of the Godparents/Sponsor. At this point you need to realize the level of your faith, meaning, how you obey the commandments, attend Sunday and obligation Masses and live by the law of Christ every day. You need to belong to the Parish (a registered member).

Excluded from the honor of being a Godparent/sponsor are people that do not live in a Catholic marriage.

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Godparents cannot be people who live in situations which are irregular in a religious sense. Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio in # 79 – 82 gives a list: Trial Marriages, De Facto Free Unions, and Civil marriage.

4) not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5) not be the father or mother of the one to be Baptized or Confirmed;

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the Baptism