

# *Saint Katharine Drexel Parish – Confirmation Preparation Process*

## **Confirmation Sponsor Invitation**

Congratulations on being chosen as a prospective Confirmation Sponsor! As most people have never served in this capacity, the information provided below will allow you to decide whether this role is one that you're comfortable with and willing to fulfill. Please read all the information, and if you are willing to serve, please fill in your information at the bottom of the page, sign it, and give it back to your Candidate to return to me. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [ana.alvarado@saintdrexel.org](mailto:ana.alvarado@saintdrexel.org). I can also be reached by phone at 301-360-9581. Please note I work a lot from home so email will get you a faster response than a phone call.

Thank you for considering serving in this important role!  
Ana Maria Alvarado, Pastoral Associate  
Saint Katharine Drexel Church  
8428 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702

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### **Sponsor Requirements:**

1. Must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing at his/her parish. If not an SKD parishioner a certificate of good standing is required to be turned in with this form from your home parish
2. Must be at least 16 years of age and not the candidate's parent (or boyfriend or girlfriend)
3. Must be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving, and comfortable sharing his/her faith with young people.

### **The Role of Sponsor in the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is a community event. It celebrates the full initiation of members desiring to share in the community's mission of witness to God's redeeming love. During the Confirmation preparation process, candidates are provided with meaningful opportunities to prepare for full participation in the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the community of faith. Several ministries are involved in assisting this process; the role of sponsors being among the most important.

The sponsor visibly represents the community, which is the focus of the candidate's full initiation. As community representatives, the sponsor needs to be a person who values and participates in the life of the community and the mission of the Church. Through the guidance of the sponsors, candidates are invited and offered opportunities to experience and participate in all aspects of parish life. In a personal way, the sponsor represents the community's acceptance, witness and support of the Confirmation candidate. Their involvement in the preparation process includes welcome, inclusion, informal catechesis, faith-sharing, understanding, and example for their candidate. They become mentor, guide, role model, and journey companion, not just throughout the preparation process but hopefully into the future as well.

## Duties of the Sponsor

The sponsor assists in the formation of the candidates in a variety of ways, including:

- Attending the Sponsor Only Meeting on zoom ([Click here for the zoom login](#)) on either
  - Sunday, 27 December 2020, 1:00-2:00 PM **OR**
  - Sunday, 10 January 2021, 1:00-2:00 PM **OR**
  - Sunday, 6 June 2021, 1:00-2:00 PM
- Attending at least ONE Confirmation Catechesis Module with your candidate.
- Accepting the candidate as an individual, and listening to their thoughts and questions, hopes and fears, joys and frustrations.
- Recognizing the candidate's individual characteristics and giftedness.
- Attending Mass with the candidate on a regular basis, if possible.
- Spending time with the candidate in conversation on a monthly basis. This is a time for:
  - Sharing your own faith story, including struggles and any periods of questioning.
  - Answering questions openly and honestly.
  - Praying with and for the candidate.
  - Reading and reflecting on Scriptures with the candidate.
  - Inviting and encouraging the candidate into full and active participation in the life of the parish community.
  - Support the candidate's involvement in ministry.
  - Assisting the candidate in determining his/her readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Being present at the Confirmation Mass in October/November 2021 (date/time TBA).

**If you are a potential sponsor who is geographically distant** but still interested in serving in the role of confirmation sponsor, your candidate will request that his/her parent or another adult parishioner fulfill some of the more direct responsibilities (like attending the Sponsor Only Meeting and the Catechesis Module) in your absence. However, even in this case, I would strongly encourage you to take the time necessary to make the relationship with the candidate meaningful even if it is long distance.

If you are willing to serve, you surely have the thanks of the candidate, but you also have my thanks and that of this parish community. It is primarily through relationship that we learn what it means to be disciples, and your example and your guidance can have a strong influence.

If you are not a parishioner of SKD please obtain a letter of eligibility from the parish that you are registered

Please fill in the information requested [here](#) or contact Ana Maria for a link to the form, and sign that you understand the role that you are accepting. Please detach that part of the sheet and return it to the candidate so they can forward it to me.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at [Ana.Alvarado@saintdrexel.org](mailto:Ana.Alvarado@saintdrexel.org) or by phoning 301/360-9581 x2280. Thank you.