This form is due to the RE Office before December 1, 2022 **C 14**

Selection of "My Confirmation Sponsor"

Duties & Responsibilities

A sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters into a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a sort of spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose **only one sponsor**; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), "The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person's godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor needs to be a registered member of a Catholic parish in order to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- **Must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed**

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Therefore, the following persons are **not eligible** to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who habitually miss Sunday Mass
- Divorced persons who have remarried outside the Catholic Church
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- High school students who do not attend their parish's RE classes or Youth Group
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their "Easter Duty" that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

If the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation liturgy in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the above qualifications, may stand in for the sponsor during the liturgy. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, he or she must notify the Religious Education Office in advance.

This is who I would like to have as my CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

The sponsor must meet the criteria listed on the Sponsor pages of this packet.

Confirmation Candidate's Full Name: _____
No Nick Names! LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Confirmation Sponsor's Full Name: _____
No Nick Names! LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Your Relation to Sponsor: _____

(A SPONSOR CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ST. JOHN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.)

Proxy's Proper Full Name: _____

A proxy is a stand-in for the sponsor if they are unable to attend the Confirmation ceremony AND MUST MEET THE SAME CRITERIA AS THE SPONSOR. All proxies need a sponsor certificate.